



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Aug. 17, 2023

Agenda Item: Selection of organizations to auction 2024 Shiras moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mule deer and elk licenses.

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: ARM 12.3.801 and 12.3.802 establish the criteria and process for selecting conservation organizations to conduct the Shiras moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mule deer, and elk license auctions/lotteries. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks solicited proposals to conduct the auctions/lotteries. The commission decides which organization is awarded the license(s) for distribution through auction or lottery.

The 2023 species auction licenses were awarded to: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – elk; Mule Deer Foundation – mule deer; Wild Sheep Foundation– bighorn sheep; Safari Club International Great Falls– mountain goat; and Montana Ducks Unlimited – Shiras moose. The licenses were auctioned at fundraising events or online auctions.

Public Involvement Process & Results: An email of solicitation was sent to organizations that have expressed interest, and information was posted on the FWP website and social media platforms. Proposals for 2024 licenses came from the following organizations: One Montana, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, - elk license; Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Montana, Mule Deer Foundation - mule deer license; Wild Sheep Foundation – California Chapter, Grand Slam Club Ovis, Wild Sheep Foundation - bighorn sheep license; Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance, Safari Club International – Great Falls Chapter - mountain goat license; and Montana Ducks Unlimited, Montana Outfitters & Guides Education Institute - Shiras moose license.

Alternatives and Analysis: This format has proved successful in past years, and FWP has not utilized alternatives. Interest in obtaining and aggressively auctioning these licenses has remained high with the participating conservation organizations. In addition, many of these conservation organizations have effectively and significantly partnered with FWP on other conservation and management efforts.

Proposed Motion:

(These can be done in separate motions or combined). I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve One Montana or Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation be awarded the 2024 elk auction license; Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Montana or Mule Deer Foundation be awarded the 2024 mule deer auction license; Wild Sheep Foundation – California Chapter or Grand Slam Club Ovis or Wild Sheep Foundation be awarded the 2024 bighorn sheep auction license; Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance or Safari Club International – Great Falls Chapter be awarded the 2024 mountain goat auction license; and Montana Ducks Unlimited or Montana Outfitters & Guides Education Institute be awarded the 2024 Shiras moose auction license.