

EQC committee

Re: FWP license fee increases

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am against the increase in any of the deer, elk or antelope hunting fees. *and creation of a new base hunt license*

I have hunted big game every year in the state of Montana since 1963. In that 50 years I have seen FWP constantly strive to manage the wildlife in excess of management objective thru 2005. After 2005 this effort fell off a cliff.

FWP has instituted a policy of limiting the hunting of deer, elk and antelope to a five week rifle season since 2005. As a result of this policy the following groups of people have been harmed.

1. Meat hunters have lost access to private lands that were previously open to hunting antlerless deer, elk and antelope animals in seasons set by FWP in the general hunting regulations for people to apply for in the usual yearly application cycle. Since 2005 these hunting opportunities are no longer available.
2. Rural small businesses have lost the income from the hunters that went on these late hunts in rural Montana. This includes but is not limited to restaurants, sporting goods stores, motels, meat processors, gas stations and more I'm sure.
3. Montana is losing tax revenues from this lost income as resulting in lost tax revenue.
4. Landowners who outfit their properties are not allowed to let the public come onto their property to harvest the antlerless animals during the antlerless only hunting seasons that were common prior to 2006. *late*
5. FWP biologist who strive to manage deer, elk and antelope to management objective have lost one of their tools to manage wildlife to objective as required by state law.

Observation: FWP is focusing their management efforts on landowners who will limit access to fee only hunting on their property during the five week rifle season, rather than focusing on continuing the hunting heritage of hunting and harvesting surplus antlerless animals after the general season was over.

As a result of the policy decisions made by FWP management since 2005 that have reduced hunting opportunities, caused elk populations to grow above management objective at a faster rate and lack of concern for the small business throughout rural Montana, I am against any increase in deer, elk or antelope license fees.

PAY MORE WHAT FOR!!!

Brian McCullough
2217 9th Ave
Helena, Mt 59601
406-443-4639
cell 406-431-4311



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COUNCIL. 2013-14

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(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
PER DAY	84.90	85.17	85.15	84.99	85.45	86.89	86.94
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

\$ PER DAY 396.97 396.68 399.83 401.33 403.56 399.71 410.88 \$ day

(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
PER DAY	65.96	65.72	66.12/day	65.80	65.42	66.37	66.56
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

\$ PER DAY 182.77 181.86 182.08 182.00 186.36 187.66 181.95 \$ day

(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