

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee:

RE: SB-380 Providing for nonresident hunting licenses in wilderness areas

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record ADAMANTLY OPPOSING this bill based on the following reasons:

- Non-resident tags have not sold out in the last two years. There has been a surplus for the past two years, so at this time there is no need to issue more.
- In 2012 there were 28,857 non-resident deer/elk hunters (see attached sheets). Had we sold out, there would have been more than 30,000 issued.
- Montana issues more NR tags than most western states (see attached).
- Montana is the only state that allows a non-resident 11 weeks to hunt elk/deer.
- Game populations in Wilderness areas are mostly at or below objectives and long term averages. 8 of the 15 wilderness areas listed have hunting districts with restrictive season structure for elk due to below objective elk populations.
- This is a combination license which allows the taking of an elk and deer. The tag could be split, and portions resold and used elsewhere in the state. Mule deer populations throughout the state, and especially in wilderness areas, are well below objectives and cannot support additional hunting pressure.
- Providing a reduced priced license when FWP is already facing a budgetary crisis is fiscally irresponsible. (see attached list of reduced priced licenses)
- Montana's big game combination license fee is consistent with surrounding states (see attached sheet).
- Non-resident, guided wilderness hunters are usually housed in wilderness camps where they are fed and housed, thereby producing minimal, direct economic impact for local communities.

Once again we would like to state our ADAMANT OPPOSITION for SB-380

Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

Vito Quatraro-Bozeman	580-1130	Joe Perry-Brady	627-2369
John Borgreen-Great Falls	453-4273	Sam Milodragovich-Butte	490-2224
Robert Wood-Hamilton	531-5043	JW Westman-Laurel	633-2415

Montana Sportsmen Alliance has app. 250 participating sportsmen with their individual databases

www.montanasporsmenalliance.com
www.pac.montanasporsmenalliance.com
P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840

	NONRESIDENT	NR COLLEGE STUDENT BIG GAME COMBO	393	\$70
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	34	\$939
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	10,440	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - BIG GAME COMBO	41	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	1,732	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - BIG GAME COMBO	5	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	YOUTH BIG GAME COMBO	388	\$470
			13,033	

	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	430	\$789
	NONRESIDENT	NR NATIVE GENERAL ELK	1,001	\$80
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	1	\$789
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	2,052	\$789
			3,484	

B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	120	\$273
	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	140	\$273
B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	308	\$273
B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	590	\$273
			1,158	

B-11	NONRESIDENT	LANDOWNER SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	7	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	LANDOWNER SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	1,463	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	1,482	\$556
B-11	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	2	\$556
B-11	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	4,849	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	41	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	NR NATIVE GENERAL DEER	1,171	\$64
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	76	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER LICENSE	8	\$125
			9,099	

	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER COMBO (RETAINED HB 607)	4	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER COMBO (RETAINED HB 607)	2,079	\$556
			2,083	

Elk and Deer Combo licenses sold 13,033
Elk only licenses sold 3,484
Elk B licenses sold 1,158

Deer (buck) license Sold 9,099
Deer license retained under HB 607 2,083

Total NR Licensed to Hunt 28,857

Note many of the Elk b license holder
may also hold a NR combinaiton license

In 1976 the Montana Legislature capped nonresident Elk and Deer Combination at 17,000.

In 1988 the Legislature added 6,000 nonresident Deer combination licenses, and added 600 more in 1996.

In 1998 the nonresident Elk Combination license was created with the quota coming from the 17,000 Elk and Deer combination licenses. It also allowed the Department to issue the nonresident Deer licenses separated from the Elk and Deer Combination licenses.

In 2007 the Legislature added 300 nonresident Half Priced Youth Sponsored Big Combination Licenses, which sold out in each of the past three years. In 2011 the cap of 300 licenses was removed.

In 2008 the requirement that nonresidents purchase a Combination license prior to applying for/purchasing an Antlerless Elk license was eliminated. In 2010, 1,049 nonresidents purchased these Antlerless licenses.

In 2009 the Legislature passed a law allowing nonresident college students attending college in Montana to purchase a nonresident hunting license at the resident Sportsmen's license price. More than 350 were sold in 2011.

In 2009 the Legislature created the "Come Home to Hunt" program, which allows up to 1,000, (500 Big Game Combination and 500 Deer Combination licenses) nonresidents who once lived in and hunted in Montana to return to hunt with a family member. A total of 495 nonresidents took advantage of the program in 2010, 246 in 2011, and 89 to date in 2012.

Totaling the above there may be between 27,000 and 28,000 nonresident Deer and Elk hunters this fall.

Senate Bill 136, which provides additional nonresident reduced priced licenses for individuals born in Montana, had a fiscal note assuming 2,039 additional hunters will take advantage of the reduced price licenses. The YTD total is 447.

NON-RESIDENT ELK & DEER TAGS ISSUED BY STATE

	ELK TAGS	DEER TAGS
Colorado	68,362	16,274
Idaho	6,007	20,659
Montana	17,675	24,215
New Mexico	11,348	5,651
Wyoming	12,067	26,031
Utah	2,800	4,892

Most tag numbers are based on 2011 sales, But Montana is 2012 numbers

Data was compiled by calling/emailing the Game & Fish Depts. for the above states

2013 ARIZONA NON-RESIDENT FEES

Prices include the \$7.50 application fee

Class G, General Hunting License	\$151.25
Class F, Combo Hunting & Fishing License	\$225.75
Class F, Youth Combo Hunting & Fishing License	\$26.50
(before and through the applicant's 20 th birthday)	
Antelope.....	\$485
Elk.....	\$595

2013 COLORADO NON-RESIDENT FEES

(Habitat Stamp Not Included)

Antelope (Buck or Doe)	\$354
Deer	\$354
Elk - Bull or Either Sex.....	\$589
Elk - Cow	\$354
Youth Big Game (Elk, Deer, or Antelope).....	\$103.75
Moose	\$1,954
Mountain Goat.....	\$1,954
Rocky Mountain Bighorn	\$1,954
Desert Sheep	\$1,304
Habitat Stamp (required to apply or hunt).....	\$10

2013 MONTANA NON-RESIDENT FEES

Big Game Combination.....	\$959
Elk Combination.....	\$809
Deer Combination.....	\$570
Conservation License (prerequisite for all licenses)	\$10
Special Deer A Permit.....	\$5
Special Elk Permit	\$9
Archery Stamp.....	\$10
Combination Preference Point (Optional)	\$50
Bonus Point Fee (Optional).....	\$20

2013 NEVADA NON-RESIDENT FEES

Hunting License (includes \$3 habitat fee).....	\$142
Deer - Regular Draw Tag	\$240
Elk (Bull)	\$1,200
Antelope.....	\$300
Bighorn Sheep (both species).....	\$1,200

* There is a \$10 non-refundable application fee for all regular big game applications, except elk, which is \$15, plus a non-refundable \$3 predator management fee on each tag application. If you're a non-resident and are applying online, add another \$3.50 convenience fee per tag application.

* If you apply for "points only," you will pay for a \$142 hunting license plus \$10 per species.

2013 NEW MEXICO NON-RESIDENT FEES

Hunting License	\$65
Habitat Management & Access Validation (required)	\$4
Habitat Stamp (Required by all who hunt BLM or USFS land)	\$5
Deer S License.....	\$290
Deer Q, Q/HD License	\$375
Barbary Sheep	\$380
Ibex	\$1,630
Elk S.....	\$555
Elk Q, HD, or Q/HD.....	\$780
Antelope.....	\$290
Bighorn Sheep	\$3,180
Oryx.....	\$1,630

License fees include non-refundable application fee of \$20 for each species.

2013 UTAH NON-RESIDENT FEES

These fees do not include \$10 application fee

Non-Resident Hunting License	\$65
General Deer (archery, rifle, muzzleloader)	\$268
Premium Limited-Entry & Premium CWMU Buck Deer... ..	\$568
Limited-Entry Buck Deer.....	\$468
CWMU Buck Deer.....	\$268
General Elk (archery, rifle, muzzleloader)	\$393
Limited-Entry & CWMU Bull Elk	\$800
Premium Limited-Entry Elk.....	\$1,505
Youth Any Bull (YH 499)	\$393
Antelope.....	\$293
Moose	\$1,518
Bison Henry Mountains.....	\$1,518
Bison Antelope Island	\$2,615
Desert Bighorn Sheep	\$1,518
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	\$1,518
Rocky Mountain Goat.....	\$1,518

2013 WYOMING NON-RESIDENT FEES

(all fees include \$14 non-refundable application fees)

Species	License Fees			Preference Point Fee		Application Period	Results Available
	Youth	Regular	Special	Youth	Regular		
Elk	\$289	\$591	\$1,071	\$10	\$50	Jan 1-31	Feb 28
Deer	\$124	\$326	\$566	\$10	\$40	Jan 1- Mar 15	June 25
Antelope	\$124	\$286	\$526	\$10	\$30	Jan 1- Mar 15	June 25
Moose		\$1,416		\$75	\$75	Jan 1- Feb 28	May 8
Bighorn Sheep		\$2,266		\$100	\$100	Jan 1- Feb 28	May 8
Mountain Goat		\$2,166		N/A	N/A	Jan 1- Feb 28	May 8
Bison		\$2,502		N/A	N/A	Jan 1- Feb 28	May 22

* The application dates to apply online for "points only" are July 1 - September 30