



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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Meeting Date: February 4, 2022

Agenda Item: 2022–2023 Bison Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially by the commission for public comment in December with final adoption in February for most game species. The department is proposing no changes from 2021 for general season bison hunting or district boundaries, and no changes are proposed from that which was adopted by the commission in December. The commission is considering all regulations and descriptions of boundaries for the 2022–2023 season for adoption at the February meeting, whether a change is proposed or not. All regulations and descriptions of boundaries will remain unchanged unless addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment was accepted through Jan. 21, 2022. Based on the substance of public comment received through Jan. 14, the department is recommending no changes to the bison seasons adopted in December. Any final adjustments to these recommendations based on final public comment will be made at the commission meeting on Feb. 4.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department presented conceptual changes for each species season structure and hunting district boundaries for public discussion and feedback beginning in August. The proposals being presented to the commission include changes incorporated in response to that feedback. The commission may provide the department with additional amendments on any aspect of season structure, quota, or hunting district for any species and on aspects of the regulations that are not proposed to change.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission approve the proposed 2022 and 2023 hunting regulations and district boundaries as presented by the department. Any aspect unchanged from 2021 seasons will remain in effect for 2022 and 2023, except where affected by routine calendar rotations.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to approve bison regulations contained in the 2020–2021 booklet as proposed to be adopted for the 2022 and 2023 bison hunting seasons and hunting districts.