



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** June 24, 2021

**Agenda Item:** Town of Jordan Deer and Turkey Management Action Plan

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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**Background:** In 2003, the Montana Legislature authorized cities to create plans to control wildlife for public health and safety within city limits. These plans must be approved 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 was held to discuss deer and turkey management options within municipal boundaries between the Town of Jordan and the department on March 6, 2021. This was followed by a public meeting held on April 6, 2021, attended by 14 people including concerned citizens, members of the Jordan Town Council, the mayor, sheriff and department personnel. The consensus of meeting attendees was to approve and implement the plans (see attached meeting minutes and attendee list). The Garfield County Commissioners and the Garfield County Sheriffs are signatories to the plan. Additional public comment will be accepted through 5 p.m. on July 26, 2021.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The Town of Jordan has been proactive in developing a management plan that is both reasonable and effective. The Town has sought department input and has collaborated with the department on plan development. Alternatives would include reworking the plan to include adjustments, additions, deletions that address inconsistencies or plan short comings.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:** The department recommends seeking comment about approval of the plans and continued agency involvement in the implementation. Without approval, few alternative options exist to address the urban deer and turkey challenges recognized by the Town, Garfield County and agency staff.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the commission vote to adopt for public comment the draft Town of Jordan Deer and Turkey Management Action Plans.