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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Wildlife Division
 PO Box 200701
 Helena, MT 59620-0701
 October 8, 2015

Dear Interested Person:

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

WATERFOWL REGULATIONS - CENTRAL FLYWAY DUCK ZONE ADJUSTMENTS (TO MATCH THE GOOSE ZONES)

- FWP is proposing to change the existing duck zones in the Central Flyway portion of Montana to match the goose zones by adding Yellowstone and Carbon counties to Big Horn, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud and Treasure counties that currently make up duck zone 2. This change would make the duck zones the same as the goose zones and thus be less confusing to hunters. It would also offer some additional late-season opportunity to duck hunters.
- If adopted, this change would be effective starting in the 2016 license year.

2015 ELK LATE SHOULDER SEASON PILOT PROJECT

- FWP proposes a limited-scope, antlerless elk only pilot shoulder season to begin after the 2015 general season in 6 hunting districts that are over population objective. Candidate hunting districts for this pilot include:
 - HD 392 (the west side of the Big Belt Mountains)
 - HDs 445, 446, 449 and 452 (the east side of the Big Belts and the Castle Mountains)
 - HD 410 (the Missouri River Breaks)
- Season Dates: Except in HD 410, the season would run from Nov. 30, 2015 to Feb. 15, 2016; licenses would not be valid on National Forest lands or FWP WMAs; and any B-licenses or either-sex permits would be good in the hunting district for which they are valid for antlerless elk only and subject to the same restrictions.
 - HD 410: Shoulder season hunting in HD 410 would not start until Jan. 1, 2016 to allow elk to redistribute across the landscape and would run until Feb. 15, 2016. Elk hunting in HD 410 is by drawing only and only those either-sex permits, valid for antlerless elk only, or B-licenses specific to the district would be valid for the shoulder season and they would not be valid on the CMR National Wildlife Refuge.
- One minor change for HD 392-00 and 392-01 B-licenses is that they would be valid district-wide outside of National Forest lands or FWP WMAs instead of valid only north or south of Whites Gulch.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

Comments can be made online at fwp.mt.gov by clicking on 'Submit Public Comments,' or by using the links below. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

- ✓ **Waterfowl Regulations - Central Flyway Duck Zone Adjustments**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/waterfowlRegulationsCentralFlywayDuckZoneProposed.html>
 - Public comment deadline: November 6th at 5 p.m.
 - Final adoption: November Commission meeting.
- ✓ **2015 Elk Late Shoulder Seasons Pilot Project**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2015/2015elkShoulderPilotProjects.html>
 - Public comment deadline: November 6th at 5 p.m.
 - Final adoption: November Commission meeting.

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