MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
FWP PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: December 10, 2026

Agenda Item: Amendments to permits, quotas, quota ranges, season length, and open areas for deer, elk, and turkey for the 2027 seasons.

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background: During December 2025, the commission adopted season structures and dates for most game seasons for the 2026 and 2027 biennium. The department wants to update permits, quotas, quota ranges, season length, and open areas for specific deer, elk, and turkey hunts to reflect current population data and correct department errors.

Public Involvement Process and Results: The public will be able to comment on the department's proposals during a four-week period before the December commission meeting. All comments will be shared with the commission and posted online about two weeks prior to the meeting. The public will also be able to comment on the proposal at the December commission meeting.

Analysis and Alternatives:
The department proposes to reinstate the archery white-tailed deer season in hunting district (HD) 339 for Sept. 4–Oct. 17, 2027; reduce the number of 380-20 either-sex elk licenses from 100 to 70; adjust season dates, open areas, and license availability for antlerless elk in HD 417; add muzzleloader season dates for elk license-permit type (LPT) 410-02 in HD 410; correct elk LPT 004-00 eligibility to include HD 441 during the general elk season; clarify that elk LPT 004-00 is available over the counter in HD 417; limit deer B license 004-00 to the 3-week general season for HD 401; increase the open areas for turkey LPT 499-00 to include all of Region 4 during fall 2027; reduce elk either-sex permits for LPT 620-20 from 70 to 30 permits, LPT 621-20 from 50 to 25 permits, LPT 622-20 from 60 to 30, and LPT 620-21 (archery) from 1,000 to 400; and reduce antlerless elk B licenses and quota ranges for LPT 621-01 from 100 to 25 licenses (quota range reduced to 25–300 from 100–600) and LPT 698-00 from 100 to 50 licenses (quota range reduced to 50–300 from 100–500). See the attached justifications that describe the changes and the attached mockup for exact changes as proposed.

Alternative A: The commission may choose to adopt the department's recommendations to amend and correct the regulations as presented by the department.
Alternative B: The commission may choose to deny or amend all or portions of the department's recommendation as deemed appropriate.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission adopt the changes to the existing regulations for deer, elk, and turkeys as presented by the department, as well as the accompanying justifications and mockup.

Proposed Motion*:* I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the department's recommendation to amend and correct the 2027 hunting regulations for deer, elk, and turkey as presented by the department and detailed in the accompanying justifications and mockup.