



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 24, 2021

Agenda Item: 2021 Deer and Elk Muzzleloader Season

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background: During the 2021 Legislative Session, House Bill 242 was adopted and signed into law that establishes a nine-day muzzleloader season for deer and elk that begins on the second Saturday following the end of the regular season. To address this new statute, the commission must consider options to establish a muzzleloader season for the upcoming fall season (2021). The department has prepared a recommended approach that any unused license-permit valid during the general season for hunting deer and elk in a specific hunting district would be valid during the muzzleloader season in accordance with the authorizations and restrictions associated with that license-permit. This approach would limit confusion and administrative burden.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment will be accepted at the June 24, 2021, commission meeting and additional comment will be accepted through July 26, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Alternatives and Analysis: This muzzleloader season is required by statute, but public comment may help craft alternate approaches for consideration.

Agency Rationale and Recommendation: The department recommends the commission accept the draft proposal for public comment.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the commission vote to adopt for public comment deer and elk muzzleloader season for 2021 as presented by the department.