



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 20, 2021

Agenda Item: Town of Jordan Deer and Turkey Management Action Plans

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: In 2003, the Montana Legislature authorized cities to create plans to control wildlife for public health and safety within city limits. These plans require approval by the commission before implementation. The Town of Jordan, Montana, developed Deer and Turkey Management Action Plans, in cooperation with the department, to address concerns of its citizens about growing numbers of deer and turkeys within urban areas and an increased risk to human safety and of property damage. The plans lay out goals, actions and a management process to implement the actions. The plans are patterned after plans already approved for the communities of Colstrip, Glendive and Ekalaka. Public hunting, restricted to archery, within the incorporated city limits is the primary tool employed to manage urban deer and turkey numbers. A process has been set up to 1) incorporate private open space property owners who voluntarily wish to participate in the deer and turkey management program and 2) involve public hunters in the deer and turkey management program.

Public Involvement Process and Results: In response to urban deer and turkey complaints, a meeting between the Town of Jordan and the department was held on March 6, 2021 to discuss deer and turkey management options within municipal boundaries. This meeting was followed by a public meeting held on April 6, 2021, attended by 14 people including concerned citizens and city and county staff. The consensus was to approve and implement the plans (see attached meeting minutes and attendee list). Since the June commission meeting, the department has received three comments, two in opposition and one in support. Those in opposition disliked take of urban-dwelling deer, but the objective of the plan is to reduce conflicts arising from deer within the town limits.

Alternatives and Analysis: The Town of Jordan has developed a proactive management plan that is reasonable and should be effective. The Town sought department input and collaborated with the department on plan development. Alternatives would include reworking the plan to include adjustments, additions, and deletions that address inconsistencies or plan shortcomings.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends approving the plans with continued agency involvement during implementation. Without approval, few alternative options exist to address the urban deer and turkey challenges recognized by the Town, Garfield County and department staff.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the commission vote to approve the Town of Jordan's Deer and Turkey Management Action Plans.