

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Brian McCullough

I've purchased Montana big hunting licenses consecutively for 50 years as of 2012 hunting season.

My hunting experiences has included many rewarding hunts through out the state east and west, north and south. Many of my hunts were outside the 5 week hunting season especially for antlerless elk.

As of 2006 FWP made a dramatic change in their wild life management.. The policy was

1. generally limit rifle hunting to the regular 5 week rifle season that always ended the weekend following Thanksgiving.
2. Updated the administrative rules for regulating/allowing hunting on private land outside the 5 week season. The rule change basically does not allowing hunting on private land outside the 5 week rifle season if the landowner did not allow the general public unrestricted hunting consistent with the general hunting regulations. Most of these private landowners outfit there land for fee hunting to resident and non resident hunters.

BUT

Lets not forget, this is a legal activity by Montana businessman who are working to make a living from their land. Outside of the regular 5 week season many of them would allow and even welcome the general public to come onto their property to hunt antlerless deer and elk where the populations were in excess of management objective and/or were causing property damage.

NOTE. This limit to the 5 week rifle season is irregardless of whether the wildlife populations in the hunting district was over the wildlife management objectives as determined by FWP biologists.

Since 2006 and for 6 years the FWP Wildlife Division has chosen to generally endorse the punishing the following groups of Montanans with this policy of limited hunting.

1. Unsuccessful Montana and Non resident deer and elk hunters who for the previous 30 plus years had harvested deer and elk on hunts authorized by FWP were along authorized to hunt on private land where the once were welcomed.
2. Landowners' whether outfitted or not and even some who allowed the general public to hunt on their land as provided by the general hunting regulations were generally not allowed to have hunts outside of the regular 5 week season. These landowners are now having to experience greater crop and property damage on an every increasing basis which increases their cost of business and decreases the crop and cattle production which is how they make a living.
3. Local businesses suffer loss of hunter business during the hunts outside the 5 week regular hunting season.

These businesses include but are not limited to convenient stores, grocery stores, wildlife meat processors, restaurants, bars, motels, hotels, sporting goods stores, clothing stores.

Since the Wildlife Division endorses this punishment to this 3 groups of Montanan's, I am requesting this committee to limit next biennium' appropriation level the 2012 level.

Faint, illegible markings or text in the top left corner.



In addition I am requesting the Committee to add language to their budget that prevent this division from having any budget amendments during the next bieynium and prevent and program transfers of budgets or FTEs to/or from this division.

REASON: it is time for this division experience the cut back of cash flow they have punished these 3 groups of Montana for the las 6 years.

FWP reaction will probably include but not be limited to:

This will hurt the funding of many of our programs that have nothing to do with hunting.

Our staff don't like the hunts outside of the 5 week rifle season

We can not afford to reinstate these hunts outside the 5 week season because that will require more funding.

The general public feels they have been punished by landowners and therefore the landowners should be punished into submission to allow them to have 5 week unrestricted hunting on their land as allowed by FWP regulations.

My Response:

When the Wildlife Division moved to this policy in 2006 they did not come to the 2007 legislature and request their budget be cut because of savings as a result of generally limiting hunting to a 5 week season, so no reason to give them more budget now.

FWP will just have to manage to the funds they have, just as the rest of us have had to do during the last 6 years because of their punishment.

FWP staff who don't like the hunts outside of the 5 week season can either change and support it or they can quit and go work somewhere else. Get used to it, its your job!

The outspoken general public MUST be told by FWP that the Montana's who are working to make a living from the properties and businesses they own have a LEGAL right to pursue those business for a profit even though the wildlife is owned by the citizens of Montana. The landowners are feeding the the wildlife up to 365 days a year AND are taking the business risk year and year out. THIS RIGHT TO THE LANDOWNER TO MAKE A LIVING SUPERCEDES THE GENRAL PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO HUNT ON PRIVATE LANDS FOR NO FEE.

Come back in 2015 when you have quit punishing us and demonstrated that you havechanged your policies.

PS.

I do not trust you to make any changes without these budget restrictions being put into place because of your division's ignoring me for the last 1½ years on this issue.

Secondly your ignoring my testimony in Butte in 2006 when you had the hearing on the administrativ rule changes for game damage.

Brian McElroy  
2217 9th AVE  
HELENA, MT  
443-4639

1/4/2012  
SOURCE - FWP

(TABLE 2) ELK USE DAYS AND EXPENDITURES BY REGION (2011)

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Resident Days	156,669	198,425	278,361	101,196	40,961	16,113	17,254
Resident Expenditures	\$13.3M	\$16.9M	\$23.7M	\$8.6M	\$3.5M	\$1.4M	\$1.5M
Non-Resident Days	13,855	16,386	51,522	20,183	6,195	2,074	3,164
Non-Resident Expenditures	\$5.5 M	\$6.5M	\$20.6M	\$8.1M	\$2.5M	\$829,000	\$1.3M

\$ day  
\$ day

Per Day 396.97 396.68 399.83 401.33 403.56 399.71 410.88

(TABLE 3) DEER USE DAYS AND EXPENDITURES BY REGION (2011)

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Resident Days	222,886	179,571	190,583	142,855	88,666	58,768	70,621
Resident Expenditures	\$14.7M	\$11.8M	\$12.6M	\$9.4M	\$5.8M	\$3.9M	\$4.7M
Non-Resident Days	15,320	10,448	33,502	28,022	12,342	17,871	39,023
Non-Resident Expenditures	\$2.8M	\$1.9M	\$6.1M	\$5.1M	\$2.3M	\$3.3M	\$7.1M

\$ day  
\$ day

Per Day 182.77 181.86 182.08 182.00 186.36 187.66 181.95

(TABLE 4) ANTELOPE USE DAYS AND EXPENDITURES BY REGION (2011)

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Resident Days	NA	182	17,240	13,388	13,728	5,733	12,270
Resident Expenditures	NA	\$11,216	\$1.1M	\$825,036	\$845,988	\$353,296	\$756,139
Non-Resident Days	NA	4	933	987	1,716	889	10,133
Non-Resident Expenditures	NA	\$926.50	\$216,106	\$228,614	\$397,469	\$205,915	\$2.3M

(TABLE 5) UPLAND GAME BIRD USE DAYS AND EXPENDITURES BY REGION (2011)

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7
Resident Days	51,196	28,668	25,542	61,545	19,395	37,157	20,196
Resident Expenditures	\$3.3M	\$1.9M	\$1.7M	\$4M	\$1.3M	\$2.4M	\$1.3M
Non-Resident Days	2,656	1,473	3,118	14,513	5,461	24,380	10,133
Non-Resident Expenditures	\$1M	\$569,611	\$1.2M	\$5.6M	\$2.1M	\$9.4M	\$3.9M

**PUNISHED MEAT HUNTER**  
**Landowners & Business by F.W.P.**

**Brian McCullough**

ph (406) 443-4639 | 2217 9th Ave.  
cell (406) 431-4311 | Helena, MT 59601  
bmccul4720@bresnan.net