

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
SENATE NO. 8
DATE 3-14-13
BILL NO. SB 380

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

To the Senate Fish & Game Committee:

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

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

- Montana already gives out more NR tags than surrounding states. (see attached)
- Non resident tag sales haven't sold out in the last two years. There a surplus now, so there is no need to issue more.
- Game populations in Wilderness areas are mostly at or below objectives and long term averages. There's no biological reason to add more hunters in those areas.
- 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 are well below objectives and cannot support additional hunting pressure. (See attached)
- The word "Intent" on line 3 means the tag holders could use the license anywhere in the state. Thus they could also sell back the elk portion and retain the deer.
- Providing a reduced priced license when FWP is already facing a budgetary crisis is fiscally irresponsible. (see attached list of reduced priced licenses)

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

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

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

2011 MULE DEER STATUS

	MULE DEER POPULATION ESTIMATES 10 YEAR AVERAGE 1999 - 2008	YEARS USED FOR 10 YEAR AVERAGE	2011 TOTAL
REGION 1	15,973	2001-2010	13,095
REGION 2	18,449	2001-2010	14,050
REGION 3	46,895	1999-2008	33,330
REGION 4	73,946	1999-2008	38,560
REGION 5	39,166	2001-2010	25,760
REGION 6	34,849	2001-2010	30,730
REGION 7	57,155	2001-2010	48,380
STATEWIDE TOTAL	286,433		203,905

LONG TERM AVERAGES REPRESENT FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

203,905 estimated mule deer based upon population modeling with survey and harvest inputs

mule deer estimates are not comprehensively validated with site specific research or enhanced monitoring efforts

mule deer estimates are not framed with confidence intervals and are subject to adjustment

Lost Revenue to FWP by discounted or free licenses 2012

License Type	Other	Senior	Youth 12-14	Youth 15-17	Disabled	Total	Regular Price	Discounted	Difference	Loss in Rev to FWP
1 Conservation and implied fishing*		41,027	10,251		7,634	58,912	\$26.00	\$8.00	\$18.00	\$1,060,416.00
2 Conservation and fishing				5,955		5,955	\$26.00	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$59,550.00
3 Sportsman W/O bear (Youth)				6,219		6,219	\$70.00	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$279,855.00
4 Free Youth Sportsman				4,976		4,976	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$348,320.00
5 Deer A			4,818		4,931	9,749	\$16.00	\$6.50	\$9.50	\$92,615.50
6 Deer A		17,274				17,274	\$16.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$103,644.00
7 Elk			3,604		4,186	7,790	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$93,480.00
8 Elk		15,052				15,052	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$180,624.00
9 Upland Bird				1,304		1,304	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$4.50	\$5,868.00
10 Implied Upland Bird*		41,027	10,251		7,634	58,912	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$441,840.00
11 Implied Waterfowl*		41,027	10,281		7,634	63,596	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$317,980.00
12 Sportsman W/O bear (senior)		1,298		4,654		1,298	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$15.00	\$19,470.00
13 Military Recognition Sportsman **		1,298				1,298	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$90,860.00
14 Landowner Trapper		126				126	\$20.00	\$1.00	\$19.00	\$2,394.00
15 NR College Student License		393				393	\$939.00	\$70.00	\$869.00	\$341,517.00
16 NR youth upland/migratory		126				126	\$160.00	\$35.00	\$125.00	\$15,750.00
17 NR Native-Deer A		1,171				1,171	\$250.00	\$64.00	\$186.00	\$217,806.00
18 NR Native-Deer A		1,001				1,001	\$789.00	\$80.00	\$709.00	\$709,709.00
19 NR Native-Upland Bird		416				416	\$110.00	\$30.00	\$80.00	\$33,280.00
20 Military Combat Disabled Deer A		8				8	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$1,000.00
21 Military Combat Disabled Deer B		2				2	\$75.00	\$37.50	\$37.50	\$75.00
22 Military Combat Disabled Antelope		8				8	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$600.00
23 Military Combat Disabled Deer B Res		1				1	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
24 Military Combat Disabled Antelope Res		2				2	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$14.00
25 NR Youth Sponsored BG		388				388	\$939.00	\$474.50	\$464.50	\$180,226.00
26 Cooperators Big Game Combo		127				127	\$939.00	\$0.00	\$939.00	\$119,253.00
27 Exceptional Youth BG Combo		2				2	\$939.00	\$0.00	\$939.00	\$1,878.00
28 Cooperator Sportsman		665				665	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$46,550.00
29 Flathead Conservation		6,998				6,998	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$55,984.00
30 Flathead Joint Bird		733				733	\$7.50	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$5,497.50
31 Flathead Joint Fishing		3,491				3,491	\$18.00	\$0.00	\$18.00	\$62,838.00
Total										\$4,889,099.00

Brett These numbers are at full replacement cost and assume full participation. The Military recognition is reimbursed from the General Fund
 We are working on better version of this explaining some of the quirks to the public.

* based on ISR Tracker 11445 queries from 2010 and prorated to 2012 license sales
 ** The money for this license is reimbursed from the State general fund

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.