



Wildlife Division  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
October 22, 2020

Dear Interested Person:

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

#### **2021 ELK SHOULDER SEASONS**

The commission adopted elk shoulder seasons for fall 2020 but chose not to authorize the fall 2021 seasons during the last biennium season setting process, with the intention to revisit the seasons this fall. The commission adopted "Final Elk Season Guidelines - Flexible season structure with performance-based shoulder seasons" on October 8, 2015. From that document: "A 'shoulder season' here is defined as: any firearm season printed in the hunting regulations that occurs outside the 5-week general firearm season between August 15 and February 15 in one or more hunting districts or portion(s) thereof. Examples might include B licenses or general seasons extended early or late or additional sets of B licenses or permits valid early or late. Shoulder seasons here do not include early backcountry hunts, primitive weapon hunts, game damage hunts, management seasons, or season extensions."

Regional and headquarters staff with the department reviewed the existing season structure associated with the 2020 elk shoulder seasons. Currently, the department is recommending no change to the 2020 season structure for implementation in fall 2021.

#### **TO MAKE A COMMENT**

For further clarification or additional materials, please call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or send an email to [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov). Comments will be accepted online by using the link below, in writing sent to the address above, and by email to [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov).

#### **EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

If you would like to receive further public comment opportunities via email communications, please email [fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov) to be put on our mailing list.

#### **COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING**

Comments on the proposed item will be accepted until **Monday, November 30, 2020, at 5 p.m.**, with final adoption at the **December 10<sup>th</sup>** commission meeting.

✓ **2021 Elk Shoulder Seasons**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2020/2021elkShoulderSeasons.html>