

January 29, 2015

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HB 268-Create A Block Management Stamp Program  
Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Flynn  
Committee: House Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Vice Chairman Welborn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jake Troyer and I'm here representing the over 5,200 members of Montana Audubon in support of HB 268.

It is our mission is to promote the appreciation, knowledge and conservation of Montana's native birds, other wildlife, and natural ecosystems to safeguard biological diversity for current and future generations.

We're glad that this funding issue is being raised in multiple bills this session and know that Rep. Flynn is working to find a solution to further funding the program. Thank you to him for doing this.

Montana Audubon is rising in support of HB 268 for the following reasons:

1. Block management is a very popular and important program that gives Montanans access to hunting areas throughout the state on private land.
2. The approximate dollars generated yearly by the sale of this stamp will be helpful to help further build the block management program.

However, we do have some concerns we wanted to bring to the Rep. Flynn's attention including:

1. If passed, there is no guarantee that every eligible hunter will pay \$25 for the new stamp, which could impact the overall funding of the program.
2. Another concern we have is the cost of the stamp itself. \$25 may be out of the range of some hunters even though they want to engage.

We urge a do-pass of HB 268 so we can look at all the options available to the legislature this session for funding our block management program.

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