



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RECEIVED

JAN 24 2012

Ravalli County Commissioners

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59020-0701
January 20, 2012

Dear Interested Person:

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is requesting public comment on proposed 2012 – 2013 Peregrine Falconry Take, a proposed Wolf Season Extension for Management Harvest through April 1, 2012 in Wolf Management Unit (WMU) 250, proposed increased Mountain Lion Licenses and Female Subquota in Hunting District (HD) 250, proposed Bison Management Harvest Outside Tolerance Zones/Times and proposed refinement to unlimited deer and elk permit allocation process. Additional information is below.

2012 – 2013 Peregrine Falcon Take – Proposed

- authorize take of five nestling or fledged peregrines in 2012 and five in 2013 by residents through a quota system.
- the quota for take in 2013 will be reduced accordingly if the quota is exceeded in 2012.
- any over-harvest during the total two-year take period will be considered in the subsequent year's regulations process.
- authorize take of one nestling or fledged peregrine in 2012 or 2013 through a nonresident permit system.
- nonresident take will be regulated through the nonresident falconry ARM rule.
- nonresident take will be regulated through a permit system.
- restrict take to June 1-August 31.
- limit take to one peregrine per year per falconer.
- a successful resident or nonresident falconer who takes a peregrine will be required to wait two years before attempting to take another peregrine.
- general and master falconers only are allowed to take peregrines.
- prohibit take from eastern Montana to encourage expansion of the breeding population,
- prohibit take from certain nests of high value wildlife viewing opportunity and/or part of on-going agency approved research efforts,
- prohibit the sale, barter or exchange of birds from the wild.

Wolf Season Extension/Management Harvest in WMU 250 – Proposed

Given the history of wolf management and elk population concerns in WMU 250 to include the 10j proposal and the current wolf harvest of 3, this proposal further extends wolf hunting without a hunter orange requirement as currently defined in WMU 250 through April 1, 2012 or until the quota is met, whichever is first.

Increase Mountain Lion Licenses and Female Subquota in HD 250 - Proposed

To address concerns of lion predation impacts to elk, increase special mountain lion licenses in HD 250 from 20 to 30; increase female subquota from 3 to 5 for remainder of current season to end not later than April 14, 2012.

Bison Management Harvest Outside Tolerance Zones/Times – Proposed

Use licensed hunters or hunters selected from a randomized list to lethally remove bison in a described area and time in response to identified, anticipated or possible bison presence outside formally identified tolerance areas or times in the Greater Yellowstone area or outside defined areas where bison have been translocated.

Refine unlimited deer and elk permit allocation process – Proposed

Residents completing hunter safety after March 15th and nonresidents purchasing returned combination licenses are unable to obtain or apply for a deer or elk license by March 15. These individuals may secure an unlimited deer or elk permit after the March 15 application deadline.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINES

The deadline for public comment on proposed Peregrine Falconry Take is 5:00 PM Monday, February 20, 2012. Final adoption on this item will be made at the March 8, 2012 FWP Commission meeting.

The deadline for public comment on proposed Wolf Season Extension/Management Harvest in WMU 250, proposed increased Mountain Lion Licenses and Female Subquota in HD 250, proposed Bison Management Harvest Outside Tolerance Zones/Times and proposed refinement to unlimited deer and elk permit allocation process is 5:00 PM Monday, Feb 13, 2012. Final adoption on these items will be made at the February 16, 2012 FWP Commission meeting.

TO COMMENT

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Bureau 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 Bureau, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701. Please note comment deadlines.

2012 – 2013 Peregrine Falcon Take – Proposed

(The deadline for public comment on this item is 5:00 PM Monday, February 20, 2012.)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/opportunityForPublicComment/2012peregrineFalconTake.html>

Wolf Season Extension/Management Harvest in WMU 250 – Proposed

(The deadline for public comment on this item is 5:00 PM Monday, February 13, 2012.)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/opportunityForPublicComment/wolfManagementHarvest.html>

Increase Mountain Lion Licenses and Female Subquota in HD 250 – Proposed

(The deadline for public comment on this item is 5:00 PM Monday, February 13, 2012.)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/opportunityForPublicComment/mountainLionHD250.html>

Bison Management Harvest Outside Tolerance Zones/Times – Proposed

(The deadline for public comment on this item is 5:00 PM Monday, February 13, 2012.)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/opportunityForPublicComment/bisonManagementHarvest.html>

Refinement to unlimited deer and elk permit allocation process – Proposed

(The deadline for public comment on this item is 5:00 PM Monday, February 13, 2012.)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/opportunityForPublicComment/deerElkPermitAllocation.html>