EXHIBIT 1
DATE 4/8/15
SB 395

SB 395 – Montana Apprentice Hunter Bill Section-by-Section Analysis (Senator Blasdel)

Section	What it does
Section 1 New Section	• Subsection 1 allows anyone who is 10 years of age or older to obtain an apprentice hunter certificate without having first taken hunter's safety. It is capped at 18 years of age. • Subsections 2, 3 and 5 require apprentice hunters to be in the company and direct supervision of a mentor who is at least 21 years of age and must be related by blood, marriage, adoption, legal guardian, or parental consent. This bill differs from previous versions in that the mentor must also have sufficient knowledge of the apprentice hunter to confirm that the novice hunter possesses the physical and psychological capacity to safely and ethically engage in hunting activities. While subjective in nature, it requires the mentor to understand the abilities of who they are taking hunting. • Subsection 4 creates a new apprentice hunter certificate fee of $5 which goes to the Department's hunter education fund. This initiates the apprentice hunter to think about and recognize the importance of hunter's safety education, and that should they enjoy their apprentice experience, they will have to take hunter's safety. Although small in amount, the fee provides some funding for hunter safety opportunities in various communities. • Subsections 6 and 7 discuss the seasons and eligibility requirements. Because of some of the concern associated with elk hunting physical demands last session, the bill was modified to provide that an apprentice hunter must be at least 15 years of age. They also cannot hunt sheep in an unlimited tag area. • Subsection 8 penalizes the apprentice hunter or mentor with loss of privileges for up to one full license season if the terms of this section are violated – an increase from previous versions.
Section 2 MCA § 87-2-105	Amends the statute requiring hunter safety instruction to allow an exemption for those who are participating in the apprentice hunting program.
Section 3 MCA § 87-2-404	Inserts language in existing statute allowing for apprentice hunters to purchase a 3-day nonresident shooting preserve bird hunting stamp.
Section 4 MCA § 87-2-520	Allows apprentice hunters to participate in a supplemental game damage hunt.
Section 5 MCA § 87-2-711	Allows apprentice hunters to receive class AAA combination sports licenses.
Section 6 MCA § 87-2-805	Increases the youth participation age for the youth deer hunt up to the age of 18. Also, for a youth hunter receives their one free license ONLY upon completion of a hunter safety course.
Section 7 through 9	• Codification Instruction in the FWP statutes. • All sections effective on passage and approval except youth hunt age extension which would start March 1, 2016.

Who Supports Providing for Apprentice Hunting Opportunities in Montana?

The following organizations are committed to increasing safe hunting opportunities in Montana for our youth and novice hunters:

- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – http://www.rmef.org/
- 4 Montana Chapters: Safari Club International - http://www.scifirstforhunters.org/
- Families Afield - http://www.familiesafield.org/
- National Wild Turkey Federation - http://www.nwtf.org/
- Ducks Unlimited - http://www.ducks.org/
- US Sportsmen's Alliance http://www.ussportsmen.org/
- Montana Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife - http://sfw.net/
- Montana Citizens for Balanced Use – http://www.balanceduse.org/
- National Shooting Sports Foundation - http://www.nssf.org/
- National Rifle Association of America - http://home.nra.org/
- Montana Outfitters & Guides Association - http://www.montanaoutfitters.org/
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation – http://www.sportsmenslink.org/
- Flathead Wildlife Association – http://flatheadwildife.org/
- Thompson Chain of Lakes Homeowners Association

Please Support SB 395!