

Biography for M. Jeff Hagener
Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

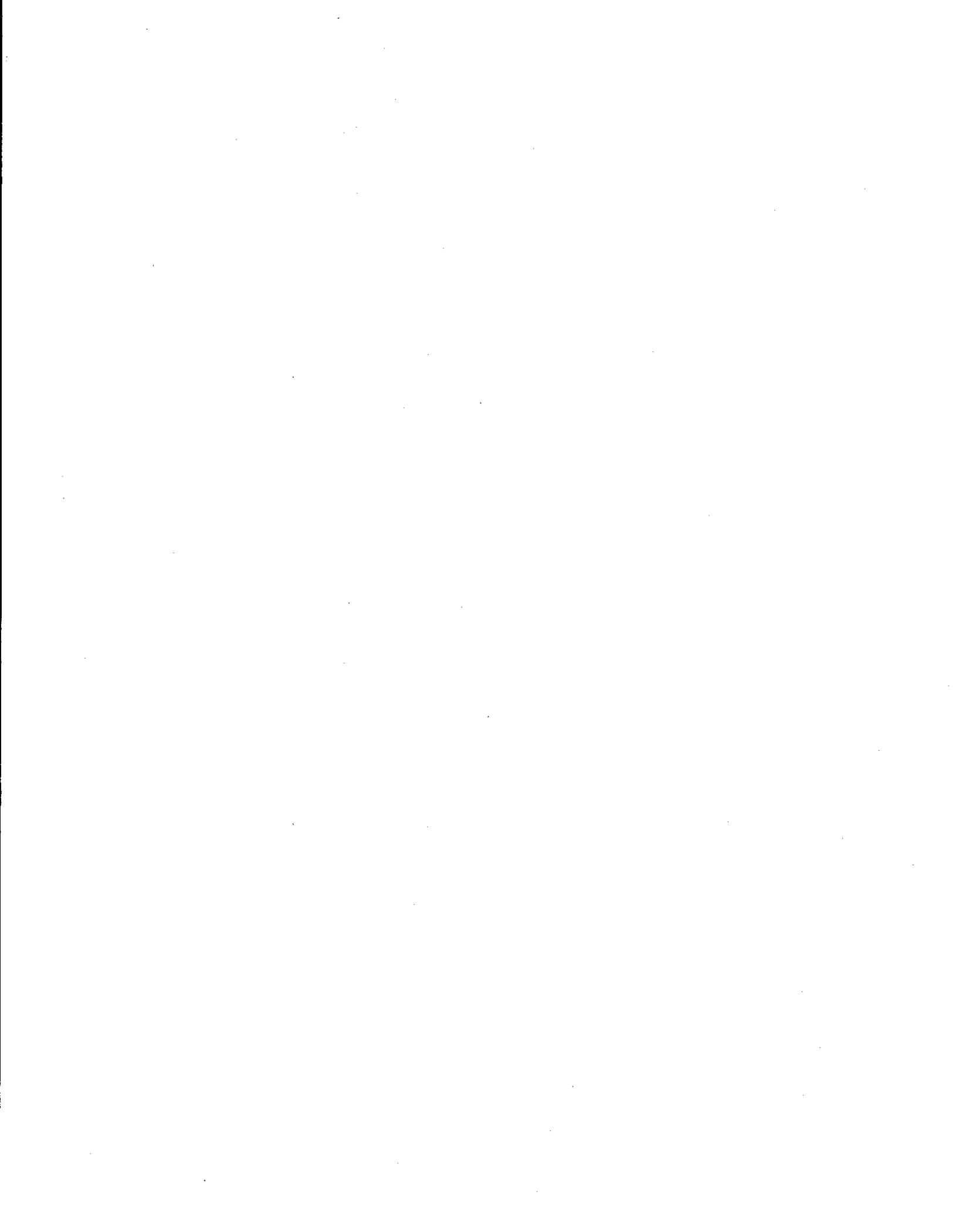
Jeff is a native Montanan, born (February 18, 1954) and raised in Havre. Jeff's father (Louis W.) was a long-time professor (botany, conservation and paleontology) at Northern Montana College. Jeff's mother (Toni) was a local teacher, county commissioner and state representative and continues to reside in Havre. Jeff attended both the University of Montana and Montana State University and holds B.S. degrees from these universities in Wildlife Biology and Agriculture/Range Science respectively.

Jeff has been an avid hunter and fisherman ever since he was old enough to accompany his father and brothers to the field. It was these outdoor experiences that shaped his goals to become a natural resource manager, with particular interest in wildlife management.

While attending college, Jeff worked part time as a packer and guide for outfitters in the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Rocky Mountain Front area. In the late 1970's, Jeff performed range and wildlife surveys for the Bureau of Land Management throughout eastern Montana (received a Special Achievement Award for work on the Prairie Pothole EIS in 1979). Jeff also spent time teaching range and soil science at Northern Montana College and did some ecological consulting. Jeff was a reclamation specialist with the Montana Department of State Lands, Coal/Uranium Bureau from 1981-1983. In 1983, he transferred to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau. In 1986, he became Chief of the Surface Management Bureau responsible for management of all surface leasing of state trust lands (received the DSL Employee of the Year Award in 1988 for his efforts dealing with trust land participation in the Federal Farm Program). Jeff was promoted to Lands Division Administrator in 1989, which added the responsibilities of managing all trust mineral resources. The Land Administration Division evolved into the Trust Land Management Division in 1995, when the natural resource agencies were reorganized and the responsibilities of managing state-owned forest lands were transferred from the Forestry Division. Jeff had served as the Trust Land Administrator until accepting the Directorship of the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks in January 2001 (received a second DNRC Director's Award in 2001 for efforts as part of the team that planned for and implemented the rehabilitation and salvage plan for the Sula State Forest after the extensive fires of 2000).

During his tenure with the state, Jeff has served on several statewide committees including the Natural Resource Damage Technical Task Force and Trustee's Council, the Governor's Public Wildlife/Private Lands Advisory Council, the Total Maximum Daily Load Advisory Committee, and the Commissioner of Political Practices Lobbying Advisory Group. Jeff has also been an active participant in several national and international Associations including the Western States Land Commissioners Association (President, 1999-2000), Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Chairman of the Science and Research Committee, 2002-4), and the Natural Resource Leadership Council of States.

Jeff is married and has two children. Spouse Debbie is a Registered Nurse - Disease Manager with APS Healthcare. Kirstin is a junior at Carroll College and Ryan is a senior at Helena High School.



FWP MISSION STATEMENT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2001 – 2004

- Revised Elk Management Plan—implemented for current season-setting process; designed to be responsive to the needs of landowners, hunters, and elk.
- Wolf Conservation and Management Plan—plan approved by federal authorities and species recovered and positioned for delisting.
- Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy—helping to stave off ESA listing.
- Prairie Dog Conservation Strategy—helping to stave off ESA listing of black-tailed prairie dog.
- Free State Parks for Montana Residents and Stabilization of State Parks Funding—SB 336 in last session.
- Fort Peck Lake Fisheries Management Plan
- Fort Peck Hatchery Funding from Corps of Engineers—the complex water-supply system is nearly complete and, with the help of \$14.5 million the U.S. Congress, rearing ponds and the physical plant are under construction. The facility will be in operation this year.
- Grizzly Bear Delisting Moving Ahead—assisted the USFS and USGS-BRD in securing funding and implementing the NCDE grizzly bear DNA studies, critical steps for delisting.
- Montana Automated Licensing—makes buying a license more efficient for recreationists and license providers.
- Montana Fishing, Hunting, and State Parks Passports Sold On-Line—you can purchase hunting and fishing licenses 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Flathead Lake Co-management and Cooperation with Montana Indian Tribes—FWP and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes work to conserve native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout and to maintaining a recreational fishery.
- Conserving Critical Habitat—Conservation easements helped keep agricultural lands in production and protected several thousand acres of critical wildlife habitats
- Leadership and Management Development Program—trains and recruits FWP's future leaders.

CURRENT GOALS

- Maintain and Enhance Access for Public Hunting—secure the future of Montana's Hunter Management and Hunting Access Enhancement Programs (SB 77 and HB 235).
- Maintain and Enhance Access for Public Fishing—secure the future of the Fishing Access Enhancement Program (HB 56).
- Continue Efforts to Expand Public Access—maintain and promote on-going cooperative efforts with private landowners, state and federal land managers, sportsmen and -women, recreationists and the general public.
- Conserve Critical Fish and Wildlife Habitats—secure the future of Habitat Montana (HB 79).
- Maintain FWP's conservation and management programs—secure future revenue stream to maintain current conservation and management, and their associated recreation, program efforts (HB 172 or HB 176).
- Maintain and Enhance Montana State Parks—use now stabilized State Parks funding to catch up on past due upgrades and improvements.
- Provide Quality Angling Opportunities— through the continued management of wild fisheries and the responsible use of hatchery-reared fish.
- Complete Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Management Plan— for all species in Montana to, in part, provide federal government with scientific information that helps to show state-management of fish and wildlife is most effective.
- Continue to work for the federal delisting of bald eagles, wolves and grizzly bears.