



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RECEIVED

Wildlife Division PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
December 18, 2017

DEC 21 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Interested Person:

--	--	--	--	--

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on proposed hunting regulations for 2018-2019. Proposals address many topics and include seasons and quotas for Deer, Elk, Antelope/Moose/Sheep/Goat/Bison, Black Bear/Mountain Lion/Wolf, and Turkey/Upland Game Bird/Migratory Game Bird. There are also proposals dealing with hunting district (HD) Boundaries, season dates, the biennially-adopted quota ranges for licenses and permits, exemptions to the ban on urine used in scents, and a 4-Day youth-only deer season, instead of the current 2-day, in years when MEA days do not immediately precede the opening of the general big game season. Except for the proposed changes and regular calendar rotation, the 2017 regulations are being re-proposed for 2018 and 2019. For reference, the 2017 regulations are available on the FWP website: <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/regulations/> Additionally, 46 public meetings are scheduled at locations across Montana through much of January for the proposed 2018-2019 hunting seasons.

Some of the major changes being proposed include:

- Exemptions to the Ban on Ungulate Urine used in scents.
- Making the antelope 900-20 archery license a first and only choice with a separate earlier drawing.
- A citizen proposal to make a portion of HD 103 a limited-draw buck permit area.
- Adopt elk season structure for the 43 hunting districts that had shoulder seasons in 2016 on an annual basis rather than biennial to facilitate evaluation of their efficacy and revisiting their adoption on a 3-year cycle.
- In all hunting districts in Regions 1, 2 and 4 make it illegal to take a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids.
- Establish a 4-Day youth-only deer season, instead of the current 2-day, in years when MEA days do not immediately precede the opening of the general big game season.

Information and opportunity to comment can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below. **Public comments on these proposals will be accepted until January 24th at 5 p.m. with final adoption at the February Commission meeting.**

To read more and comment on the proposals follow the links provided below

2018-2019 Deer Hunting Seasons

- FWP Proposals
- Citizen proposal to make a portion of HD 103 a limited-draw buck permit area

2018-2019 Elk Hunting Seasons

- FWP Proposals
- Adopt elk season structure for the 43 hunting districts that had shoulder seasons in 2016 on an annual basis rather than biennial to facilitate evaluation of their efficacy and revisiting their adoption on a 3-year cycle.

2018-2019 Antelope; Moose/Sheep/Goat/Bison and Bear/Lion/Wolf Hunting Seasons

2018-2019 Turkey/Upland Game Bird/Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons

2018-2019 Proposed Biennial Quotas, Hunting Season Dates, and Hunting District Boundary Changes–
Proposed

2018-2019 Helena Urban Deer Plan Quotas

2018-2019 Game Damage/Management/Wildlife Health and Special CWD Hunt Quota Authorizations

Criteria for Exception on Ban on Ungulate Urine from Chronic Wasting Disease Positive States (per SB173)

Establish a 4-Day youth-only deer season, instead of the current 2-day, in years when MEA days do not immediately precede the opening of the general big game season

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted online from the hunting homepage fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ under 'Opportunity for Public Comment or by using any of the links above; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.