



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Agenda Item: Amendment of Administrative Rule 12.6.1015 to address changes in chronic wasting disease occurrence

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: The Commission proposed amendment of Administrative Rule (ARM) 12.6.1015 as authorized by § 87-1-301 and 87-6-221, MCA, to identify the states and provinces where chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been detected and from whence restrictions on importation of cervid parts and urine may be added. When originally adopted in 2021, this ARM accurately reflected the states and provinces that had detected CWD, but since that time, several other states and provinces have detected CWD. Further, because CWD continues to spread, other states may need to be identified in the future. To address the additional detections of CWD and adjust when future detections occur, the department recommends that the commission adopt the amendment to the rule as proposed to include the most up to date list of states and provinces with CWD as maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey, National Wildlife Health Center of Madison, Wisconsin.

At its June 2025 meeting, the commission authorized the department to file the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) rulemaking proposal notice with the Montana secretary of state initiating the process to amend the administrative rule. The Montana secretary of state published a proposal notice in the Montana Administrative Register on October 24, 2025.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public involvement was administered under MAPA by the department. A public comment period opened October 24, and comment was accepted through November 19. The department held an online public hearing on November 17, 2025, and accepted both written and oral comments on the rules as proposed. No comments were received on this proposed rule amendment.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternative A: Adopt the amended CWD administrative rule as proposed. The commission would have a framework to maintain a current listing of states and provinces with positive detections of CWD for regulatory reference.

Alternative B: No action – The commission would rely on an outdated and incomplete list of states and provinces that have detected CWD for regulatory reference.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends that the commission adopt the final rule on CWD occurrence as proposed.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the proposed CWD administrative rules.