



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Apr. 17, 2024

Agenda Item: Free Resident SuperTag species selection

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: During the 2023 legislative session, the 68th Legislature adopted legislation providing for a free annual lottery of one license each license year for one Shiras moose, mountain sheep, or mountain goat to residents that purchase a general deer or elk license. The statute provides that the commission should determine the species and the rotation of the species to be awarded among years. The effective date of this legislation was March 1, 2024.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment was solicited for a four-week period following the Feb. 16, 2023, commission meeting. Written public comments received during the comment period will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the February commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department anticipates no adverse biological effects as a result of the potential harvest of one additional moose, mountain sheep, or mountain goat in Montana annually. Hunters that possess these types of licenses (e.g., super-tag) frequently pursue predominately older age class males that are often beyond their reproductive prime. Any potential effect may be addressed in subsequent season setting recommendations as needed.

Alternative A: The commission may approve the issuance of a Shiras moose license in 2024, followed by a mountain sheep license in 2025, and a mountain goat license in 2026, with a repeat of this rotation in years to follow.

Alternative B: The commission choose to issue the annual license in a different sequence and rotation.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department's recommendation for the license selection in 2024 and the rotation that follows is simply the order presented in the legislation. The commission may choose a different license to be issued in 2024 and a different rotation.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to approve the issuance of one Shiras moose license through a lottery draw to an eligible resident deer or elk license holder, with an annual rotation in years to follow, as presented by the department.