

CHANGES FROM BIENNIAL SEASON SETTING

Commission action on biennial season setting for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, moose, mountain goat, deer and elk, mountain lion, and game damage.

- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Bighorn Sheep Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
 - Approved regulations as proposed by department to include an amendment by Commissioner Burrow's to keep HD 250 open, but change the legal animal from either-sex to any ram.
- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Bison Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries
 - Approved regulations as proposed by department, including a quota range for annual adjustments to hunting opportunities north of Yellowstone National Park.
- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Moose Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries
 - Approved regulations as proposed by department, to include the addition of an archery season from first Saturday in September through September 14.
- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Mountain Goat Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
 - Approved regulations as proposed by department, to include the addition of an archery season from first Saturday in September through September 14.
- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Deer and Elk Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
 - Commission made a motion to approve the regulations as presented by the department, which included the elimination of quota ranges for elk and deer permits. Permits primarily target the male segment (although either-sex harvests are included), which influence population trajectory far less than do harvests that target the female segment (such as antlerless harvests) to address concerns from the public that male harvests should be addressed in public setting. The commission adopted the departments proposals, with several amendments.
 - Recommendations to increase harvest of deer in hunting districts 600, 640, and 670 were withdrawn at the request of the department until further discussions about deer management and CWD could be held.
 - The proposal to realign hunting districts 339 and 421 were withdrawn at the request of the department in response to public input.
 - Hunting districts 313 and 314 were aligned along the Yellowstone River as a boundary, and antlerless elk licenses were reduced from the number originally recommended by the department.
 - The quota range for elk antlerless licenses was increased from 15-50 to 15-100 in for license-permit type 555-00 and license-permit type 005-00 was authorized for use in hunting district 555.



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

- The quota range for elk antlerless licenses was increased from 15–50 to 15–100 in for license-permit type 555-00 and license-permit type 005-00 was authorized for use in hunting district 555.
 - License permit-type 502-20 was made valid only in hunting district 502 with a quota of 5, and a license-permit type 555-20 was established with a quota of 25, valid only in hunting district 555.
 - Elk quotas were increased from 200 to 250 for license-permit type 700-20 (rifle) and from 660 to 800 for license-permit type 700-21 (archery).
 - Hunting districts 417 and 426 had their boundaries realigned to the former boundary that had been changed in 2022.
 - The harvest of antlerless mule deer was excluded on lands other than private land in Region 7 (which allows harvest on block management lands).
 - The harvest of antlerless mule deer was excluded on lands other than private land in Region 6 (which allows harvest on block management lands).2024 and 2025 Antelope Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
- ▶ 2024 and 2025 Antelope Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
 - The commission adopted the department’s recommendations, with amendments.
 - Region 7 was divided along the Yellowstone River for purposes of hunting antelope, and permits and quotas were adjusted according to department input.
 - Quota ranges for several doe-fawn licenses were adjusted down to include one permit as the bottom of the range. Adjustments to a quota range does not adjust the quota, but it provides the department with a different range in which biological discretion may be used.
 - The quota range for the archery 900-20 permit was adjusted to include 1–7,500. Adjustments to a quota range does not adjust the quota, but it provides the department with a different range in which biological discretion may be used.
 - ▶ 2024 and 2025 Mountain Lion Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries.
 - The commission adopted the regulations as presented by the department, to include sex-specific quotas for Region 3 that are similar to those used throughout the remainder of the state.
 - ▶ 2024 and 2025 Game Damage Management Season, Wildlife Health, and Urban Wildlife Quota Authorizations were adopted as presented by the department.



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Commission will hear Upland Game Bird and Black Bear Seasons in February 2024.

- ▶ Upland game bird listening sessions to be held in Glendive and Scobey on January 16 and 17, 2024, respectively. Both meetings will be held from 6–8p.m.
- ▶ Game bird training license survey sent to about 300 resident and 100 nonresident license holders asking questions about participation in training season, where, how long, commercial activity, and how many dogs.

Commission will hear Migratory Game Bird Seasons in April 2024.

