

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 25, 2019

Agenda Item: 2019 Mountain Lion Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

Background: Lion management units (LMUs), often made up of more than one hunting district, listed in the table below have proposed changes from the 2018 mountain lion quotas in Region 5. All other quotas/subquotas not listed are proposed to be unchanged from 2018 levels.

In their respective areas, the proposals address issues and concerns such as harvest opportunity; lion populations; predation, primarily on mule deer and bighorn sheep; livestock depredations; and human-lion encounters in subdivisions and campgrounds. More detailed information is found in the justification for each proposal in the commission packet.

Proposed Montana 2019 Mountain Lion Quota Changes

LMU	Current Quota	Proposed Quota
HD 560	7 total with 3 female subquota	8 total with 4 female subquota
HDs 530/590	10 any legal lion	15 any legal lion

Public Involvement Process & Results: Area landowners, sportsmen, and FWP wardens are supportive of these proposals. All proposals have been vetted with the public in each area, and we have received no comments in opposition from landowners, sportsmen, outfitters, trappers, and city officials. No conflicts with landowners, sportsmen, or other members of the public are anticipated. Public comment will be taken at this meeting and continue through 5 p.m., May 21. Final action will take place at the commission meeting in June.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, or no change from 2018 as per staff justifications, public comment, and commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends approval of proposed quota adjustments with no changes in other LMUs. Rationale includes mountain lion population management accommodating human tolerance, safety, prey populations, and hunter opportunity.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve for public comment the proposed 2019 lion quota/subquota changes as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the lion regulations and quotas previously approved by the commission are to remain unchanged.