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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701
November 14, 2014

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is requesting public review and comment on a proposed City of Roundup Deer Management Plan. Additional information is below including the deadline for public comment.

City of Roundup Deer Management Plan - Proposed

Background: High deer numbers in and around town have resulted in unacceptable levels of property damage and concern for human safety. During 2013 and 2014 Roundup City Council meetings have had focus on the urban deer problems and complaints from residents about aggressive deer. The Roundup City Council, Mayor and FWP developed a Management Plan to address concerns and provide direction to ameliorate property damage. The Plan's specific goals are to: 1) eliminate individual deer that threaten human safety and 2) reduce the potential for human-deer interactions by lowering deer numbers in and adjacent to the city of Roundup. Public hunting, specifically archery hunting, on property owned by the City of Roundup and Musselshell County will be employed as the chosen method to meet the stated goals. Archery hunting is the only means of take due to safety concerns imposed by the proximity to residential areas and businesses.

Problem/rationale: HD530 where the Roundup Urban Deer Hunt would take place is a permit area for mule deer bucks and there are no antlerless mule deer "B" licenses available in 2014. Thus there are no general-season antlerless harvest opportunities for mule deer in HD530. Current mule deer numbers in and adjacent to Roundup are above the level of public tolerance. The City of Roundup would like the ability to reduce deer numbers and FWP staff believes the addition of 60 either-sex mule deer licenses would serve that end. FWP and the City of Roundup requests 60 either-sex mule deer licenses be made available, up to 3 per hunter valid from the date the Management Plan is approved and valid through the end of the game damage season (February 15, 2015) to reduce the number of deer in and immediately adjacent to town.

Season Details: The urban deer hunt will run from the date the Management Plan is approved to February 15, 2015. In subsequent years the urban deer hunt will run from the beginning of the archery season in September through the end of the game damage season (February 15). The hunt area extends approximately 1 mile west; 1 mile east; 1 mile north and 1 mile south of Roundup MT and is on property owned by the City of Roundup and Musselshell County. The hunt area is legally defined as portions of T8N R25E Sections 11-14, 24; T8N R26E Section 18. Hunters need to obtain permission to hunt at the Roundup City offices (406-323-2804) from 8AM-5PM Monday thru Friday. The Roundup City offices are located at 34 3rd Ave West. Maps detailing the hunt area will be available at the Roundup City offices.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE AND FINAL ADOPTION MEETINGS

The public comment period on proposed City of Roundup Deer Management Plan will extend through 5 p.m., Monday, December 8 with final adoption at the December 11 commission meeting.

TO MAKE COMMENT

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded links below can be found under "Opportunity for Public Comment" on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

City of Roundup Deer Management Plan – Proposed

The deadline for public comment on this item is 5 p.m., Monday, December 8.

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014/roundupDeerManagementPlanProposed.html>