

FWP proposal to be amended: Deer Regulations

Commissioner: Chair Robinson (amendment requested by FWP and represented by Chair Robinson)

Date Received by Commission: 11/16/2023

Proposed amendment: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the 2024 and 2025 deer hunting regulations as presented with the following amendment, eliminate the Deer B License and season for Either-sex Mule Deer LPT 699-20 in HD 600 (page 114 in draft regulations) and in HD 670 (page 120 in draft regulations) and eliminate the Deer B License and season for Either-sex Mule Deer LPT 699-21 in HD 640 (page 118 in draft regulations) and HD 670 (page 120 in draft regulations).

Requested by FWP: Yes

Rationale and Background:

This amendment removes a proposal that was developed to address the prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in mule deer within portions of Region 6. Montana's CWD Management Plan establishes a goal of maintaining or reducing CWD prevalence at 5% or lower within an effected population and guidance for long-term management of CWD, which can be tailored to specific areas.

There is public opposition to the proposal. The department prefers to withdraw the proposal to spend additional time and effort to discuss the issue broadly with the public rather than create an atmosphere of distrust. This amendment would allow time for more local stakeholder involvement and integration of any new biological findings prior to any future management proposals.