



Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
August 15, 2019

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on these items can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below.

2020 Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis Annual Work Plan

In January 2013, the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorsed elk management recommendations from a citizen working group for use in areas with brucellosis (the Designated Surveillance Area as described by the Montana Department of Livestock). Annual work plans describe specific management actions based upon these recommendations. The proposed 2020 annual work plan essentially restates the 2019 plan to include hazing, limited fencing, limited lethal removal of elk, habitat modifications, and other efforts to move elk away from cattle at small scales to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle. The proposed 2020 plan also maintains previous landownership and date descriptions clarifying where and when elk may be lethally removed to move elk away from cattle. The number of elk that may be taken is also proposed unchanged.

2020 -21 Biennial Season Setting Process

In Montana, hunting seasons can be changed every two years. Between Aug. 15 and Sept. 16, FWP will reach out to local sporting groups, work groups, citizen advisory committees, interested individuals, and more on any recommendations for season changes and encourage comment and additional ideas. Those interested can also submit comments and ideas through an online survey. The department will consider these comments in drafting season-change proposals to be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in December. Following this scoping effort, there will be opportunity to comment on season proposals presented to the commission in December.

Comments on recommendations for season changes and additional ideas will be taken until Sept. 16 at 5 p.m.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email to fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted online by using any of the links below, in writing sent to the address above, and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

Comments on all proposed items will be accepted until **Monday, Sept. 16, 2019 at 5 p.m.**, with final adoption of the Brucellosis Work Plan at the **Oct. 17** commission meeting.

✓ **2020 Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis Annual Work Plan**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2019/brucellosisWorkPlan.html>

✓ **2020-21 Public Scoping Biennial Season Setting**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2019/biennialSeasonSetting.html>