



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Dec. 14, 2023

Agenda Item: Weapons restrictions for certain state parks

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: The department evaluated conditions at state parks open to commission-established hunting seasons and recommends the commission adopt weapons restrictions at the parks listed below. Except for Tower Rock, these parks would be restricted to archery, crossbows, traditional handguns, muzzleloader, or shotgun during commission-established hunting seasons.

- Beavertail Hill (Region 2)
- Brush Lake (Region 6)
- Council Grove (Region 2)
- First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Region 4)
- Lewis and Clark Caverns (Region 3)
- Madison Buffalo Jump (Region 3)
- Medicine Rocks (Region 7)
- Missouri Headwaters (Region 3)
- Pirogue Island (Region 7)
- Tower Rock (Region 4) (hunting restricted to archery equipment only)

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment will be taken through the commission website in advance of the Dec. 14 meeting as well as during the meeting.

Analysis & Alternatives:

Alternative A: Adopt as final the proposed special weapons restrictions for the state parks listed.

Alternative B: Decide not to adopt the special weapons restrictions. All state parks open to hunting would not be subject to special weapons restrictions. FWP would look for other methods of managing public safety including, but not limited to, additional signage, increased staff presence, and evaluation of potential closures or restrictions of other park use.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the commission adopt as final the proposed list of state parks where hunting would be allowed under special weapons restrictions for purposes of public safety. These state parks can accommodate hunting, but it is critical to restrict the type of weapons allowed given the proximity to other park users and infrastructure, including trails and visitor centers.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the proposed weapons restrictions for the state parks listed.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission amend the final proposed weapons restrictions for the state parks listed as follows (insert changes here).