



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Agenda Item: Selection of organizations to auction 2027 Shiras moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mule deer, elk, antelope and swan licenses

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: MCAs 87-2-722, Auction of a mountain sheep license, 87-2-724, Auction of Shiras moose license, 87-2-725, Auction or lottery of mountain goat license, 87-2-811, Auction or lottery of mule deer license, 87-2-812, Auction or lottery of elk license, allow the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue one license to a wildlife conservation organization involved in conservation of each species listed above, to conduct an auction or lottery of which proceeds are used for the substantial benefit of the respective species. ARM 12.3.801 & 12.3.802 establish the criteria and process for proposals submitted to the commission. The opportunity for the auction or lottery of antelope and swan licenses was recently established by HB 330 during the 2025 Legislature.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks solicits auction/lottery proposals on behalf of the commission, and the commission selects the organization awarded each license. Applications from interested organizations are due by July 15, 2026.

The 2026 species auction/lottery licenses were awarded to:

Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Mule Deer: Mule Deer Foundation

Bighorn Sheep: Wild Sheep Foundation

Mountain Goat (lottery): Safari Club International – Great Falls Chapter

Shiras Moose: Montana Outfitters and Guides Education Institute

Swan License (lottery): Delta Waterfowl

The licenses were auctioned at fundraising events or online auctions/lotteries.

Applications for 2027 auction/lottery licenses were received by:

Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Grand Slam Club Ovis, Big Sky Dallas Safari Club

Mule Deer: Big Sky Dallas Safari Club, Mule Deer Foundation

Bighorn Sheep: Wild Sheep Foundation, Grand Slam Club Ovis

Mountain Goat: Wild Sheep Foundation, Big Sky Dallas Safari Club, Safari Club International Great Falls Chapter, Grand Slam Club Ovis

Shiras Moose: Wild Sheep Foundation, MOGA Education Institute, Big Sky Dallas Safari Club, Grand Slam Club Ovis

Swan: No applications received

Antelope: Wild Sheep Foundation, North American Pronghorn Foundation, MOGA Education Institute, Big Sky Dallas Safari Club

Public Involvement Process & Results: FWP staff sent an email of solicitation to organizations expressing interest in the licenses and information was posted on the FWP website along with social media platforms.



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Alternatives & Analysis: Interest in obtaining and aggressively auctioning these licenses has remained high with the participating conservation organizations. Additionally, several organization submitting proposals have effectively partnered with FWP on other conservation and management efforts.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends issuance of one Shiras moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mule deer, elk, antelope and swan license to each Commission selected wildlife conservation organization based on information submitted in each proposal.

Proposed Motion: (These can be done in separate motions or combined).

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the following:

- **(ELK)** _____ be awarded the 2027 elk auction/lottery license;
- **(MULE DEER)** _____ be awarded the 2027 mule deer auction/lottery license;
- **(BIGHORN SHEEP)** _____ be awarded the 2027 bighorn sheep auction license;
- **(MOUNTAIN GOAT)** _____ be awarded the 2027 mountain goat auction/lottery license;
- **(SHIRAS MOOSE)** _____ be awarded the 2027 Shiras moose auction license,
- **(SWAN)** _____ be awarded the 2027 swan auction/lottery license.
- **(ANTELOPE)** _____ be awarded the 2027 antelope auction/lottery license.