MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
FWP PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: December 10, 2026

Agenda Item: A briefing on the schedule for biennial season-setting for the 2028-2029 and 2029-2030 seasons

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: The department's biennial season setting process uses public input and feedback along with biological data to structure recommendations to the commission in December of odd-numbered years. Based on feedback from the public regarding the process used in 2025, the department has amended several steps to improve timing for public review and input that the department uses to revise its recommendations. The updated process is appended to this proposal and information sheet.
Auth.: MCA § 87-1-304

Public Involvement Process and Results: Following the conclusion of the biennial season-setting process in December 2025, the department collected comments received through emails, U.S. Postal Service, phone calls, and conversations to evaluate opportunities for improvement. Although no formal public review of the updated process was used, the department did use a cross-divisional team to evaluate the comments we received and suggest revisions.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department wants to provide the commission and public with an overview of the process we intend to use leading up to the commission's adoption of the 2028–2029 and 2029–2030 seasons. The briefing is designed to inform the public regarding changes to a department process, and the department may choose to alter the process additionally based on any feedback.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: Because this presentation is a briefing on amendments to a department process, the department is not making any recommended motion for commission action. The presentation is designed to be informational.