

Public Comment for the HB 609 Study of
FWP Hunting and Fishing Licenses for the
Environmental Quality Council
9/10/2014

From: wildnwoolleymt@gmail.com on behalf of [Charles and Judy Woolley](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hunting license fee increase
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 10:40:59 AM

I am in no way in favor of any increase. FWP signed on to the wolf introduction and now since they have lost a lot of high priced non-resident license buyers due to decreased game availability, they want everyone to pick up the tab to make up the difference. I'm sorry but if they made the mistake (to garner some federal funds), let them eat the loss or have the federal govt. pay the difference.! FWP is already getting more money by splitting up the special permit and B tag application process so that they collect more small fees that they do not have to return refunds for.

From: [DGDylinas](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 11:24:51 AM

NO to increasing the hunting and fishing license fees.

Who in the world represents "strong local support" of this increase? My husband works at Sliters hardware in Lakeside. He issues hunting and fishing licenses and hears complaints every day how expensive they are for locals/residents.

No to federal regulation of state waters! Keep the federal government OUT of Montana state business. Period. All inclusive.

Thanks for heads up on this committee's recent actions. When's the public hearing period?

Deborah G Sullivan
USAF Retired
Lakeside

From: [Randy & Wendy Russ](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Fielder](#)
Subject: Comment on increasing of license fee"s
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 2:00:00 PM

As a small business owner in western Montana, and lone provider for our low income family, I'm apposed to increases in license fee's. I don't have any problem once the economy picks up, but at this time to many of us barely afford to hunt now. And in my small business, i would also love to raise prices to pay for increase license fee's, gas, and bullets, but am holding off. I hope that you will too. If you want to make more money try encouraging folks to hunt again. Give away fee tags in a lottery. I don't gamble but know plenty who do. Maybe you could get double the price on your lotto tags. You could also increase fines for those who hunt illegal. But please hold off on us who depend on the meat. Its hard enough to make ends meat"" so to speak:)

Thanks for your support, Randy Russ
Superior MT

FWP HUNTING LICENSE FEE INCREASE: Montana legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC) received a report from Fish, Wildlife and Park's License and Funding Advisory Council (LFAC) which conveyed strong public support for increasing hunting and fishing license fees throughout Montana. I am really interested in YOUR thoughts on this.

Comments on FWP hunting & fishing license fee increase and license restructuring can be submitted by August 16, 2014 to hstockwell@mt.gov

From: [Casey FitzSimmons](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Fee Increase
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 3:11:21 PM

MTFWP,

I have received an email that states FWP told Montana legislature's Environmental Quality Council (EQC) that you had "strong public support for increasing hunting and fishing license fees throughout Montana". I would like to know where FWP got this info? Like most Montanans' I am tired of your out of control spending and your total disregard for the management of our big game species. If anything you guys have lost what public support you had. If you guys are in need of more funds why don't you sell some of the 500,000+/- acres that you own? When a rancher/farmer falls in financial trouble they have to sell land. When they can't manage what they have they have to sell or find another way to make it work. You guys need to learn that aspect of life. So why don't you stop over paying for deeded land and/or conservation easements, or stop buying deeded land in general? I already know what you will say about that, "How will the public have access to hunt, fish, recreate then?" I will tell you, start getting the support and trust from Montana land owners! It has been shown time and time again that ranchers/farmers are the best managers of our natural resources. You have burned to many bridges and I don't know if you guys can repair what you have done.

The way you operate is laughable and each and everyone of you that make the decisions on how much to pay for land and easements should be ashamed of yourself. The purchase of the Milk River property was a very uneducated decision. That makes a lot of sense to buy up 4505 acres in the middle of know where for \$7.7million. How does the people of benefit from that land purchase? What are you going to do about the loss of the 60,000 acres of BMA because of that purchase? What really makes us Montanans mad is your total disregard for our opinions and our voice throughout that whole process. The way I see it and so does many of our tax payers is that purchase was a political favor that was pushed through at the end of a term by a governor that thinks he is smarter than the people that elected him. Then to read what Jeff Hagener says, "We don't "grab" land from anyone, as some have claimed, and we pay no more than what the property is worth-and often far less, thanks to the generosity and conservation ethics of many sellers." Does he really think that I am going to believe that? Your own employees don't even believe that. When you guys buy land you generally over pay by thousands of dollars a acre. Proof: the Ageson ranch had of a value of \$1million. You guys paid \$1709 a acre so explain to me how you guys don't over pay? How has the benefit of the artifacts work out for you? So before you start to punish the outdoorsman and women of Montana for your overspending why don't you guys do a little house keeping of your own? All you guys are doing is pushing people away from you and away from the greatest thing that Montana can offer, its outdoors and land! I DO NOT SUPPORT A INCREASE IN OUR LICENSE FEE NOR DO I SUPPORT FWP AND WHAT THEY STAND FOR.

Casey FitzSimmons
4th Generation Montanan

From: [johnny.armstrong](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hunting-fishing license price increase
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 3:41:20 PM

FWP, I would like to propose the increase in license fees, if necessary, be no more than the current "COL" increase of 1 & 1/2 %.....Thank you for listening.....I am on a fixed income.....Johnny Armstrong Eureka, Montana

From: [Donovan Russ](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hunting and fishing fees
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 4:14:44 PM

The fees for the hunting and fishing license is at best high enough as it is . Letting the activist get by with introducing wolves back into the system was a big mistake and it has cost the hunter enough . As for the hunting of turkey's it is way to much to pay for those tags to as you can go to the store and get one already to go for the third the price of a tag. Seems like to me that everything comes up to money . I am not for increasing the fees for sure. Thanks for listing . Don

From: [P&A Harvey](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Increase in hunting and fishing licenses
Date: Monday, July 21, 2014 11:04:47 PM

To whom it may concern;

Comments on FWP hunting & fishing license fee increase and license restructuring can be submitted by August 16, 2014 to hstockwell@mt.gov

I Paul Harvey of Plains, Mt. do not see a need of any kind to raise fees.

Live within your means please, We all have too.

pln4443@blackfoot.net



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Bobbie Stoken](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: fishing and hunting fees
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 8:20:45 AM

NO! I am not in favor of increasing the fees. In my county, Lincoln, we are poor. Many of the able bodied are in another state working because the timber industry is down the tube. Many of the remaining are too old to work and are on fixed incomes. Let the Fish Wildlife group do like the rest of us have to do and live within their budget. We don't need all the extra programs they try to come up with to show how good they think they are doing.

Bobbie Stoken

From: [Josef Kuchera](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Comments on FWP hunting & fishing license fee increase and license restructuring
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:56:47 PM
Attachments: [Comment on proposed hunting fee increase from Josef.docx](#)

Comment on proposed hunting fee increase.

I do support increasing Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks revenues, but not through the majority of the recommendations outlined in the HB609 Study Report to the 64th Legislature. Anyone can generate more money by raising fees, and out pricing the average person, but this does not fix the underlying problems. The mismanagement by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has led them to increasing the fees to fill the gap they created and this is not acceptable. We all know of hunting areas that have been managed by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the number of tags has dropped year after year, some areas from 200 tags to 5 tags. We have watched the game diminish and the hunting heritage disappear at the management of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and now they need more money to continue the reduction of animals and reduce our rights to hunting and fishing. I do not accept this and I have outlined in bold what I do and do not support in this proposal:

Recommendation: Standardize youth, senior, disabled, and nonresident free and discounted licenses at 50% of the equivalent, full-priced license. Increase the age at which seniors are eligible for discounted licenses from 62 to 67. **(I do not support increasing the age at which seniors are eligible for discounted licenses. It should stay at 62.)**

Recommendation: Establish a new base hunting license at a cost of \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents that is a prerequisite to purchasing individual species tags and the archery stamp. These prices include the existing Hunting Access Enhancement fee (\$2 for residents and \$10 for nonresident) **(I do not support having a base hunting license. We already have this it is called a conservation license.)**

Recommendation: Increase prices for bison, moose, mountain goat, and mountain sheep nonresident licenses from \$750 to \$1250. **(I do not support increasing these prices. This will hurt the local economies and out price out of state people who cannot afford these higher rates. This is creating a license for the rich only.)**

Recommendation: Increase the price of the resident 2-day fishing license from \$5 to \$8, and the resident season license from \$18 to \$24; increase the price of the nonresident 2-day fishing license from \$15 to \$26, convert the 10-day nonresident fishing license into a 7-day license and increase the cost from \$43.50 to \$56, and increase the nonresident season fishing license from \$60 to \$86. **(I do not support raising fishing license prices. Not only will this put a burden on the citizens of Montana with higher rates, but will hurt the local economies that will be affected by less out of state people spending money in our county.)**

Recommendation: Cap the price of the B-10 nonresident big game combination license and

the B-11 nonresident deer combination license, including purchase of the new base hunting license and application fees, at \$999 and \$625 respectively. **I do support putting a cap on these licenses. I also agree that the price increasing could cause buyer resistance.)**

Recommendation: Revise the refund policy to allow nonresidents who are unsuccessful in drawing a permit to receive a 95% refund of the big game combination license at the time of the drawing (a change from 80%). **(I do support this and believe it will create a positive benefit to the customer.)**

Recommendation: Adopt a four-year model (cycle) for reviewing budget expenditures and revenues and determining the need for license revenue recommendations to the legislature. **(I do support this reviewing the budget expenditures and believe this should already be in place.)**

Recommendation: Develop and provide mechanisms in addition to license dollars to fund the management and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources. **(I fully support finding other ways to fund the management and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources that do not put a burden on the residents and non-residents.**

Fiscal responsibility within the agency should be addressed and not put on the resident and non-residents hunters and fisherman. This increase will harm local economies in Montana. Less money will be generated in the communities through non-resident hunters who will no longer come to Montana and the local hunters who will refuse to pay the fees that keep going up. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks may see an increase in revenue but it will be at the expense of the counties. This is not acceptable! As noted in the rationale of recommendation number 5. There will be significant buyer resistance if fees go up. These recommendations are going to hurt the economies of the counties that rely on hunting and fishing income. I cannot stress enough that you cannot fix the problems of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at the expense of the counties!

What should be addressed immediately is the diminishing game that people once came here to hunt. Instead of these proposals I support the proper, immediate, aggressive management of predator animals. Managing these animals properly will increase the amount of game in Montana and in turn will rebuild the hunting and fishing heritage that will drive revenues. Again, I do not support raising hunting and fishing license fees, raising the senior license age, nor the base hunting license proposals. These are not acceptable solutions to the problems.

Thank You
Josef Kuchera
311 Maple Street
PO Box 921
Superior MT 59872
406-360-9372

From: [jerry_messing](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FW: COMMENT ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO FWP FEES TO HUNT AND FISH.
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014 1:40:52 PM

From: ocbyjer@hotmail.com
To: jkolman@mt.gov
Subject: COMMENT ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO FWP FEES TO HUNT AND FISH.
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 2014 19:31:05 +0000

RE: proposed increases in license fees

I object to any increase in license fees.

The "Dept" was established to conserve wildlife. Now, it has, because of the empire-building tendencies of bureaus, bludgeoned to an out of control agency with an unjustifiable appetite for more and more money.

The annual budget is scandalous ! The money wasted on foolish things deemed "necessary" by the department eats up funds originally budgeted to do meaningful things.

Attempts to appear as "environmentalist's" result in the waste of funds intended for other purposes. Then the fees to hunt our own animals must again be increased to cover that loss (waste) of funds?

Money wasted to attempt to eliminate the Walleye in the Clark Fork river is an example of wasteful practices. This is also against the wishes of the citizens (who fish for walleye for delicious food). Statement seem to say--- "These fisherman know nothing about our "profession", or have any education or knowledge of game management-We the brains- will tell you HOW, and WHAT MUST BE DONE".

The multitude of Game regulation books is atrocious! Copious duplication of information is repeated in each of the many separate species booklets. This could (as in many other states) be printed inexpensively all at one time, IN ONE "hunting and fishing regulations" booklet, rather than the multitude of individual "regulations" for each species of animal. Much of

the data is ambiguous and some is even conflicting. Some say that it is OK to enter private lands if land is not posted. Others say It is flat out illegal to hunt private land without permission.

The people of Montana own the game YES, but landowners have to support and share their land and crops with wildlife. Now, it is going to cost us more to harvest these same animals? And at zero expense to the FWP or State of Montana!

I own several ranches and am plagued with poaching. Nearly every year a poacher kills an elk near my front door in Trout Creek, or in my pastures in the Plains area. I have NEVER been able to harvest even ONE of these elk, even though I am supporting them. Game Wardens are unwilling, or unable to stop this poaching. It would be understandable if the "Dept." had a small budget, but the unbelievable "costs" to "manage" our game is mind boggling!

The Montana dept of FWP is not a Walmart. It is not a for profit business. It only has to ask for more money, and charge higher fees to harvest our game and build a larger "Empire". Sometimes I wonder exactly how many people are "working" for FWP (and also how many are actually WORKING-as a productive government employee)!

I am against any increase in fees. Thank You JERRY MESSING
pp.o. 2295 Thompson Falls 59873
tel 406-827-3112



MINERAL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PO Box 550
300 River Street
Superior, MT 59872
Phone (406) 822.3577
Fax (406) 822.3552
mccommissioners@co.mineral.mt.us

July 25, 2014

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Re: FWP Hunting License Fee Increase

Comment on proposed hunting fee increase.

We do support increasing Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks revenues, but not through the majority of the recommendations outlined in the HB609 Study Report to the 64th Legislature. Anyone can generate more money by raising fees, and out pricing the average person, but this does not fix the underlying problems. The mismanagement by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has led them to increasing the fees to fill the gap they created and this is not acceptable. We all know of hunting areas that have been managed by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the number of tags has dropped year after year, some areas from 200 tags to 5 tags. We have watched the game diminish and the hunting heritage disappear at the management of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and now they need more money to continue the reduction of animals and reduce our rights to hunting and fishing. We do not accept this and we have outlined in bold what we do and do not support in this proposal:

1. Recommendation: Standardize youth, senior, disabled, and nonresident free and discounted licenses at 50% of the equivalent, full-priced license. Increase the age at which seniors are eligible for discounted licenses from 62 to 67. **(We do not support increasing the age at which seniors are eligible for discounted licenses. It should stay at 62.)**
2. Recommendation: Establish a new base hunting license at a cost of \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents that is a prerequisite to purchasing individual species tags and the archery stamp. These prices include the existing Hunting Access Enhancement fee (\$2 for residents and \$10 for nonresident) **(We do not support having a base hunting license. We already have this it is called a conservation license.)**
3. Recommendation: Increase prices for bison, moose, mountain goat, and mountain sheep nonresident licenses from \$750 to \$1250. **(We do not support increasing these prices. This will hurt the local economies and out price out of state people who cannot afford these higher rates. This is creating a license for the rich only.)**
4. Recommendation: Increase the price of the resident 2-day fishing license from \$5 to \$8, and the resident season license from \$18 to \$24; increase the price of the nonresident 2-day fishing license from \$15 to \$26, convert the 10-day nonresident fishing license into a 7-day license and increase the cost from \$43.50 to \$56, and increase the nonresident season fishing license from \$60 to \$86. **(We do not support raising fishing license prices. Not only will this put a burden on the citizens of Montana with higher rates, but will hurt the local economies that will be affected by less out of state people spending money in our county.)**
5. Recommendation: Cap the price of the B-10 nonresident big game combination license and the B-11 nonresident deer combination license, including purchase of the new base hunting license and application fees, at \$999 and \$625 respectively. **We do support putting a cap on these licenses. We also agree that the price increasing could cause buyer resistance.)**
6. Recommendation: Revise the refund policy to allow nonresidents who are unsuccessful in drawing a permit to receive a 95% refund of the big game combination license at the time of the drawing (a change from 80%). **(We do support this and believe it will create a positive benefit to the customer.)**

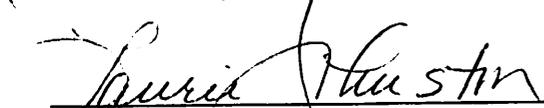
7. Recommendation: Adopt a four-year model (cycle) for reviewing budget expenditures and revenues and determining the need for license revenue recommendations to the legislature. **(We do not support this. Four year budget review is not often enough. We are unfamiliar with any business that waits four years to review its budgets; this should be every year minimum.)**
8. Recommendation: Develop and provide mechanisms in addition to license dollars to fund the management and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources. **(We fully support finding other ways to fund the management and maintenance of fish and wildlife resources that do not put a burden on the residents and non-residents.**

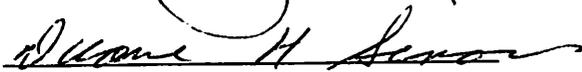
Fiscal responsibility within the agency should be addressed and not put on the resident and non-residents hunters and fisherman. This increase will harm local economies in Montana. Less money will be generated in the communities through non-resident hunters who will no longer come to Montana and the local hunters who will refuse to pay the fees that keep going up. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks may see an increase in revenue but it will be at the expense of the counties. This is not acceptable! As noted in the rationale of recommendation number 5. There will be significant buyer resistance if fees go up. These recommendations are going to hurt the economies of the counties that rely on hunting and fishing income. We cannot stress enough that you cannot fix the problems of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at the expense of the counties!

What should be addressed immediately is the diminishing game that people once came here to hunt. Instead of these proposals we support the proper, immediate, aggressive management of predator animals, along with the proper, immediate and aggressive management of federally and state managed lands. Managing these animals and lands properly will increase the amount of game in Montana and in turn will rebuild the hunting and fishing heritage that will drive revenues. Again, we do not support raising hunting and fishing license fees, raising the senior license age, nor the base hunting license proposals. These are not acceptable solutions to the problems.

Sincerely,

Mineral County Commissioners


Laurie Johnston, Member


Duane Simons, Member


Roman Zylawy, Chairman

From: [Kolman, Joe](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FW: COMMENT ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO FWP FEES TO HUNT AND FISH.
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 12:35:22 PM

From: Albert Cooper [mailto:cooperfarms@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Kolman, Joe
Subject: COMMENT ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO FWP FEES TO HUNT AND FISH.

From: coopeerfarms@blackfoot.net
To: jkolman@mt.gov
Subject: COMMENT ON PROPOSED INCREASE TO FWP FEES TO HUNT AND FISH.
Date: Thu, 25 Jul 2014

RE: proposed increases in license fees

I object to any increase in license fees.

Albert Cooper
95 Cherry Creek Rd.
Thompson Falls, Mt
406-827-6609

 This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [digger powell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hunting Fee increase
Date: Monday, July 28, 2014 8:05:33 AM

Are you people all nuts. On my slim retirement With a increase you'll make poachers out of all of us who are elderly'
Digger



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Bruce Stell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Fee Increases
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:00:37 PM

I don't believe increasing hunting and fishing fees will solve current funding problems that the agency is facing. I see problems with management practices that are not meeting the goals expected. Thanks

From: [Thor Sichveland](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hunting tag increase.
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:04:54 PM

Let's increase the out of state tags "again" so less will buy and fish and game will go farther in the hole.

Ok so let's raise the in state fees so less will also buy it. Including myself.
And you can go farther in the hole.

Come on. Get your heads out if your ass and start running your dept more Economically.

Thors traveling iPhone
Somewhere in Montana
406-949-6966

From: [Ed Silverstein](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fee increases
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:18:18 PM

The policies of FWP relative to fishing and hunting licenses hurts business across the state. The out of state licensing and the removal of guaranteed outfitters licenses have totally devalued hunting outfitting businesses and resulted in less revenue for hunting area counties. More than one potential real estate buyer has told me they are buying in Colorado because of the cost of out of state licenses resulting in depressed real estate sale relative to other similar states. Any increase in fees to residents will make the state less attractive for someone thinking of becoming a tax paying resident when they have multiple residents in which to declare themselves residents.

It is all short sighted thinking. Bring in business leaders, not just those who are entrenched in the system, to get a broader view of the consequences of the actions of FWP.

Ed Silverstein

Ed Silverstein,
Broker, SFR, RRS
Clearwater Montana Properties, Inc.
Licensed in MT
Ed@FishHuntSki.com
***406-498-6290 cell**
***1-866-558-4883 fax**
<http://www.FishHuntSki.com>
www.CMPMontana.com
www.CabelasTrophyProperties.com



From: [Gideon Yutzy](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fees
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 1:45:34 PM

Hi there, I would strongly encourage a hold on the increase in fees of licenses, I have 7 children that hunt an and increase in fees is just not a good idea ! Do not raise the prices ! Cut costs elsewhere ! Sincerely,

Gideon Yutzy

Realtor

(406) 297-1090 OFFICE

(406) 261-1246 CELL

(866) 684-5161 FAX

Gideon@CMPMontana.com

www.CMPMontana.com

Clearwater Montana Properties, Inc.

485 Dewey Avenue

Eureka, MT 59917

Licensed in Montana

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From: [Int'l Outdoor Consultants](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Fee Increases
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 11:29:52 PM

To whom it may concern:

When Montana FWP comes to the realization that funding is supported thru and by sportsman's dollars and begins to manage the peoples wildlife on a maximum carrying capacity basis, then a fee increase will be justified.

To throw more money into a broken system at this time benefits no one. There has not been and there is not currently anything in the way of proactive wildlife management put forth by FWP. Everything is on a reactionary basis and marginal at best, when that happens. Montana and Wyoming are the only two western states with somewhat low human populations and the necessary habitat to support maximum sustainable ungulate numbers.

Black Bears can and will not be overhunted on a spot/stalk basis as regulations are in place. Cougars are micro-managed and cannot suffer exponentially without quick recovery under current regulations. Wolves need to be managed as an alpha predator with the realization that a limited number can co-exist in certain areas but other species suffer tremendously when managed beyond a limited scope.

Antelope are to be found in dismal numbers considering the habitat available. Deer, especially Mule Deer numbers are low and again the habitat is there for increased populations. Mtn. Goats in many ranges are suffering because of low recruitment/population numbers. Critical reason here is predation – mainly by Cougars and Golden Eagles. Moose of course goes without saying. Introduction of wolves has caused havoc and Moose will always be a primary food source when found together.

The time for general season/over the counter tag sales for Deer especially Mule Deer during the rut needs to end. Elk in most areas also needs to be on a limited quota or stratified season basis.

It's time to become proactive and manage the states wildlife at carrying capacity numbers for the benefit of the people, both consumptive and non-consumptive. Special interests and lobbies hold to much sway and needs to be considered on a secondary basis, not primary.

Until these things are addressed, sportsman need not be asked to further carry the burden.

Respectfully,

Troy & Lori Ginn

From: dalesimmons0@gmail.com on behalf of [Dale Simmons](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Increasing License Fees
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 5:09:18 PM

Dear FWP

In the real world when a product stops selling the seller tries to find out what is wrong and fixes the problem, raising the price does not fix the problem (Economics 101).

In the past there were 2 plus applicants for each non resident license, now there are seven thousand excess licenses, this came as a result of I-161 eliminating the outfitter tags & raising the price and the mismanagement of our ungulate herds. You are not the only one that loses money when people stop coming to Montana to hunt, in fact the loss of license revenue is only a fraction of the money that stops.

If you really want to fix this problem reduce the predators and regulate the ungulate harvest so that those herds increase. When you once again have a shortage of licenses and an excess of applications, then think about raising prices.

Raising prices on residents is similar to raising taxes and studies show that when people think they are taxed fairly the tax revenues increase and when taxes are raised and people think they are being unfairly taxed the revenues decrease. You have already tried that with I-161 and achieved disastrous results, do you really think it will work now.

Smarten Up

Dale Simmons

From: [Etta](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: price & age increase is bad Idea!
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 4:28:12 PM

1st lets start with age. The average man only lives to 73 and MT ranks 35th healthiest state. SSA can't be used because they raised age to reduce the amount the government would pay out. The closer a person is to dead the less he is willing to spend money on non essential items (because of medical expenses more than triple, etc) & only 1 out of every 10 men I know over the age 50 can physically walk on uneven terrain. You would **retain** more hunters by lowering age, which is your stated goal. In addition, your latest change to disabled requirements will push more marginal hunters to stop buying tags. A little bit of logic would serve you well instead of using abstract statistics. On the opposite end is lowering the starting age for youth but still requiring the adult to care their own personal hunting tag. All the research shows that if you don't start them early (young), you lose them to video games and the increasing inactive social norm.

Raising fees: Even your own research of the other states indicate this is a bad, even detrimental, idea. Consider that MT is ranked 45th based on personal economics level. The people in this state are **POOR!** For over 20 years MT's economy has been based on tourism growth. **Make the tourists pay!** Anybody who can afford an outfitter won't mind if you triple the tag price. The problem derives from the accepted fallacies of wolf reintroduction and yes I am aware you introduced a non-native Canadian grey wolf. All the people who supported the "reintroduction" should be paying all the economic cost this state has incurred including the Federal Government. Unfortunately, the more restrictions (regulations), lower game Population along with real dismal harvest rates, you can only realistically believe that an outside source will be required for your administration to survive. I am also aware of your grizzly bear corridor. Has anyone in your organization even considered that the wolves are eating the bears food source and that's why there is getting to be more bear people conflict. Man is not the apex predator! If you can't hunt a bear they will not fear you. You should acquire a larger number of Alaska's hunting policies as a map for your future, except more wilderness. Besides outfitters, what % of all people are capable of using more than the 10% of the perimeter of any wildness? Is this good economic sense? Make the hikers pay or allow other forms of access with a fee. A lot of money is spent on trail maintenance and hunters pay this expense too. Why not hikers & outfitters bear the entire cost? Change it to a fee access into wilderness with higher fees for more intrusive forms of access.

In Conclusion: I am opposed to more & costly regulations which will only accelerate the demise of Hunting in this state, but then again, hasn't that been your goal for the last 15 years. Just remember when hunting is gone, then you won't have a Job! Food for thought-- How about a subsistence Policy (fee). I would pay this fee since I am disabled and allergic to beef, pork, grains & nuts. Deer and elk is one of the few forms of protein I am able to eat and not get sick, yet your proposed policy will accelerate that option of hunting away from me. I should thank you for killing me quicker.

From: [Dwight Van Brunt](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014 3:09:30 PM

Briefly, please feel free to increase hunting and fishing fees by whatever amount is needed to meet all budget shortfalls and INCREASE the great work currently provided by MFWP.

If it were up to me, I would double everything and press for more enforcement officers, land acquisitions and partnership, block management areas and stream access improvements. I think the \$8 and \$3 is far to modest. Montana residents enjoy some of the greatest and certainly most underpriced opportunities in the country today. Don't be afraid to charge for it. Some might complain a bit, but they will still pay to play. After all, they are all buying \$4/gallon gas...

Dwight Van Brunt
Kalispell

From: [Rick Oncken](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License increases
Date: Friday, August 01, 2014 8:58:09 PM

My name is Rick Oncken and I'm 70 years old.
All of the proposed increases in fishing or hunting fees are long overdue and necessary.
Most of the people I know that fish or hunt regularly spill more than these costs in adult beverages...just saying.
FWP is a business its time we treat it like one.

Rick Oncken
240-4686

From: [Robin Cunningham](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 01, 2014 11:59:13 AM

Hope:

I approve and support the EQC recommendations incorporated in their HB 609 draft.

While I'm disappointed the EQC members did not accept or agree with all of the LAFC original recommendations, HB 609 incorporates the bulk of our suggestions and will successfully fund FWP programs for the time being as well as shorten the funding cycle, both key goals of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this encouraging outcome of the LFAC project.

Robin Cunningham
FOAM

From: [John Gibson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: From Public Land And Water Access Association Proposed hunt and fishing Fee increase.
Date: Friday, August 01, 2014 3:27:57 PM

PLWA membership finds the proposed fees to be acceptable. Our acceptance assumes that the MT FWP maintains full control of all aspects of public fish and wildlife management.

John Gibson
President

From: [Joseph Verplogen](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fee increases
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 7:53:40 AM

We don't need license fee increases . We need to get rid of the wolves so people come to montana to hunt and have something to hunt when they get here .You clowns should talk to business owners in gardiner and Livingston and any other town where there used to be a lot of elk they are ghost towns now in hunting season. Also your educated idiot leader Jeff Hagener printed in a letter in Montana outdoors that wolf decimation of game populations was unfounded how can he look people in the eye and lie like that .looks to me like unless you get rid of the wolves you are going to have to get rid of most of the fwp employees .

From: wearp@midco.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP HB 609 Licensing Study.
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 8:02:10 AM

Dear Sir: I just wanted to make a few comments. I believe fee increases are necessary. The fish & game and wild places Montana has are special. I have always felt non-residents should pay more for license fees no matter what state you travel to. I live in Bismarck, ND. However Montana resident hunting fees are low compared to other states-North Dakota included. We just raised our resident hunting & fishing fees last legislative go around and sportsman were in favor of that.

I would suggest some resident fee increases besides what are in the Montana report for residents. Only paying \$16 for a deer tag, and \$20 for an elk tag is almost embarrassing low. What a bargain. We pay \$30 in ND for a deer tag, and \$30 for the once in a life time elk tag. I would suggest that for Montana, and also your antelope tag. I bet most Montana resident sportsman & women would not complain. Heck, if I were a Montana resident, \$50 would be ok with me for an elk tag!!

I would hope you will seriously consider some fee adjustment for residents in elk, deer, antelope tags. You folks are very lucky to have what you do in the great outdoors. I would hope the residents will step up to the plate to take care of that issue. God Bless Montana, and the wild free places. Thank you...Gary Masching

From: [Sheri Daggett](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fees
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 11:20:05 AM

I want to comment on the proposed license fees. Most the changes make sense but I wonder why the committee looking at this decided to eliminate the senior discount which is what raising it to 67 essentially does for many seniors. I would bet if you check, many 67 and older are dropping out of the hunting picture. You need to raise the overall license fees for all of us some to keep the present senior discount at age 62. I am presently under 58 years of age so would not be affected for awhile but 67 is to dam old. Look in the obituaries and there still are a lot of people kicking the buck in their sixties. If you raise it to 67, you may as well eliminate it entirely.

You keep the discount for disabled which I don't understand. I understand the special hunting regulations like hunting from a vehicle but why the reduced rate. There seems from what I observe a growing number of people that abuse this and keeping this discount is going to encourage people to abuse the privilege keeping your wardens busy checking them out. It would seem cleaner to eliminate the discount but keep the special regulations on ways to hunt for them.

John Daggett
Glasgow Montana

From: [Ira Bakken](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 12:47:40 PM

I fully support the fee increases proposed. In order for FWP to do their job they must be adequately funded.

Marty Bakken
3639 Fieldstone Dr W
Bozeman 59715

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Norman Bishop](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 1:03:32 PM

As a lifelong sportsman and a member of the FWP R3 Citizens Advisory Committee, I heartily approve of the fee increases proposed in HB 609. Life is a pay-as-you-go activity. If we want competent wildlife management in Montana, we need to support it.

Norman A. Bishop
4898 Itana Circle
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Geoffrey Stephens](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 02, 2014 4:48:44 AM

As an avid hunter and fisherman, I fully support increasing license fees (permanently) to fund FWP.

Thank you for working to protect and manage our wild heritage.

Geoff Stephens

From: [Dean Johnson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Sunday, August 03, 2014 8:37:05 PM

I Dean Johnson would support the proposed license increases to provide necessary funding for Montana FWP. Hunting is a privilege not a right.

In addition I would like to make a motion for proposal that All hunters must complete a marksman proficiency test every three to five years.

The purpose would be to demonstrate competency with a weapon, reduce crippling loss of wildlife resources, and weed out slob hunters. . I'm certain many hunters would be opposed as this would elevate the quality of hunting in Montana.

A license is required to operate a motor vehicle, why not a firearm? FWP would charge a nominal fee to cover testing costs. Tests could be administered at various times in various locations similar to current hunter education.

Dean Johnson,
Missoula,MT

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Walsh, K.C.](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 License Study
Date: Sunday, August 03, 2014 9:23:43 AM

As the President of Simms Fishing Products, I strongly support increases in the fishing license fees for both resident and non-resident anglers. The increases proposed in the current draft of HB609 seem too low to me.

Best,

K.C. Walsh
Simms Fishing Products
Bozeman, Montana

From: [Dale C. Spartas](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Sunday, August 03, 2014 11:50:16 AM

To whom it concerns,

I'm writing concerning requesting that you send the HB 609 Licensing Bill to the Montana Legislature . This bill is needed and necessary for the following reasons:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most license holders seeing but a \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses

Thank you for your time and efforts on my behalf.

Sincerely ,

Dale

Dale C Spartas

Hunter Conservationist

www.spartasphoto.com



Dale C. Spartas
Outdoor Photographer, Writer

(406) 570-8244 Work
sparky@spartasphoto.com

DCS Photo, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Bozeman, MT. 59771-1367
www.SpartasPhoto.com

From: [Lee Gustafson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP license increase
Date: Sunday, August 03, 2014 5:14:38 PM

Dear Committee members –

The increase in license fees and restructuring of the system is well overdue. FWP does a great job with the budget they have and should be given much more respect by the legislature. They do a great job for all citizens , not just license buyers . We should really have a big contribution to FWP from the general fund. (I am a senior citizen, Viet Nam vet on a fixed income .)

Sincerely,

Lee Gustafson
2040 Saddleback Drive
Laurel , MT 59044
406-628-7278
Cell 406-671-4340

From: [Rick Parke](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 8:01:07 AM

To Whom it May Concern

The best way to balance a budget is to reduce spending or increase revenue. FWP has too many free loaders on the payroll that need to get a real job. If the work load is too much, FWP should look to private industry to fill the gaps. The funds for state parks should come from the general budget, not solely from the FWP budget. All non-resident hunters and anglers along with all outfitters and land owners who exclusively work with out of state hunters and anglers should shoulder the bulk of the short fall. The Montana residents are already taking it in the shorts. FWP's own mission statement states that the resources will be managed for the use, access and enjoyment of Montana residents, first and foremost. We live here for our quality of life, don't screw it up any worse.

Thanks,

Rick Parke, 3rd generation Montanan
406-660-1111



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Vito Quatraro](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 10:49:29 AM

TO THE EQC:

Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA) would like to take this opportunity to show our support for the efforts of the Licensing Committee in trying to deal with this very complex problem. They worked very hard to come up with some acceptable solutions to the current fiscal crisis within the FWP. Whether these solutions move forward remains to be seen but their efforts are to be commended.

We also believe that Montana has some of the best biologists, wardens and field personnel of any state. Unfortunately, if cuts need to be made within the FWP, they likely will cut the very people that produce and analyze the data necessary for the FWP and general public to make good management decisions for our wildlife resources and the Montana sportsmen. If cuts have to be made, they should come from the upper echelon, not the people in the field.

We have seen comments from the FWP stating that if a fee increase is not approved, then one of the options would be "a shift in earmarked funds away from specific programs to shore up day to day operations". They have also specifically mentioned the Habitat Montana, Block Management and Upland Game Bird programs as earmarked dollars that could be used to cover any shortfall.

When those programs were approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor, the people of Montana were told those funds could only be used for the specific purpose outlined in the legislation. In our opinion, the State/FWP entered into a legally binding contract with the people of Montana and that agreement was the reason the sportsmen supported the legislation. Any attempt to use those funds outside the specified language and implied purpose of the legislation, is a breach of that contract. This is totally unacceptable and we will use every tool available to insure that those funds stay within their earmarked category. Hunters and anglers have provided the funding for those programs and those are our dollars that we want spent within the designated programs. MSA will fight to preserve those programs and their funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue.

Montana Sportsmen Alliance

Vito Quatraro-Bozeman
Joe Perry-Brady
John Borgreen-Great Falls
JW Westman-Park City
Robert Wood-Hamilton

Sam Milodragovich-Butte

From: amsutey@comcast.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#); [Sihler, Paul](#); [Charles, Alan](#)
Cc: [Thigpen, Helen](#)
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Change to 87-2-154 "HB 609 Licensing Study"
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 11:55:59 AM

Hope, Paul, and Alan

Please submit my Proposed Change to the members of the EQC, LFAC and the PL/PWC which you respectively support.

PROPOSED CHANGE

I recommend the councils adopt the following change in the "Definitions" of 87-2-514 Nonresident Relative of a Resident(NROR) to purchase licenses at reduced cost on page 16 of the "HB 609 Licensing Study" (LC4444 Unofficial Draft Copy) to read as follows:

(b) "Resident" means a resident or a person who was a resident at time of death as defined in 87-2-102.

This simple change would rightly allow senior native-born nonresident Montanans like me whose parents or siblings are deceased to participate in this license category, yet preserve the intent of this category. When fair minded Montanans are made aware of this loop-hole in the legislation, they agree that this is an unfair exclusion/oversight in the legislation which should be corrected. Applicants in this category would still have to meet the qualifications of items 5 in 87-2-514 namely; a valid Montana birth certificate, proof of previous Montana hunting or fishing license or passage of Montana hunter safety course, and lastly, proof that the applicant is a nonresident relative of a "resident "as defined above.

I support the LFAC NROR license fees at 50% of the equivalent full -priced nonresident license.

I thank the Councils for their important work and service to Montana regarding the HB 609 Licensing Study.

Sincerely,
Tony Sutey
8117 128th AV SE
Newcastle, Washington 98056
206 920 9471
amsutey@comcast.net

From: [Richard Fast](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Monday, August 04, 2014 5:10:14 PM

I fully support the provisions of the draft FWP budget and am more than willing to pay the small additional fees to ensure the successful functioning of FWP. They do a great job and it needs to be fully funded.

Thanks!

Richard Fast
Big Sky, MT

From: [Ron Harapat](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: fees
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 7:10:52 AM

I see no reason why we shouldn't see a fee increase to help support all the benefits we get from the FWP. If, when I was an educator, I would have had to wait 10 years to see an increase in budgets for the benefit of kids I would have been on the rail - hollering and screaming. My vote - increase the fees. I am an avid hunter and fisher. The walleyes out of Fresno are fabulous! I love my elk and deer hunting. INCREASE THE FEES.

Ron Harapat - Bigfork

From: [Barb Beck](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 8:45:43 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I wish to make the following comments with respect to HB609.

I support the recommendations of the LFAC that have been drafted into this bill. The council has gone through a transparent, deliberative process to develop recommendations that will support the Department's funding needs into the future in the most fair way possible. And, in particular I support changing from the current 10-year funding cycle to a 4-year cycle.

We in Montana enjoy a tremendous fish and wildlife resource and we have an obligation to support the agency responsible for managing these resources on our behalf. These resources are important not only for our quality of life, but are also an economic asset.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Barb Beck
P.O. Box 870
Red Lodge, MT. 59068
(406) 446-3628

From: [Barker, Adam \(GE Healthcare\)](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 10:09:24 AM

Hope –

I fully support the various proposed changes put out in the study.

I was hoping they committee would address surplus NR BG/E/D Combo license sales. It would require a statute change, but these licenses (there has been 1500-2000 leftover) should go on sale to both R and NRs when all the other surplus licenses go on sale annually (coincidentally, yesterday) – first week in august. As an example – there are many elk hunters that are tagged out the first couple weeks of September. If they had an opportunity to purchase a second (surplus) elk license - in my opinion - many would because they still have 2.5 months of season left, and in many cases even longer.

Thanks
Adam Barker
Bozeman

From: [Dan Pletscher](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 12:03:35 PM

I support the changes to Fish, Wildlife and Parks licensing proposed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council. This small increase in revenues is a small amount to keep FWP going strong in the years ahead.

Dan Pletscher
509 Arbor Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [Glenn Monahan Email](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP Budget
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 12:11:53 PM

Ms. Stockwell:

Please add my comments to the public record regarding funding of FWP, and the activities of the EQC.

I support any license fees increases that FWP proposes. I feel that FWP is a responsible, and effective agency, which uses its budget dollars in an efficient, non-wasteful manner. FWP needs additional revenue to meet the challenges of increasing demands by the public to recreate, fish, and hunt in Montana. My experiences with FWP employees and programs have been overwhelmingly positive.

I am troubled by the apparent targeting of FWP by some members of the EQC, who seem to think that reducing funding for FWP is appropriate. Such actions are not grounded in the reality that there is a continually increasing demand by the public – both from outside and within Montana – to recreate, hunt and fish on public lands. We must meet this increasing demand by fully funding FWP. There is a demonstrable benefit to Montana's economy from the tourism dollars that are generated by recreational activities, and it would be foolish and unwise to not fund FWP in such a manner that continues to allow our state to benefit from this rapidly growing tourism industry.

As I have travelled and recreated around Montana this summer, I am amazed at how busy, and in some cases crowded, many of our public lands have become. I believe that to address these increasing demands by the public, that we should be INCREASING the funding for FWP, to allow the agency to rise to the challenge of increased demands on our public lands, and our public wildlife.

Thank you,

Glenn Monahan
420 North 10th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Cary Gubler](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Funding FWP
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 2:08:54 PM

The single greatest thing about living in Montana (I've lived here for 63 years) is the incredible outdoor opportunities that we have. I urge full funding of FWP whatever it takes. If we have to pay more for the privilege, so be it. Having Montana turn into a place where the wealthy get to use all the land and waters while the rest of us polish their boots doesn't sit well with me. Anybody that believes that "Conservation through Privatization" has anything to do with conservation is a damn fool. Its all about taking access away from the tax paying citizens and giving it away to the wealthy. Selling public land should be a hanging offense. That land belongs to the people of Montana. Stealing a horse used to get you hung. Stealing the peoples LAND should warrant a public lynching... Now, to be clear, I don't advocate violence in any form, but I was momentarily swept with the vigilante spirit that comes with the history of this great land... Sincerely, Cary Gubler

From: [Tim Peterson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: The licensing bill
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 4:10:02 PM

Dear Environmental Quality Council:
Please send the Licensing bill to the Legislature!
The bill is:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses

Thank you for reading my recommendation.
Tim Peterson
Billings Montana

From: [Paul Siddoway](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 4:44:29 PM

Hi Hope, Thanks for all the hard work on the House Bill. I am in agreement with the License increases and would favor shifting a higher percentage of the department revenue toward the implementation of the Fishing and Hunting regulations. Specifically more money Directed towards enforcement is long overdue. Also, the Department needs to get more aggressive at pursuing maintaining instream flows on our rivers and streams. Best Regards, Paul Siddoway,M.D.

From: [Walsh, K.C.](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Dan Vermillion \(dan@sweetwatertravel.com\)](mailto:dan@sweetwatertravel.com)
Subject: FW: Fishing License Fees
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 5:45:53 PM
Attachments: [IDFG License Report - Southwick 061212.docx](#)
[ODFW License Demand Analysis - 07-01-2012.docx](#)

Hi Hope,

I think you may find the attached information from Rob Southwick of interest to the process of evaluating Montana's fishing license fees. I am happy to put you in contact with Rob, or you can contact him at his email address below.

I would strongly recommend that Montana increase our fishing license fees more than currently drafted for 2015.

Best,

K.C. Walsh
Simms Fishing Products

From: Rob Southwick [Rob@southwickassociates.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 11:40 AM
To: Walsh, K.C.
Subject: RE: Fishing License Fees

Hi K.C. - yes, we've done a bunch of studies for states about their license prices and the trade-offs between higher prices and lower participation, such as the attached report for Oregon. Also, we've done some on types of licenses that sportsmen would prefer, such as the attached report for Idaho. We haven't done any for Montana. Each state is different, with some better able to withstand price hikes than others. Even within a state, if you increased prices uniformly, such as 10% across the board, each license responds differently, with some losing fewer customers than others and the net revenue impacts also varying. In general, you nearly always lose customers when prices go up, so the gain in revenue - if any - will be less than the % increase in price.

Rob Southwick
Southwick Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 6435
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
P: 904 277 9765 Fax: 904 261 1145
rob@southwickassociates.com
www.southwickassociates.com
www.anglersurvey.com / www.huntersurvey.com /www.shootersurvey.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Walsh, K.C. [<mailto:kcwalsh@simmsfishing.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 5:48 PM
To: Rob Southwick
Subject: Fwd: Fishing License Fees

Hi Rob,

Please see the email string below. Any insight that you can offer would be much appreciated.

Best,

K.C.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Frank Peterson, Jr"
<fpeterson@rbff.org<<mailto:fpeterson@rbff.org>>>
Date: August 4, 2014 at 3:46:30 PM MDT
To: "Walsh, K.C."
<kcwalsh@simmsfishing.com<<mailto:kcwalsh@simmsfishing.com>>>
Cc: Ken Hammond <ksh@hammondgroup.com<<mailto:ksh@hammondgroup.com>>>
Subject: Re: Fishing License Fees

KC

We have not done any studies but Rob Southwick has. As license pricing is usually a state govt. issue our charter prohibits us getting involved in political issues. That being said we have consistently tried to educate our state stakeholders on the benefits of simply license systems and pricing that provides value and embraces good customer service. I would suggest reaching out to Mike at ASA or Rob directly.

Frank

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 3, 2014, at 11:28 AM, "Walsh, K.C."
<kcwalsh@simmsfishing.com<<mailto:kcwalsh@simmsfishing.com>>> wrote:

Hi Frank,

Montana is currently evaluating an increase in our fishing license fees. Has RBFF done an analysis of optimal fee structures? Are you aware of any pricing elasticity studies that would indicate the impact of increased license fees on sales of licenses?

Best,

K.C.

License Preferences among Idaho's Hunters and Anglers

For:
Idaho Department of Fish and Game

By:
Southwick Associates

June 2012



**PO Box 6435
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035
Tel (904) 277-9765**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Southwick Associates conducted a survey of hunters and anglers on behalf of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) in February 2012 to gain a better understanding of sportsmen's preferences for fishing and hunting licenses. The survey was developed in consultation with the IDFG and mailed to random samples of 4,575 Idaho residents, 4,575 nonresidents and 200 senior resident sportsmen who purchased at least one hunting and/or fishing privilege in Idaho in 2009, 2010 or 2011.

A conjoint analysis of sportsmen's choices, when presented with a wide range of alternative combinations of fishing and hunting privileges and prices, estimates their relative preference and their willingness to pay for individual privileges.

In addition to exploring preferences for different combination licenses, the survey sought to determine anglers' and hunters' interest in several proposed new licenses and permits. These include a family license that would grant fishing and/or hunting privileges to parents and their dependent children, a "Pick & Choose" option that would allow sportsmen to select their own package of tags and permits, and a multi-year license that would be valid for three years. The survey also included a question regarding interest in an option to improve drawing odds for buck (deer) and bull (elk) controlled hunts.

For non-resident hunters the survey included a question asking whether they used the services of a guide or outfitter while hunting in Idaho over the past two year.

Finally respondents of the survey were asked to rate the overall effectiveness and service provided by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in its efforts to provide for the State's fishing, hunting and conservation needs.

Result Highlights:

- Family licenses are an attractive option for approximately one-fourth of the IDFG's customers.
 - Residents are slightly more likely than nonresidents to buy a family license.
 - Nonresident hunters are the least likely to buy a family license with less than 16% who said they are very likely to one buy if it were offered.
 - Not surprisingly, sportsmen with children are more likely to buy a family license than those without children.
- The pick-and-choose approach to combination licenses is especially attractive to residents but they overwhelmingly opt for the smallest package of five tags or permits.
 - Nearly two-thirds of residents compared to 37% of non-residents would buy a pick-and-choose combination license.
 - Approximately two-thirds of residents who would buy a pick-and-choose license would opt for the smallest package. Among nonresidents, nearly three-fourths would opt for the smallest package.
- Multi-year licenses are an attractive option for IDFG customers and would create increased revenue for the agency.

- Nearly one-half of resident sportsmen and approximately one-fourth of nonresident sportsmen are very likely to buy a three-year license if it was offered.
 - Based on past purchase history of people who responded to the survey, it is estimated that sales of three-year fishing licenses would generate an additional \$2.7 million annually, while sales of three-year hunting licenses would generate annual revenues of \$750,000.
- Nonresidents are more likely than residents to be willing to pay a premium to improve their odds of being drawn for a controlled hunt (66.5% of nonresidents versus 40.5% of residents).
 - The cost of the premium between \$5 and \$25 has no effect of the likelihood of purchase by residents.
 - Nonresidents show slightly greater price sensitivity as fewer are willing to pay the extra cost as the price of the premium increases, unlike residents. However, a greater percentage of non-residents are willing to pay extra to increase their odds.

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INTRODUCTION:

A mail survey of hunters and anglers was conducted on behalf of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) in February 2012 to gain a better understanding of sportsmen's preferences for fishing and hunting licenses. The goal was to provide information for improving the menu of license offerings, including the possible creation of new licenses. The survey included questions about fishing and hunting activity, interest in new types of licenses, and specialized questions for a conjoint analysis of individual privileges in various combinations.

Goals:

- Determine customer interest in several new types of licenses, including a Family license, a Pick-and-Choose approach to combination licenses, and a 3-year license
- Determine the specific combination licenses most preferred by Idaho sportsmen.

Objectives:

- Measure sportsmen's interest in purchasing a "Family" fishing and hunting license that would allow a discount compared to buying licenses separately.
- Measure sportsmen's interest in a "pick-and-choose" approach to combination licenses that would allow purchasers to create customized packages of privileges.
- Measure sportsmen's interest in purchasing 3-year licenses and potential impacts on license revenue to the IDFG.
- Measure hunter's willingness to pay for enhanced odds of being drawn in (buck) deer and (bull) elk controlled hunts lotteries.
- Measure the relative desirability of different combinations of individual fishing and hunting privileges.
- Measure the value that sportsmen assign to individual privileges in a combination license.

SURVEY DESCRIPTION:

A mail survey was conducted of 9,350 recent IDFG customers selected at random from the population of all sportsmen who purchased either fishing or hunting privileges in 2009, 2010 or 2011. The sample was stratified primarily by residency – 4,575 surveys were mailed to resident sportsmen and 4,575 surveys were mailed to nonresident sportsmen. A separate smaller mailing of 200 surveys was sent to resident senior customers age 65 and older.

The sample sizes and survey design were based on an expected overall response rate of 35%. The survey packets consisted of a cover letter, questionnaire and postage-paid return envelope. The first mailing took place on February 3rd, followed approximately one week later by a reminder/thank-you postcard. A second mailing of questionnaires was sent on March 5th to people who had not responded by that date. In addition, erroneous price information in one question of the nonresident survey necessitated a repeat mailing

of that one question to people who had already responded to the first mailing. By April 6, completed surveys had been received from 3,750 Idaho sportsmen, overall. After adjusting for undeliverable addresses, the survey achieved an overall response rate of 42.1%, including 48.2% from residents, 34.6% from nonresidents, and 77.9% from resident seniors. Additional surveys were received after April 6, however, data entry was limited to surveys received by that date. All analyses are based on the responses shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Survey response rates as of April 6, 2012.

	Residents		Non-Resident		Seniors		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Initial mailout	4,575		4,575		200		9,350	
Undeliverable	272		176		5		453	
Net mailout	4,303		4,399		195		8,897	
First mailing response	1,660	38.6%	1,245	28.3%	135	69.2%	3,040	34.2%
Second mailing response	415	9.6%	278	6.3%	17	8.7%	710	8.0%
Revised question*			513				513	
TOTAL	2,075 48.2%		1,523 34.6%		152 77.9%		3,750 42.1%	

*A corrected version of one question in the nonresident survey was re-mailed to people who had already responded to the first mailing. There is overlap between the response to the corrected version and the first mailing.

Sample weighting:

Upon completion of data entry, survey respondents were compared to the population of all Idaho hunters and anglers on the basis of age and gender. Table 2 shows that the distributions of both resident and nonresident respondents to the survey are skewed toward older age categories than the typical IDFG customer.

Table 3 shows that there is not a significant difference in the gender distribution of respondents compared to the total IDFG customer base. To correct for potential bias due to differences in the age distribution of respondents, proportional weights were calculated separately for resident and non-resident samples. All analyses in this report are based on the weighted sample data.

Table 2. Age distribution of survey sample and all Idaho Sportsman.

Age Category	Resident		Non-Resident		Senior		TOTAL	
	All	Sample	All	Sample	All	Sample	All	Survey
Under 18	0.2%	0.1%	2.1%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.3%
18 to 24	13.2%	6.7%	7.9%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%	5.1%
25 to 44	44.7%	36.3%	36.1%	21.6%	0.0%	0.0%	38.9%	28.9%
45 to 64	38.0%	52.6%	40.7%	49.1%	0.0%	0.0%	40.7%	49.1%
65 and older	3.8%	4.3%	13.2%	25.0%	100.0%	100.0%	10.6%	16.6%
TOTAL	100.0%							

Table 3. Comparison of gender distribution for survey sample and all Idaho sportsmen.

Age Category	Resident		Non-Resident		Senior		TOTAL	
	All	Sample	All	Sample	All	Sample	All	Sample
Female	29.3%	29.2%	16.8%	14.2%	26.5%	25.7%	23.1%	23.0%
Male	70.7%	70.8%	83.2%	85.7%	73.5%	74.3%	76.9%	77.0%
TOTAL	100.0%							

Questionnaire design:

The survey questionnaire was designed in close partnership with the IDFG to ensure that the desired information was collected and that appropriate wording was used in the questions. Several questions in the survey included variable information that resulted in several different versions of the questions. These different versions were randomly distributed across the sample and included questions to gauge the effect of various discounts for proposed “family licenses”, the combined effect of the number of privileges and various discounts for a “pick-and-choose” combination license, and willingness to pay different premiums to increase the odds of being drawn for controlled hunt permits. In the case of questions with variable information (e.g., varying discounts) each respondent saw only one version of the question, although multiple versions of the same question (e.g., each with a different discount rate) were randomly distributed across the sample.

Finally, one question was designed to gather information for determining customers’ preferred combinations of privileges and discounts. This conjoint question presented respondents with three license options. Each option represented a different combination of licenses, tags and permits offered at a stated price. Respondents were asked to, assume that their current license was expiring and to indicate which license option they would purchase. Sixty different versions of the conjoint question were created to ensure that the overall sample of customers responded to a wide range of license options. A fourth option allowed respondents to indicate that they would not buy any of the presented license options. Although each questionnaire presented respondents with one price for any specific package of privileges, identical packages were presented at different prices across the sample. The prices were set at the current price for the combined privileges (including an agent fee) and at prices discounted 10% and 20% below the combined current price. The resident and nonresident versions of the survey differed only in the prices presented for the license options.

Samples of the questionnaire and survey materials are provided in Appendix A.

HUNTING AND FISHING ACTIVITY:

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their own fishing and hunting activity over the previous twelve months (i.e., the 2011 season), as well as that of the other members of their households. The IDFG is considering a “Family license” that would permit all members of a family to hunt and/or fish and is therefore interested in understanding the makeup of customer family households. Among residents, the average household with resident sportsmen included 3.1 people. Two-thirds (66.7%) of household members were between the ages of 18 and 64. On average, sporting households included 0.5 children under age 10 and 0.4 children age 10 to 17 (Table 4).

Overall, nearly two-thirds (62.5%) of the people in sporting households fished in 2011. Participation rates ranged from 54.5% for household members age 65 and older to 66.7% for children age 10 to 17. The participation rate for hunting in resident sporting households is about one-half that of fishing. Less than one-third (31.4%) of household members hunted in 2011. The participation rate ranged from 3.9% of children under the age of ten, to 38.5% of household members age 18 to 64.

Table 4. Resident household size and number who fished or hunted in Idaho in 2011.

		Age Categories					Household total
	Count	Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	Over 64		
Total household members	2051	Avg. size	0.5	0.4	2.1	0.1	3.1
		% of total	16.3%	13.5%	66.7%	3.5%	100.0%
Household members who fished in 2011	2051	Avg. size	0.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.9
		% Participation	56.9%	66.7%	63.0%	54.5%	62.5%
Household members who hunted in 2011	2050	Avg. size	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	1.0
		% Participation	3.9%	33.3%	38.5%	27.3%	31.4%

Among nonresidents, the average household with sportsmen included 2.9 people. Similar to resident households, two-thirds (66.8%) of nonresident household members were between the ages of 18 and 64. On average, sporting households included 0.3 children under age 10 and 0.4 children age 10 to 17 (Table 5).

Overall, a little more than one-third (36.6%) of the people in nonresident sporting households fished in Idaho in 2011. Participation rates ranged from 28.6% for household members under age ten, to 48.1% of people over age 64. The participation rate for hunting in nonresident sporting households is less than ten percent, overall. The participation rate for hunting ranged from no children under the age of ten, to 10.7% of household members age 18 to 64.

Table 5. Nonresident household size and number who fished or hunted in Idaho in 2011.

	Count	Age Categories				Household total	
		Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	Above 64		
Total household members	1482	Avg. Members	0.3	0.4	2.0	0.3	2.9
		% of total	11.9%	12.2%	66.8%	9.2%	100.0%
Household members who fished in 2011	1482	Avg. Members	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	1.1
		% Participation	28.6%	33.3%	37.6%	48.1%	36.6%
Household members who hunted in 2011	1475	Avg. Members	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
		% Participation	0.0%	5.6%	10.7%	7.4%	8.5%

Respondents were also asked about their fishing and hunting activities over the past 5 years (2007-2011) by type of activity (Table 6). Residents, as a group, engaged in more fishing and hunting activity than non-residents and resident seniors across all categories. Fishing is particularly popular among all three groups, whereas hunting is substantially more popular among residents than non-residents. For example, only three hunting categories (bear, general elk, and archery) show percentages for non-residents that are greater than one third that of the respective percentages for residents.

Table 6. Respondents' hunting and fishing activities in Idaho in the past five years.

Activity	Resident	Non-Resident	Senior
	Percent of respondents*		
Any fishing	91.3%	73.6%	87.2%
Chinook	11.6%	5.0%	9.9%
Steelhead	28.0%	18.5%	22.0%
Controlled Deer	19.3%	3.9%	10.6%
General Deer	54.9%	15.9%	37.6%
Bear	13.2%	4.5%	3.5%
Controlled Elk	19.5%	3.9%	11.3%
General Elk	41.4%	14.0%	26.2%
Mountain Lion	6.0%	1.5%	0.7%
Turkey	14.0%	2.2%	6.4%
Waterfowl	19.5%	2.9%	2.8%
Upland Game	28.2%	5.0%	14.2%
Archery	17.4%	8.3%	6.4%
Muzzleloader	9.7%	1.4%	2.8%
Number of responses:	*N=2,034	*N=1,434	*N=141

*Columns do not sum to 100% because respondents can engage in multiple activities.

INTEREST IN NEW LICENSES:

The survey included questions to assess interest among Idaho sportsmen in three potential new licenses:

- A “Family” package that would reduce the cost of fishing and hunting licenses for a family group
- “Pick-and-Choose” approach to combination licenses that would grant sportsmen flexibility in creating their own combination of hunting and fishing privileges
- A multi-year license that would be valid for three years

Family licenses:

The survey presented respondents with the following question:

“IDFG is considering new “Family” fishing and hunting packages. These packages would reduce the cost of fishing and hunting licenses for a family group. For example, for a family of four, a family fishing package for two adults and two children age 14-17 might cost \$71 compared to \$79 if the licenses were purchased separately. A family hunting package for the same family might cost \$36 compared to \$40 if purchased separately. Would you purchase a family license if it offered a \$xx discount?”

Five different versions of the question were randomly distributed across the questionnaires created for the survey. Each version of the question presented the respondent with a different discount for the “Family” fishing and hunting package, ranging from 5% to 25% in 5% increments. The results are examined among all (resident and nonresidents, separately) anglers and hunters in Table 7 and Table 8, respectively.

Resident anglers are somewhat more likely than nonresidents to be interested in a family license. Overall, 55.3% of resident anglers and 49.1% of nonresident anglers are either somewhat or very likely to buy a “Family” license (Table 7). However, the percentage of residents who are very likely to purchase the “Family” license at a discount does not change significantly at different discount levels. Perhaps due to the higher cost of nonresident licenses, the nonresident anglers exhibit some sensitivity to the price discount with a generally increasing percentage of anglers indicating that they would be somewhat or very likely to purchase a family license.

Table 7. Likelihood of purchasing a “Family” license among all anglers*.

Purchase Discount	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N
Residents						
5.0%	32.0%	12.9%	29.3%	25.8%	100.0%	382
10.0%	29.7%	16.5%	26.1%	27.6%	100.0%	366
15.0%	29.9%	13.9%	28.9%	27.3%	100.0%	381
20.0%	29.8%	13.3%	29.3%	27.6%	100.0%	362
25.0%	33.6%	11.7%	28.1%	26.7%	100.0%	407
Total	31.1%	13.6%	28.3%	27.0%	100.0%	1898
Non-Residents						
5.0%	44.3%	12.5%	23.3%	19.9%	100.0%	227
10.0%	37.3%	16.6%	22.9%	23.3%	100.0%	204
15.0%	44.7%	7.2%	23.4%	24.7%	100.0%	193
20.0%	34.5%	8.4%	29.7%	27.4%	100.0%	210
25.0%	36.7%	12.3%	27.9%	23.1%	100.0%	228
Total	39.4%	11.4%	25.5%	23.6%	100.0%	1062

**Includes all persons who purchased a fishing privilege in 2009, 2010 or 2011.*

Interest in a family license among resident hunters is similar to that exhibited by resident anglers. Resident hunters are more likely than nonresidents to be interested in a family license and the size of the discount has no effect on residents’ likelihood of buying. Nonresident show little price sensitivity with regard to a family fishing license (Table 8).

Table 8. Likelihood of purchasing a “Family” license among all hunters*.

Purchase Discount	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N
Residents						
5.0%	28.1%	13.3%	31.3%	27.3%	100.0%	261
10.0%	30.1%	16.8%	28.6%	24.5%	100.0%	239
15.0%	31.0%	14.3%	27.9%	26.8%	100.0%	276
20.0%	28.6%	13.9%	28.8%	28.6%	100.0%	230
25.0%	32.4%	9.7%	30.6%	27.2%	100.0%	261
Total	30.1%	13.5%	29.5%	26.9%	100.0%	1267
Non-Residents						
5.0%	57.7%	9.2%	22.1%	11.0%	100.0%	74
10.0%	42.6%	15.9%	23.2%	18.2%	100.0%	72
15.0%	44.5%	15.6%	24.8%	15.1%	100.0%	65
20.0%	33.4%	15.6%	32.4%	18.6%	100.0%	73
25.0%	44.7%	14.7%	24.0%	16.6%	100.0%	83
Total	44.7%	14.2%	25.2%	15.9%	100.0%	367

**Includes all persons who purchased a hunting privilege in 2009, 2010 or 2011.*

Table 9 and Table 10 show how the number of children in the household affects the likelihood that Idaho's sportsmen would be interested in purchasing a family license. Among resident households, the likelihood of purchase doubles from 21.2% in households with no children to 42.1% in household with three of more children under the age of 18 (Table 9). Although nonresident households are less likely to buy a family license, the presence of three or more children more than doubles the likelihood of purchase to 35.1% from 16.6% in households with no children.

Table 9. Likelihood of purchasing a resident family license, by size of household.

Children in the Household	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	44.5%	12.9%	21.4%	21.2%	100.0%	N=1197
One	21.3%	17.0%	37.0%	24.7%	100.0%	N=311
Two	14.9%	17.1%	32.8%	35.1%	100.0%	N=302
Three or more	7.3%	10.1%	40.5%	42.1%	100.0%	N=210
Total	31.0%	13.9%	28.3%	26.8%	100.0%	N=2020

Table 10. Likelihood of purchasing a nonresident family license, by size of household.

Children in the Household	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	51.6%	11.1%	20.7%	16.6%	100.0%	N=1063
One	26.2%	18.1%	32.0%	23.7%	100.0%	N=152
Two	21.1%	17.0%	32.2%	29.7%	100.0%	N=140
Three or more	25.2%	10.8%	28.9%	35.1%	100.0%	N=90
Total	42.1%	12.7%	24.4%	20.9%	100.0%	N=1445

The number of family members that can be expected to be included in a family license was addressed with the following question:

“If you were to purchase a family fishing license, how many family members in each age category would you include in the license?”

On average, between 2.5 and 3 household family members would be included across the various types of packages. Over two-thirds of the family members included in a package would be age 18 to 64. Depending on the type of package, approximately 25% to 33% of family members would be children under the age of 18 (Table 11).

Table 11. Family members included in potential Resident Family Package licenses.

Type of Family Package	Count		Age Categories				Household total
			Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	Above 64	
Family Fishing	1,152	Avg.	0.51	0.49	1.93	0.08	3.01
		% of total	16.9%	16.3%	64.1%	2.7%	100.0%
Family Hunting	741	Avg.	0.17	0.47	1.7	0.06	2.41
		% of total	7.1%	19.5%	70.5%	2.5%	100.0%
Family Combination	885	Avg.	0.21	0.44	1.81	0.07	2.52
		% of total	8.3%	17.5%	71.8%	2.8%	100.0%
Family Mixed	720	Avg.	0.33	0.5	1.88	0.07	2.79
		% of total	11.8%	17.9%	67.4%	2.5%	100.0%

* Total responses across all types = 1,395

The makeup of nonresident family licenses is somewhat similar to residents, with the exception of slightly lower participation by children under the age of 18 (Table 12).

Table 12. Family members included in potential Nonresident Family Package licenses.

Type of Family Package	Count		Age Categories				Household total
			Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	Above 64	
Family Fishing	819	Avg.	0.38	0.44	1.85	0.24	2.9
		% of total	13.1%	15.2%	63.8%	8.3%	100.0%
Family Hunting	348	Avg.	0.11	0.41	1.62	0.11	2.25
		% of total	4.9%	18.2%	72.0%	4.9%	100.0%
Family Combination	319	Avg.	0.2	0.42	1.73	0.11	2.47
		% of total	8.1%	17.0%	70.0%	4.5%	100.0%
Family Mixed	287	Avg.	0.27	0.48	1.86	0.1	2.7
		% of total	10.0%	17.8%	68.9%	3.7%	100.0%

* Total responses across all types = 922

Pick-and-Choose licenses:

The IDFG is considering an approach to combination licenses that provide sportsmen with the flexibility to include the privileges of their own choosing. The survey presented respondents with the following question:

“IDFG is considering a new “pick-and-choose” approach to combination licenses. In this approach, you would start with a combination hunting and fishing license and then choose from a menu of additional tags and permits. Your selected package of license, tags and/or permits would include a discount (listed below) compared to the full cost of purchasing each item priced separately. The options being considered include the following. Please indicate which option is most appealing to you (select only one).”

Respondents were presented with four options for the “pick-and-choose” approach: a package of five tags/permits, a package of ten tags/permits, and a package that included all available tags/permits (a total of 19 tags/permits). In addition, respondents could choose to opt for no pick-and-choose package. For each of the three package options, respondents were offered one of five different discounts ranging from 5% to 25% in 5% increments. Each respondent was offered only one discount for each package, and the discount varied between packages. These discounts were randomly distributed across the survey sample. A discrete choice model was used to estimate the likelihood of each package being chosen and to determine the relative importance of the discount compared to the size of the package.

Table 13 shows respondents’ choices for the “pick-and-choose” option, by size of package, regardless of the discount. Among residents, 37% would not buy a pick-and-choose combination license while almost 62% would buy one of the packages. People who might opt to buy a pick-and-choose package have a much higher preference for one with only five tags/permits, accounting for approximately two-thirds of packages selected by residents.

Non-residents are much less likely to purchase a pick-and-choose package of privileges. Only 37% would buy any package compared to more than 62% of residents. Similar to residents, however, nonresident also have a much stronger preference for the smallest package of five tags/permits. Over 71% of nonresidents who would buy a package would choose the smallest one.

Table 13. Pick and Choose package preferences among Idaho sportsmen regardless of price discount.

"Pick and Choose" Tags and Permits	Resident	Non-resident	Total
Five tags/permits	41.0%	26.3%	34.9%
Ten tags/permits	12.0%	5.6%	9.4%
All available tags	9.5%	5.1%	7.7%
None of the above	37.4%	63.0%	48.0%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	1,957	1,374	3,331

A discrete choice model was used to estimate the probability of each package being selected from among all possible options presented in the survey. Table 14 shows the overall preferences for those resident and nonresident sportsmen who would buy a pick-and-choose package. Among residents, the size of the package is the overwhelming factor in the choice decision. When ordered by probability of purchase, the packages are clearly sorted by size. Not surprisingly, within each size category, the probability of purchase increases with higher discount rates.

Among nonresidents, the size of the package still plays an important role in the purchase decision with smaller packages generally preferred over larger ones, but price discount can trump size of package in some cases. This is evident when the packages are sorted by their probability of being selected. The two most popular choices are the smallest

packages with the highest discounts. However, a package of ten tags/permits at a 25% discount has a greater probability of being selected than a smaller package with a less than 20% discount. Also, a package of 19 tags/permits has a higher choice probability than either a package of ten tags/permits with less than a 15% discount or the smallest package with only a 5% discount. This is likely explained by the higher price for non-resident permits (and correspondingly larger discounts in dollar terms).

Table 14. Selection probabilities for all possible “Pick & Choose” options.

Resident Anglers/Hunters			Non-resident Anglers/Hunters		
# of Tags and Permits	Price Discount	Selection Probability	# of Tags and Permits	Price Discount	Selection Probability
5	25%	12.4%	5	25%	20.3%
5	20%	11.8%	5	20%	13.9%
5	15%	11.0%	10	25%	12.1%
5	10%	10.5%	5	15%	9.5%
5	5%	9.8%	10	20%	8.3%
10	25%	7.2%	5	10%	6.5%
10	20%	6.8%	10	15%	5.7%
10	15%	6.4%	19	25%	4.7%
10	10%	6.1%	5	5%	4.5%
10	5%	5.7%	10	10%	3.9%
19	25%	2.7%	19	20%	3.2%
19	20%	2.6%	10	5%	2.7%
19	15%	2.5%	19	15%	2.2%
19	10%	2.3%	19	10%	1.5%
19	5%	2.2%	19	5%	1.0%
All respondents:		100.0%	All respondents:		100.0%

In addition to preferences for the number of extra tags, the survey included a question to gauge which types of tags sportsmen would be most interested in purchasing. Generally, sportsmen show similar preferences for certain game over others across all three tag options. In particular, almost every respondent would choose deer and elk. Non-residents show a higher preference for salmon compared to other choices than do residents (across all tag options). Detailed results for each package size are provided in Appendix B.

Multi-year licenses:

Sales of multi-year hunting and fishing licenses are increasingly being considered by state fish and game agencies as a means of reducing the annual churn rate among license buyers. The sale of a three-year license locks in revenue equivalent to sale of three annual licenses, while many sportsmen do not buy an annual license every year with consistency. To the extent that sportsmen who do not normally purchase every year can be persuaded to buy a three-year license the IDFG can expect to increase its license revenue. To estimate the potential for increased revenue, the survey presented respondents with the following question:

“For convenience IDFG is considering offering fishing and hunting licenses valid for multiple years. The purchaser would enjoy a small cost savings by not having to pay an agent fee each year. Multi-year licenses would be offered in addition to the current annual licenses. How likely would you be to purchase a 3-year license compared to three annual licenses?”

As shown in Table 15, the likelihood of purchasing a three-year license is similar between resident anglers and hunters and nonresident anglers and hunters, but residents and nonresidents differ considerably. Nearly one-half of residents reported that they would very likely purchase a three-year license if it was available. Approximately half as many nonresidents, or roughly one-fourth, would be very likely to buy a three-year license.

Table 15. Likelihood that Idaho sportsmen would purchase a 3-year license, if offered.

Likelihood to Purchase 3-year License	Residents		Nonresidents	
	Anglers	Hunters	Anglers	Hunters
Very unlikely	10.8%	9.6%	23.6%	30.6%
Somewhat unlikely	7.0%	7.4%	11.5%	14.1%
Somewhat likely	35.7%	36.4%	37.6%	35.0%
Very likely	46.5%	46.6%	27.3%	20.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	N=1815	N=1227	N=774	N=298

To better understand the best target audience for selling 3-year licenses we examined the likelihood of purchase by different age groups of sportsmen and their level of sporting avidity. Among both residents and nonresidents, customers most likely to purchase a 3-year license are young sportsmen age 18 to 24 (Table 16). In that age group, over one-half of residents and over one-third of nonresidents reported that they would very likely buy a 3-year license. That age category, however, represents a fairly small number of Idaho sportsmen, accounting for approximately 9% of all customers (Table 2). The likelihood of purchasing a 3-year license declines with age. Only 39.2% of residents and 18.1% of nonresidents age 65 and older would be very likely to purchase a 3-year license.

Table 16. Likelihood that Idaho sportsmen would purchase a 3-year license, if offered, by age of sportsmen.

Purchase 3-year License	Age of Sportsman			
	18 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and older
Residents				
Very unlikely	6.8%	9.4%	14.0%	22.8%
Somewhat unlikely	8.3%	6.9%	7.2%	11.4%
Somewhat likely	32.7%	35.4%	36.7%	26.6%
Very likely	52.3%	48.4%	42.1%	39.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Number of responses:</i>	266	919	777	79
Nonresidents				
Very unlikely	23.7%	17.4%	34.3%	45.7%
Somewhat unlikely	7.9%	12.1%	13.1%	11.7%
Somewhat likely	33.3%	42.1%	32.9%	24.5%
Very likely	35.1%	28.4%	19.7%	18.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<i>Number of responses:</i>	114	535	604	188

Multi-year fishing license buyers: To estimate the revenue implications of a new three-year license we tracked the cohort of anglers who purchased a license in 2009 to determine how many went on to purchase (or not) fishing licenses over the next two years. In 2009, 242,742 resident and 201,486 non-resident anglers purchased an annual fishing license. Some of those anglers bought no more licenses over the next two years while some bought a license two or three of the following years. Not surprisingly, anglers who are more frequent buyers expressed greater likelihood in the survey of buying a three-year license. In the survey, 41.0% of residents who bought only one out of three years are very likely to buy a three-year license, compared to 49.7% of anglers who bought three out of three years. Nonresidents are less likely to buy a three-year license, but the difference between casual and avid anglers is more pronounced. Less than one-fourth of one-time casual (one out of three years) are very likely to buy a three-year license compared to nearly 40% of avid (three out of three years) anglers (Table 17).

Table 17. Likelihood that Idaho anglers would purchase a 3-year license, if offered, by purchase history 2009-2011.

Purchase Likelihood	Years purchased any license: 2009-2011		
	1 year	2 years	3 years
Residents			
Very unlikely	13.8%	9.8%	9.5%
Somewhat unlikely	7.0%	5.7%	7.6%
Somewhat likely	38.3%	38.1%	33.2%
Very likely	41.0%	46.3%	49.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	N=264	N=269	N=799
Nonresidents			
Very unlikely	26.3%	18.8%	18.4%
Somewhat unlikely	12.3%	8.5%	12.6%
Somewhat likely	37.7%	42.4%	30.1%
Very likely	23.7%	30.3%	38.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	N=138	N=181	N=741

Multi-year fishing license revenue: Based on actual purchase histories of survey respondents, we estimate that 55,922 resident and 36,399 non-resident anglers who bought a license in 2009 (and not in 2010 or 2011) might buy a 3-year license. Similarly, an estimated 28,696 resident and 9,298 nonresident anglers who bought a license two of three years between 2009 and 2011 are very likely to buy a three-year license, and 21,987 resident and 6,733 nonresident anglers who buy every year are very likely to buy a three-year license. We assume that sportsmen who choose not to buy a three-year license will follow their past buying patterns. Counting the revenue from projected sales of new three-year licenses and existing annual licenses we estimate total revenue over three years of \$13.7 million from resident anglers and \$34.3 million from nonresident anglers. Compared to actual revenue over the 2009-2011 period, this represents a gain of \$8.1 million over three years, or \$2.7 million, annually (Table 18).

This analysis is based only on past purchases of fishing licenses and does not include purchases of salmon or steelhead tags, or two-pole permits. To the extent that people who hold a valid fishing license might be inclined to buy additional fishing privileges, sales of three-year licenses could potentially lead to increased sales of tags and permits to anglers with a three-year license in years when they might not otherwise purchase an annual license.

Table 18. Actual and estimated revenue between 2009 and 2011 from sales of annual and 3-year fishing licenses to anglers who bought an annual license in 2009.

Number of annual Licenses: 2009-2011	Actual License Sales		Potential License Buyers		Potential Revenue			Projected 3-Year Revenue Gain
	Buyers	Revenue	3-year	Annual	3-year	Annual	TOTAL	
Residents								
1	136,560	\$3,516,420	55,922	80,638	\$4,320,005	\$2,076,418	\$6,396,423	\$2,880,003
2	61,919	\$3,188,829	28,696	33,223	\$2,216,780	\$1,710,975	\$3,927,755	\$738,927
3	44,263	\$3,419,317	21,987	22,276	\$1,698,476	\$1,720,841	\$3,419,317	\$0
TOTAL	242,742	\$10,124,565	106,605	136,137	\$8,235,260	\$5,508,235	\$13,743,495	\$3,618,930
Nonresidents								
1	153,542	\$15,085,502	36,399	117,143	\$10,728,673	\$11,509,277	\$22,237,950	\$7,152,448
2	30,652	\$6,023,118	9,298	21,354	\$2,740,662	\$4,196,010	\$6,936,672	\$913,554
3	17,292	\$5,096,817	6,733	10,559	\$1,984,535	\$3,112,282	\$5,096,817	\$0
TOTAL	201,486	\$26,205,437	52,430	149,056	\$15,453,869	\$18,817,570	\$34,271,439	\$8,066,002

Multi-year hunting license buyers: Applying similar logic to hunting license sales as was used for fishing licenses, we tracked the cohort of hunters who purchased a license in 2009 to determine how many went on to purchase (or not) hunting licenses over the next two years. In 2009, 79,455 resident and 37,245 non-resident hunters purchased an annual hunting license. Some of those hunters bought no more licenses over the next two years while some bought a license two or three of the following years. Hunters who are more frequent buyers expressed only slightly greater likelihood in the survey of buying a three-year license. In the survey, 44.5% of residents who bought only one out of three years are very likely to buy a three-year license, compared to 46.6% of hunters who bought three out of three years. Nonresidents are less likely to buy a three-year license, but the difference between casual and avid hunters is more pronounced. Less than 20% of one-time casual (one out of three years) are very likely to buy a three-year license compared to nearly 34.2% of avid (three out of three years) anglers (Table 19).

Table 19. Likelihood that Idaho hunters would purchase a 3-year license, if offered, by purchase history 2009-2011.

Purchase Likelihood	Years purchased any license: 2009-2011		
	1 year	2 years	3 years
Residents			
Very unlikely	12.0%	6.3%	9.7%
Somewhat unlikely	7.2%	6.5%	7.7%
Somewhat likely	36.3%	38.3%	35.9%
Very likely	44.5%	48.9%	46.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	N=264	N=269	N=799
Nonresidents			
Very unlikely	30.6%	35.2%	26.1%
Somewhat unlikely	13.9%	16.3%	12.5%
Somewhat likely	36.5%	39.1%	27.2%
Very likely	19.0%	9.3%	34.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	N=138	N=181	N=741

Multi-year fishing license revenue: Based on actual purchase histories of survey respondents, we estimate that 22,148 resident and 4,745 non-resident hunters who bought a license in 2009 (and not in 2010 or 2011) might buy a 3-year license. Similarly, an estimated 9,424 resident and 665 nonresident hunters who bought a license two of three years between 2009 and 2011 are very likely to buy a three-year license, and 4,834 resident and 1,770 nonresident anglers who buy every year are very likely to buy a three-year license. We assume that sportsmen who choose not to buy a three-year license will follow their past buying patterns. Counting the revenue from projected sales of new three-year licenses and existing annual licenses we estimate total revenue over three years of \$1.4 million from resident hunters and \$3.3 million from nonresident hunters. Compared to actual revenue over the 2009-2011 period, this represents a gain of \$2.2 million over three years, or \$752,000, annually (Table 20).

This analysis is based only on past purchases of hunting licenses and does not include purchases of related tags or permits. To the extent that people who hold a valid hunting license might be inclined to buy additional hunting privileges, sales of three-year licenses could potentially lead to increased sales of tags and permits to hunters with a three-year license in years when they might not otherwise purchase an annual license.

Table 20. Actual and estimated revenue between 2009 and 2011 from sales of annual and 3-year hunting licenses to hunters who bought an annual license in 2009.

Number of annual Licenses: 2009-2011	Actual License Sales		Potential License Buyers		Potential Revenue			Projected 3-Year Revenue Gain
	Buyers	Revenue	3-year	Annual	3-year	Annual	TOTAL	
Residents								
1	49,821	\$635,218	22,148	27,673	\$847,153	\$352,833	\$1,199,987	\$564,769
2	19,262	\$491,181	9,424	9,838	\$360,473	\$250,866	\$611,339	\$120,158
3	10,362	\$396,347	4,834	5,528	\$184,889	\$211,457	\$396,347	\$0
TOTAL	79,445	\$1,522,745	36,406	43,039	\$1,392,515	\$815,156	\$2,207,672	\$684,926
Nonresidents								
1	24,961	\$3,862,715	4,745	20,216	\$2,203,070	\$3,128,358	\$5,331,428	\$1,468,713
2	7,113	\$2,201,474	665	6,448	\$308,716	\$1,995,663	\$2,304,379	\$102,905
3	5,171	\$2,400,637	1,770	3,401	\$821,601	\$1,579,036	\$2,400,637	\$0
TOTAL	37,245	\$8,464,825	7,180	30,065	\$3,333,386	\$6,703,057	\$10,036,443	\$1,571,618

WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR IMPROVED ODDS IN CONTROLLED HUNT LOTTERIES:

Controlled hunts provide sportsmen opportunities for higher quality hunting experiences that are not open to the general sporting population. As a result, the privilege to participate in a controlled hunt is usually available only by submitting an application and being selected in a random drawing where all applicants have an equal chance of being selected. The IDFG is exploring whether sportsmen would be willing to pay a small premium if it improved their odds of being selected in the drawing for controlled hunts. The survey presented respondents with the following question where the listed premium (\$XX) ranged from \$5 to \$25 in five-dollar increments. Each respondent was presented with only one premium level and the various levels were distributed randomly across the samples.

“IDFG is considering different methods to improve drawing odds for (buck) deer and bull (elk) controlled hunts. One way would be to have a differential price for controlled hunt tags. Would you pay an additional \$xx above the current tag fee if it helped improved your drawing odds in these special “Premium” (buck) deer or (bull) elk hunts?”

Table 21 shows the percentage of respondents that would choose to pay for improved drawing odds in controlled hunts at different premiums levels. Approximately 40% of resident hunters would be willing to pay a premium, and the amount of the premium has no effect on their willingness to pay. A larger percentage of nonresidents (66.5%) are willing to pay a premium for improved odds of being drawn and they are sensitive to the

size of the premium. Over three-fourths of nonresidents are willing to pay a \$5 premium but only 62.1% are willing to pay a \$25 premium

Table 21. Idaho hunters* willing to pay additional premium for improved drawing odds for controlled hunts.

Purchase Premium	Yes	No	Total	N
Residents				
\$5.00	38.2%	61.8%	100.0%	256
\$10.00	41.3%	58.7%	100.0%	273
\$15.00	42.2%	57.8%	100.0%	254
\$20.00	41.2%	58.8%	100.0%	247
\$25.00	39.7%	60.3%	100.0%	232
Total	40.5%	59.5%	100.0%	1,262
Non-Residents				
\$5.00	77.2%	22.8%	100.0%	63
\$10.00	64.6%	35.4%	100.0%	86
\$15.00	63.9%	36.1%	100.0%	55
\$20.00	65.6%	34.4%	100.0%	88
\$25.00	62.1%	37.9%	100.0%	75
Total	66.5%	33.5%	100.0%	367

**Includes all sportsmen who purchased a hunting privilege in 2009, 2010 or 2011.*

CONJOINT ANALYSIS:

The survey used a technique known as conjoint analysis to identify which individual hunting and fishing privileges were the most important to customers when packaged together in combination licenses. This methodology also estimates how much sportsmen are willing to pay for various combinations of privileges. Ultimately, it is possible to measure the relative probability that sportsmen will choose one combination license over another.

Conjoint Analysis (CA) was developed to help marketers understand which product features, or attributes, most influence consumer preferences. For this study, each hunting or fishing privilege is considered an attribute of a combination license. In CA approaches, the researcher chooses the attributes and prices to be explored, creates a list of different licensing options – each with a different set of attributes - and then asks consumers to select or rank their preferred profiles. The responses are then statistically analyzed to identify the relative importance of each attribute. By incorporating price as an attribute within each license’s profile, it is possible to estimate the consumers’ willingness to pay for each of the attributes.

Conjoint Design:

To apply the conjoint technique to hunting and fishing licenses, various privileges were combined as the attributes of a combination license. Respondents were presented with three different combinations of privileges at a stated price and asked to select their preferred option. With the exception of price, each attribute had two levels: either the privilege was part of the combination license or it was not. In the design of the questionnaire, some features were combined as multiple levels of a single feature (e.g., a weapon permit might be 1) archery, 2) muzzleloader, 3) archery AND muzzleloader, 4) neither archery nor muzzleloader). In the analysis, these were broken down into single choice attributes (e.g., archery - yes or no; muzzleloader – yes or no).

In the design, each combination license had three price levels: the sum of the current prices for each privilege if purchased separately; a price that reflected a 10% discount on the current prices; and a price that reflected a 20% discount on the current prices. All prices included a single agent fee of \$1.00. In the survey, respondents saw only one price for each combination. The privileges that were included in the combination licenses and their current prices are shown in Table 22.

Table 22. Prices for selected hunting and fishing privileges in Idaho in 2011.

License type	Price
Annual fishing license	\$98.25
Annual hunting license	\$154.75
Annual combination fishing and hunting	\$240.00
Selected tags and permits*	
Bear tag	\$186.00
Deer tag	\$301.75
Elk tag	\$416.75
Mountain lion tag	\$186.00
Turkey tag	\$80.00
Salmon permit	\$25.75
Steelhead permit	\$25.75
Two-pole fishing permit	\$15.50
Archery permit	\$20.00
Muzzleloader permit	\$20.00

**A fishing, hunting or combination license is required in addition to any tags or permits.*

The nature of hunting and fishing regulations creates additional complexities in developing alternative combinations of privileges and prices. For example, anyone wishing to purchase a deer tag must have a basic hunting or combination license, and anyone purchasing a salmon tag must also have purchased a fishing or combination license. Each license transaction includes a \$1.00 agent fee regardless of the number of privileges included in the transaction. These requirements dictated the ultimate design of the profiles tested in the conjoint survey.

Conjoint surveys require respondents to make decisions based on comparing products (combination licenses) with different sets of attributes (fishing and hunting privileges). With thirteen different attributes (twelve different privileges plus the price attribute) and multiple levels for each attribute (privileges had two levels; price had three levels), there are many possible combinations. An orthogonal design was used to reduce the number of different profiles that were generated and distributed across the surveys with little loss in statistical reliability.

In the choice-based conjoint (CBC) design used in this study, 60 different versions of the question were created. In each version, respondents were asked to indicate their preference between three different combinations of privileges or indicate that they would not purchase any of the presented options. An example of one version of the conjoint question is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Sample conjoint question in a survey of Idaho sportsmen.

For the purpose of this survey, please assume that any licenses you have are now expiring and you are going to purchase a fishing and/or hunting license today. When buying your new license, you learn that new packages are also available. We are considering numerous options, but please tell us how you feel about the 3 particular options below. Check ONE box to indicate the package option that you would buy today or if you would buy none of these options.

Sporting Privileges Included:	OPTION #1	OPTION #2	OPTION #3	
Base License	Combination	Hunt	Fish	I would NOT buy any of these options.
Bear tag	Yes	No	No	
Deer tag	Yes	No	No	
Elk tag	No	Yes	No	
Mountain lion tag	Yes	No	No	
Turkey tag	Yes	No	No	
Salmon or Steelhead permit	Steelhead	None	Salmon	
Hunting permit	Archery	Muzzleloader	None	
Fishing permit	Two-pole	None	Two-pole	
Price*	\$133.75	\$47.75	\$45.25	
Select ONE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results of the conjoint analysis:

The survey questionnaire was presented to separate samples of resident and nonresident sportsmen who represent the IDFG's recent customers.

NOTE: The results of the statistical models were used to develop a spreadsheet-based decision support tool for different types of sportsmen. The spreadsheet tool enables users to compare two licenses with different features and prices and see the likelihood that sportsmen will choose either one. The tool also includes a facility for users to see the additional dollar amount that sportsmen are willing to pay for one license set compared to another. Readers interested in exploring how price and privileges in a combination license affect purchase decisions are encouraged to explore the decision support tool found in the spreadsheet file named "IDFG_DST.xls". Additional directions for using the tool are included in the spreadsheet.

Resident Hunters:

Table 23 presents the attributes tested in the survey, based on responses from resident hunters. The table lists the hunting and fishing privileges that were found to have a statistically significant effect on the likelihood that a hunter would purchase a combination that included or omitted each privilege.

Positive signs on the parameters indicate that the presence of a privilege has a positive effect on sportsmen's purchase decisions. As expected, price has a negative effect, meaning that sportsmen are less likely to buy a license with a higher price if everything else is equal.

The size of the parameter gives some indication of the relative importance of each privilege. Privileges with a larger parameter have a greater effect on sportsmen's purchasing decisions. For example, across all hunters, the inclusion of a bear tag has a relatively small effect on their purchase decision. Deer and elk tags, on the other hand, have large parameter values indicating that resident hunters place a higher value on their inclusion in a combination license. That is not surprising given the high popularity of those hunting experiences in Idaho.

Table 23. Parameter estimates for privileges included in the model for resident hunters.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Parameter
Bear tag	+0.4136
Deer tag	+1.6017
Elk tag	+1.6352
Muzzleloader permit	+0.3583
Two-pole permit	+0.6929
Price	-0.0127

Average willingness-to-pay among resident hunters:

Although the IDFG has no competition in the marketplace for hunting and fishing licenses, it is important to understand the value that sportsmen place on individual privileges in setting license prices. The model provides some guidance with respect to the additional amount sportsmen are willing to pay for some privileges within a combination license.

Table 24 shows sportsmen's willingness to pay for selected privileges. In an earlier table (Table 23), it was shown that the deer and elk tags were the most important feature of a combination license to the average hunter. This translates into privileges for which hunters are willing to spend the most amount of money. A combination license that includes an elk tag can be expected to sell for \$129.26 more than one without that privilege.

Table 24. Resident hunters' willingness-to-pay for selected hunting and fishing privileges.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Willingness-to-pay
Bear tag	\$ 32.69
Deer tag	\$ 126.61
Elk tag	\$ 129.26
Muzzleloader permit	\$ 28.32
Two-pole permit	\$ 54.78

Resident Anglers:

Table 25 presents the attributes tested in the survey, based on responses from resident anglers. The table lists the hunting and fishing privileges that were found to have a statistically significant effect on the likelihood that an angler would purchase a combination that included or omitted each privilege.

The positive signs on the parameters indicate that the presence of a privilege has a positive effect on sportsmen's purchase decisions. The hunting license has a negative sign, indicating that including a hunting license would make a combination package less attractive to anglers. This is a little surprising because many anglers also hunt and they appear to place a high value on the inclusion of a deer or elk tag. As expected, price has a negative effect, meaning that anglers are less likely to buy a license with a higher price if everything else is equal.

The size of the parameter gives some indication of the relative importance of each privilege. Privileges with a larger parameter have a greater effect on sportsmen's purchasing decisions. Except for the deer and elk tags, the next most positive privilege is the two-pole permit.

Table 25. Parameter estimates for sporting privileges included in the model for resident anglers.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Parameter
Hunting license	-2.4719
Bear tag	+0.3759
Deer tag	+1.3714
Elk tag	+1.3520
Turkey tag	+0.3589
Muzzle permit	+0.2684
Two-pole permit	+0.4344
Price	-0.0111

Average willingness-to-pay among resident anglers:

Table 26 shows anglers' willingness to pay for selected privileges. In an earlier table (Table 25), it was shown that the deer and elk tags were the important features of a combination license to the average sportsmen. This translates into privileges for which anglers are willing to spend the most amount of money. A combination license that includes an elk tag can be expected to sell for \$122.35 more than one without that privilege.

Table 26. Resident anglers' willingness-to-pay for selected hunting and fishing privileges.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Willingness-to-pay
Hunting license	\$ (223.70)
Bear tag	\$ 34.02
Deer tag	\$ 124.10
Elk tag	\$ 122.35
Turkey tag	\$ 32.48
Muzzle permit	\$ 24.29
Two-pole permit	\$ 39.31

Nonresident Hunters:

Table 27 presents the attributes tested in the survey, based on responses from nonresident hunters. The table lists the hunting and fishing privileges that were found to have a statistically significant effect on the likelihood that a nonresident hunter would purchase a combination that included or omitted each privilege.

The positive signs on the parameters indicate that the presence of a privilege has a positive effect on sportsmen's purchase decisions. Nonresident hunters place a high value on the inclusion of elk tags, while the addition of salmon tags or a muzzleloader permit would make a combination license less attractive (Table 27).

Table 27. Parameter estimates for sporting privileges included in the model for nonresident hunters.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Parameter
Elk tag	+2.0411
Salmon tag	-0.9501
Muzzleloader permit	-0.9048
Price	-0.0025

Average willingness-to-pay among nonresident hunters:

Table 28 shows anglers' willingness to pay for selected privileges. In an earlier table (Table 27), it was shown that an elk tag was the most important feature of a combination license to the average sportsmen. This translates into privileges for which nonresident hunters are willing to spend the most amount of money. A combination license that includes an elk tag can be expected to sell for \$813.20 more than one without that privilege.

Table 28. Nonresident hunters' willingness-to-pay for selected hunting and fishing privileges.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Willingness-to-pay
Elk tag	\$ 813.20
Salmon tag	\$ -378.52
Muzzleloader permit	\$ -360.47

Nonresident Anglers:

Table 29 presents the attributes tested in the survey, based on responses from nonresident anglers. The table lists the hunting and fishing privileges that were found to have a statistically significant effect on the likelihood that a nonresident angler would purchase a combination that included or omitted each privilege.

The positive signs on the parameters indicate that the presence of a privilege has a positive effect on sportsmen's purchase decisions. Similar to resident anglers, the hunting license has a negative sign, indicating that including nonresident anglers, on average, have a negative preference for combination licenses that include a hunting license. Also similar to the resident anglers, the nonresident anglers place a high value on the inclusion of a big game hunting tag (elk). As expected, price has a negative effect, meaning that anglers are less likely to buy a license with a higher price if everything else is equal. The size of the parameter gives some indication of the relative importance of each privilege. The price parameter is very small, suggesting that nonresident anglers are not price sensitive.

Table 29. Parameter estimates for sporting privileges included in the model for nonresident anglers.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Parameter
Hunting license	-1.7250
Elk tag	+1.0588
Price	-0.0015

Average willingness-to-pay among nonresident anglers:

Table 30 shows anglers' willingness to pay for selected privileges. Table 25 showed that elk tags are an important feature of a combination license to the average sportsmen. Even among nonresident anglers, a combination license that includes an elk tag can be expected to sell for \$701.18 more than one without that privilege.

Table 30. Resident anglers' willingness-to-pay for selected hunting and fishing privileges.

Hunt/Fish Privilege	Willingness-to-pay
Hunting license	\$ -1,142.40
Elk Tag	\$ 701.18

LICENSE SELECTION PROBABILITIES:

The conjoint analysis estimates the probability (likelihood) that any specific combination of privileges would be selected by sportsmen from among a set of options that re presented. As a result, it possible to estimate the probabilities associated with all possible combinations. Figure 2 graphically shows the twenty most popular combinations of sporting privileges and prices among all resident sportsmen. It should be noted that the prices include the current face values plus discounts of 10% to 20%. Therefore, some combinations may appear higher in the list than others by virtue of a discounted price rather than the set of included privileges.

The results suggest that the average resident sportsman is most likely to select a combination hunting and fishing license with additional privileges, especially if it is offered at a discount (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Estimated probabilities of selection by all resident sportsmen for the top twenty license combinations.

Hunting license	Fishing license	Bear tag	Deer tag	Elk tag	Turkey tag	Mtn lion tag	Salmon tag	Steelhead tag	Archery permit	Muzzle-loader	Two-pole permit	Price	Discount	Probability
												\$ 180.50	20%	7.8%
												\$ 131.75	20%	7.5%
												\$ 136.25	20%	7.2%
												\$ 122.50	20%	6.9%
												\$ 122.50	20%	6.3%
												\$ 138.75	10%	5.4%
												\$ 128.25	10%	5.1%
												\$ 130.75	20%	5.1%
												\$ 154.00	20%	4.8%
												\$ 111.50	10%	4.8%
												\$ 136.25	20%	4.8%
												\$ 127.25	10%	4.2%
												\$ 125.25	20%	4.2%
												\$ 122.50	20%	3.9%
												\$ 40.25	20%	3.9%
												\$ 30.75	20%	3.9%
												\$ 121.25	20%	3.6%
												\$ 171.50	0%	3.6%
												\$ 45.25	10%	3.6%
												\$ 115.75	20%	3.6%

Nonresident sportsmen are less likely to select a combination license as their top choice. The top preferences are for fishing licenses with additional tags for salmon or steelhead, with a two-pole permit (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Estimated probabilities of selection by all nonresident sportsmen for the top twenty license combinations.

Hunting license	Fishing license	Bear tag	Deer tag	Elk tag	Turkey tag	Mtn lion tag	Salmon tag	Steelhead tag	Archery permit	Muzzle-loader	Two-pole permit	Price	Discount	Probability
	■						■	■			■	\$ 146.00	20%	6.9%
	■						■	■			■	\$ 162.25	10%	6.6%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	\$ 1,127.50	20%	6.6%
	■							■			■	\$ 110.00	20%	5.7%
	■							■			■	\$ 123.75	10%	5.7%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	\$ 975.00	20%	5.4%
	■							■			■	\$ 137.50	0%	5.4%
	■						■	■				\$ 118.25	20%	5.1%
	■						■	■				\$ 133.00	10%	4.8%
	■						■	■				\$ 147.75	0%	4.8%
	■						■				■	\$ 110.00	20%	4.5%
■	■			■	■		■	■	■		■	\$ 757.75	0%	4.5%
	■						■				■	\$ 123.75	10%	4.5%
■	■		■	■	■		■		■		■	\$ 719.25	20%	4.2%
	■						■				■	\$ 137.50	0%	4.2%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	\$ 1,268.50	10%	4.2%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	\$ 1,206.00	20%	4.2%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	\$ 979.50	20%	4.2%
	■							■			■	\$ 110.75	10%	3.9%
■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	\$ 963.50	20%	3.9%

NON-RESIDENT GUIDE/OUTFITTER USE:

Nonresident hunters often hire the services of local guides when hunting in Idaho. To understand the prevalence of guide usage by nonresidents, the survey presented the following question:

“Did you use the services of a guide or outfitter at any time when you hunted in Idaho during the past two years?”

As shown in Table 31, almost ten percent of non-residents used the services of a guide or outfitter while hunting over the past two years.

Table 31. Non-residents use of guides and outfitters during the past two years.

	Number	Percent
No	1,306	90.7%
Yes	134	9.3%
Total	1,440	100.0

RATING OF IDFG EFFECTIVENESS:

To gauge sportsmen’s ratings of the IDFG, the survey presented respondents with the following question:

“Please rate the overall level of effectiveness and service provided by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in its efforts to provide for the State’s fishing, hunting, and conservation needs.”

As shown in Table 32 a majority of sportsmen across all groups consider the effectiveness and service provided by IDFG to be “Good” or “Very Good”. Roughly one-fourth of each group were “Not sure,” and 12% or less in all groups chose “Poor” or “Very Poor.” It is noteworthy that a substantially smaller percent of non-residents appear unhappy with the overall effectiveness and service provided by IDFG.

Table 32. Sportsmen’s rating of the overall effectiveness and service provided by IDFG.

	Resident	Nonresident	Senior	Total
	<i>percent</i>			
Very Poor	3.4%	1.8%	2.8%	2.7%
Poor	8.5%	2.8%	5.5%	6.1%
Not sure	24.3%	27.5%	29.7%	25.8%
Good	48.3%	48.5%	43.4%	48.2%
Very Good	15.4%	19.4%	18.6%	17.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Number of responses:	1,459			

	2,040	145	3,645
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APPENDIX A

Idaho Department of Natural Resources Hunting and Fishing License Survey Materials

Cover Letter for First Mailing:



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
600 South Walnut/P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

January 2012

Dear Patricia Whatley,

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) is considering ways to improve the menu of fishing and hunting licenses in Idaho. Because you are a valued participant in Idaho's outdoor recreation, we need your help to determine the best license options to meet your needs.

Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey. It asks about your level of hunting or fishing activity and the kinds of license options that you prefer. It is a short survey and should take less than 10 minutes for you to complete.

Only a sample of Idaho's hunters and anglers has been randomly selected to participate in this survey so it is especially important that your input is included. Even if you only hunt or fish occasionally, we still would like to hear from you.

When you have completed the survey, simply return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your responses will be kept fully confidential, and no one will contact you as a result of participating in this survey.

Thank you for taking time to provide valuable input about fishing and hunting license options in Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Wiedmeier".

Craig Wiedmeier
License Operations Manager

Cover Letter for Second Mailing:



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
600 South Walnut/P.O. Box 25
Boise, Idaho 83707

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor
Virgil Moore / Director

March 5, 2012

Dear William Stanton

A short time ago, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game sent you a survey about your preferred hunting and fishing license options. Many hunters and anglers have already responded, but we have not received your completed questionnaire. If you just recently put your response in the mail, please accept our sincere "Thank-you"!

If you have not yet responded to the survey, please take a few minutes to do so today. The survey is brief, but the information you provide is very valuable because you were randomly selected in a sample to represent all hunters and anglers in Idaho. Even if you hunt or fish only occasionally, we would still like to hear from you.

When you have completed the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. You can be assured that your participation is confidential and that no one will ever contact you as a result of participating in this survey.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the study, please call me at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (tel: 208-287-2804) or send an email to me at craig.wiedmeier@idfg.idaho.gov.

I'd like to thank you again for agreeing to participate in this important survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Wiedmeier".

Craig Wiedmeier
License Operations Manager

Reminder Postcard:

Dear Idaho Hunter or Angler,
Recently, you received a survey about your preferences for fishing and hunting licenses. If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere "Thank-you!" The information you provided will be valuable in helping us serve you better.

If you have not yet completed the survey, please take a few minutes to do so today. Your information is very important to the success of the survey. If you need a replacement survey, call me (tel. 208-287-2804) or send an email (craig.wiedmeier@idfg.idaho.gov) and a new one will be sent to you.

Thank you for your valuable time!



License Operations Manager

Questionnaire:



**Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Hunting and Fishing License Survey**

1. These first questions ask about hunting and fishing activity in your household. Please write your answers in the boxes under each age category.

	Age Categories			
	Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	65 and older
How many people in your family household are in each of these age categories?				
How many people in your family household in each age category went fishing in Idaho in 2011?				
How many people in your family household in each age category went hunting in Idaho in 2011?				

2. Did anyone in your household engage in any of the following fishing or hunting activities in Idaho in the past 5 years (2007 – 2011)? (check all that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/> Any fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinook Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead
<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Hunt Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> General Season Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Bear
<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Hunt Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> General Season Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain lion
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl/Dove	<input type="checkbox"/> Upland game bird
<input type="checkbox"/> Archery	<input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

3. IDFG is considering new “Family” fishing and hunting packages. These packages would reduce the cost of fishing and hunting licenses for a family group. For example, for a family of four, a family fishing package for two adults and two children age 14-17 might cost \$71 compared to \$79 if the licenses were purchased separately. A family hunting package for the same family might cost \$36 compared to \$40 if purchased separately.

Would you purchase a family license if it offered a 10% discount? (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Very unlikely [skip to #5]	Somewhat unlikely [skip to #5]	Somewhat likely [go to #4]	Very likely [go to #4]

1. If you were to purchase a family fishing license, how many family members in each age category would you include in the license?

	Age Categories			
	Under 10	10 to 17	18 to 64	65 and older
Family fishing package				
Family hunting package				
Family combination hunting and fishing package				
Family mixed (combination, hunting, fishing) licenses package				

2. IDFG is considering a new “pick-and-choose” approach to combination licenses. In this approach, you would start with a combination hunting and fishing license and then choose from a menu of additional tags and permits. Your selected package of license, tags and/or permits would include a discount (listed below) compared to the full cost of purchasing each item priced separately. The options being considered include the following. Please indicate which option is most appealing to you (select only one).

	Discount
<input type="checkbox"/> Combination hunting and fishing license, plus 5 tags or permits offered by IDFG. <i>[Go to question #6 to indicate your preferred 5 tags and permits]</i>	15%
<input type="checkbox"/> Combination hunting and fishing license, plus 10 tags or permits offered by IDFG. <i>[Go to question #6 to indicate your preferred 10 tags and permits]</i>	25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Combination hunting and fishing license, plus all of the tags and permits offered by IDFG <i>[listed in question #6.]</i>	5%
<input type="checkbox"/> I would not purchase any of these options <i>[skip to question #7]</i>	

3. Which of the following tags and permits would you select for your “pick-and-choose” license?

Combination Hunt/Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Lion tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Archery permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Deer tag	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Mountain Lion tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Muzzleloader permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Sage/Sharp-tail Grouse permit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Wolf tag
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Migratory Bird permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Salmon permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Bear tag	<input type="checkbox"/> WMA Upland Game permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Hound Hunter permit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-pole permit
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Turkey tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Wolf tag	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

4. IDFG is considering different methods to improve drawing odds for (buck) deer and bull (elk) controlled hunts. One way would be to have a differential price for controlled hunt tags. Would you pay an additional \$10 above the current tag fee if it helped improved your drawing odds in these special “Premium” (buck) deer or (bull) elk hunts?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
------------------------------	-----------------------------

1. For convenience IDFG is considering offering fishing and hunting licenses valid for multiple years. The purchaser would enjoy a small cost savings by not having to pay an agent fee each year. Multi-year licenses would be offered in addition to the current annual licenses. How likely would you be to purchase a 3-year license compared to three annual licenses?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely

2. We need your help to determine what type of packages we should offer. Feedback from this survey will help determine which licenses may be offered.

CURRENT prices for some fishing and hunting licenses, tags and permits are listed below.

License type	Price
Annual fishing license	\$25.75
Annual hunting license	\$12.75
Annual combination fishing and hunting	\$33.50
Selected tags and permits*	
Bear tag	\$11.50
Deer tag	\$19.75
Elk tag	\$30.75
Mountain lion tag	\$11.50
Turkey tag	\$19.75
Salmon permit	\$12.75
Steelhead permit	\$12.75
Two-pole fishing permit	\$13.75
Archery permit	\$18.25
Muzzleloader permit	\$18.25

*A fishing, hunting or combination license is required in addition to any tags or permits.

For the purpose of this survey, please assume that any licenses you have are now expiring and you are going to purchase a fishing and/or hunting license today. When buying your new license, you learn that new packages are also available. We are considering numerous options, but please tell us how you feel about the 3 particular options below. Check ONE box to indicate the package option that you would buy today or if you would buy none of these options.

Sporting Privileges Included:	OPTION #1	OPTION #2	OPTION #3	I would NOT buy any of these options.
Base License	Combination	Hunt	Fish	
Bear tag	Yes	No	No	
Deer tag	Yes	No	No	
Elk tag	No	Yes	No	
Mountain lion tag	Yes	No	No	
Turkey tag	Yes	No	No	
Salmon or Steelhead permit	Steelhead	None	Salmon	
Hunting permit	Archery	Muzzleloader	None	
Fishing permit	Two-pole	None	Two-pole	
Price*	\$133.75	\$47.75	\$45.25	
Select ONE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10) Please rate the overall level of effectiveness and service provided by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in its efforts to provide for the State's fishing, hunting and conservation needs:

<input type="checkbox"/>				
Very poor	Poor	Not sure	Good	Excellent

If you have any comments you wish to share with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, please provide them here.

Thank you for completing our survey!

APPENDIX B Additional Tables

Table B1. Tags and permits selected by respondents who opt for a “Pick & Choose” package with five privileges.

Resident		Non-resident	
Tag or Permit	%	Tag or Permit	%
Deer	92.9%	Deer	80.3%
Elk	88.2%	Elk	78.3%
Steelehead	43.2%	Steelehead	41.6%
Wolf	39.6%	Wolf	38.6%
Migratory Bird	32.3%	Salmon	34.3%
Turkey	30.2%	Bear	34.2%
2-pole	28.8%	Turkey	28.7%
Salmon	28.2%	Mtn Lion	26.5%
Bear	23.6%	Archery	25.6%
Archery	22.5%	Migratory Bird	20.0%
WMA Upland Game	19.5%	2-pole	18.3%
Grouse	15.3%	WMA Upland Game	17.2%
Muzzleloader	10.6%	Grouse	16.1%
Mtn Lion	8.4%	Muzzleloader	7.6%
2nd Wolf	7.0%	2nd Wolf	7.2%
Extra Turkey	3.1%	2nd Bear	2.9%
Other	1.8%	Extra Turkey	2.3%
Hound Hunter	0.8%	Other	2.2%
2nd Bear	0.7%	2nd Mtn Lion	0.9%
2nd Mtn Lion	0.2%	Hound Hunter	0.7%

Table B2. Tags and permits selected by respondents who opt for a “Pick & Choose” package with ten privileges.

Resident		Non-resident	
Tag or Permit	%	Tag or Permit	%
Deer	98.8%	Deer	92.8%
Elk	97.1%	Elk	81.4%
Wolf	71.9%	Wolf	61.6%
Turkey	65.7%	Archery	51.0%
Steelehead	63.3%	Steelehead	47.7%
Bear	59.2%	Salmon	45.6%
Archery	59.2%	Bear	42.7%
Salmon	54.7%	Turkey	34.7%
Migratory Bird	53.9%	Migratory Bird	33.7%
2-pole	48.8%	Mtn Lion	31.5%
Mtn Lion	44.0%	2nd Wolf	30.5%
WMA Upland Game	40.7%	Muzzleloader	25.3%
Muzzleloader	36.5%	Grouse	24.8%
Grouse	29.2%	2-pole	24.3%
2nd Wolf	23.2%	WMA Upland Game	24.2%
Extra Turkey	21.2%	Extra Turkey	12.2%
Hound Hunter	6.7%	2nd Mtn Lion	8.3%
2nd Bear	4.3%	Hound Hunter	4.3%
2nd Mtn Lion	2.3%	Other	2.8%
Other	1.5%	2nd Bear	1.1%

Table B3. Tags and permits selected by respondents who opt for a “Pick & Choose” package with all privileges.

Resident		Non-resident	
Tag or Permit	%	Tag or Permit	%
Deer	98.1%	Deer	89.8%
Elk	94.5%	Elk	85.6%
Steelehead	70.0%	Steelehead	61.4%
Wolf	68.3%	Salmon	55.7%
Turkey	61.8%	Bear	38.4%
Salmon	58.1%	Turkey	38.3%
Bear	56.0%	Archery	36.7%
Archery	49.6%	Wolf	35.0%
Migratory Bird	49.4%	Mtn Lion	32.9%
Mtn Lion	45.9%	Migratory Bird	28.2%
2-pole	45.6%	Grouse	27.1%
Muzzleloader	37.5%	2-pole	22.4%
2nd Wolf	33.9%	WMA Upland Game	22.0%
WMA Upland Game	31.5%	Muzzleloader	20.7%
Grouse	28.3%	Extra Turkey	19.2%
Extra Turkey	20.0%	2nd Wolf	16.5%
Hound Hunter	17.3%	Hound Hunter	15.0%
2nd Bear	12.2%	2nd Bear	14.0%
2nd Mtn Lion	9.5%	2nd Mtn Lion	14.0%
Other	3.5%	Other	5.0%

QUESTION 3 (RESIDENTS)

Children Who Fish & Hunt	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	40.6%	14.1%	23.6%	21.7%	100.0%	N=1427
One	16.9%	17.4%	41.0%	24.6%	100.0%	N=197
Two	10.2%	14.8%	37.4%	37.6%	100.0%	N=211
Three or more	7.5%	8.2%	35.6%	48.7%	100.0%	N=185
Total	31.0%	13.9%	28.3%	26.8%	100.0%	N=2020

Children Who Fish	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	39.9%	14.1%	23.8%	22.1%	100.0%	N=1452
One	17.8%	16.9%	41.0%	24.2%	100.0%	N=260
Two	7.5%	11.7%	34.3%	46.5%	100.0%	N=193
Three or more	5.3%	9.7%	37.8%	47.2%	100.0%	N=115
Total	31.0%	13.9%	28.3%	26.8%	100.0%	N=2020

Children Who Hunt	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	33.5%	14.4%	27.3%	24.9%	100.0%	N=1807
One	13.4%	12.7%	34.9%	38.9%	100.0%	N=150
Two	10.9%	5.4%	40.2%	43.5%	100.0%	N=51
Three or more	0.0%	9.3%	33.3%	57.4%	100.0%	N=12
Total	31.0%	13.9%	28.3%	26.8%	100.0%	N=2020

Tapestry LifeMode	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
	22.7%	25.2%	18.6%	33.5%	100.0%	N=30
L1	35.9%	15.6%	28.1%	20.5%	100.0%	N=183
L2	32.9%	14.8%	29.5%	22.8%	100.0%	N=252
L3	28.8%	11.4%	15.9%	43.9%	100.0%	N=28
L4	42.4%	11.4%	34.8%	11.4%	100.0%	N=13
L5	44.3%	12.1%	19.8%	23.8%	100.0%	N=88
L6	27.2%	11.4%	32.9%	28.6%	100.0%	N=24
L7	37.5%	12.6%	26.4%	23.4%	100.0%	N=96
L8	19.1%	8.4%	40.6%	31.9%	100.0%	N=24
L9	28.2%	14.0%	30.3%	27.5%	100.0%	N=390
L10	25.0%	12.2%	41.6%	21.2%	100.0%	N=116
L11	28.1%	12.8%	24.8%	34.4%	100.0%	N=238
L12	31.8%	14.2%	26.5%	27.5%	100.0%	N=562
Total	31.3%	13.9%	28.2%	26.6%	100.0%	N=2044

QUESTION 3 (NON-RESIDENTS)

Children Who Fish & Hunt	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	46.0%	13.0%	23.1%	17.9%	100.0%	N=1304
One	20.1%	12.1%	37.9%	29.9%	100.0%	N=70
Two	12.8%	8.9%	24.8%	53.5%	100.0%	N=43
Three or more	9.6%	10.9%	32.1%	47.4%	100.0%	N=27
Total	42.0%	12.7%	24.4%	20.9%	100.0%	N=1444

Children Who Fish	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	45.7%	12.8%	23.6%	17.9%	100.0%	N=1313
One	21.4%	16.4%	29.9%	32.3%	100.0%	N=69
Two	12.5%	2.9%	27.4%	57.2%	100.0%	N=41
Three or more	8.6%	12.9%	35.3%	43.1%	100.0%	N=22
Total	42.1%	12.7%	24.4%	20.9%	100.0%	N=1445

Children Who Hunt	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
None	42.6%	12.7%	24.1%	20.7%	100.0%	N=1424
One	6.6%	14.9%	43.2%	35.3%	100.0%	N=19
Two	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	N=1
Three or more	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na
Total	42.0%	12.7%	24.4%	20.9%	100.0%	N=1444

Children in the Household	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Total	N Observations
	40.3%	0.0%	28.3%	31.4%	100.0%	N=32
L1	43.8%	13.7%	25.0%	17.4%	100.0%	N=372
L2	38.1%	16.6%	24.3%	21.0%	100.0%	N=253
L3	51.4%	7.0%	23.0%	18.7%	100.0%	N=27
L4	54.9%	7.2%	15.3%	22.6%	100.0%	N=43
L5	46.0%	11.7%	16.3%	26.1%	100.0%	N=150
L6	45.7%	24.9%	19.6%	9.7%	100.0%	N=24
L7	28.3%	9.5%	42.0%	20.2%	100.0%	N=43
L8	42.1%	13.8%	16.6%	27.5%	100.0%	N=30
L9	36.0%	12.8%	34.6%	16.6%	100.0%	N=95
L10	42.1%	9.8%	27.1%	21.0%	100.0%	N=100
L11	40.3%	10.1%	27.6%	22.0%	100.0%	N=92
L12	43.0%	11.7%	23.1%	22.2%	100.0%	N=202
Total	42.0%	12.6%	24.6%	20.7%	100.0%	N=1463

Sales and Revenue Forecasts For Selected Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Permits in Oregon

For:
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

By:
Southwick Associates
June 27, 2013 (rev 7-2-2013)



**PO Box 6435
Fernandina Beach, FL32035
Tel (904) 277-9765**

www.southwickassociates.com

Executive Summary

Sales and Revenue Forecasts for Selected Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Permits in Oregon

This report uses historical sales data provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to estimate the demand for fishing and hunting licenses and permits. The results of the demand analysis are used to estimate potential changes in license revenues and units sold for a range of different license prices.

***NOTE:** In addition to price, license sales are determined by a variety of factors that are beyond the control of policy makers and subject to unforeseen changes. As a result, this analysis is not intended to provide exact estimates of sales and revenues that will result from any specific price changes. Instead, the results are best used to estimate relative changes in sales and revenues that might arise from changes in license prices. For example, the models are useful indicators for which licenses are better able to withstand price changes and produce greater revenues, and which licenses may generate reduced revenues if prices are raised.*

Procedures

License sales were examined for both resident and non-resident hunting and fishing licenses and permits using estimated equations where the annual number of each license type sold is a function of the license price and other relevant variables. These equations were then used to predict license sales in 2013 at various price levels. License sales are predicted for 2013 under the assumption that the non-price factors included in the models (e.g., population, per capita income, etc.) continue to change at long-term historical rates. The predicted unit sales were then multiplied by the portion of the license prices that is retained by the ODFW to project annual revenues.

Overview of Model Results

Demand models were estimated for seven of Oregon's licenses and permits. Four of these are resident license and three are nonresident licenses. There were several other license and permits for which models could not be estimated due to lack of a sufficient sales history. Efforts were made to model the sales of resident and nonresident big game tags, but the results either were not statistically reliable or produce perverse economic results. The Resident Sports Pac could not be modeled on its own, but its effects are included in some of the other models, notably the Resident Hunting and Resident Combination licenses. Data for the several short-term licenses was provided by ODFW but several outstanding issues could not be reconciled sufficiently for modeling purposes. Annual Salmon and Steelhead runs were found to have no statistically significant effect on the then number of licenses sold and are not included in any of the final models¹.

¹ An alternate regression model that includes the salmon numbers is provided in the Appendix.

Table 1, below, shows predicted sales and revenues for each license assuming a one-dollar increase in the price.

The following licenses appear to be overpriced from a revenue maximizing perspective, meaning that increasing the price will result in less revenue as well as fewer license buyers:

- Resident Juvenile Fishing License
- Resident Combination License
- Resident Hunting License
- Nonresident Fishing License
- Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing License

The following licenses are able to withstand an increase in price without a loss of license revenue. A price increase, however, will result in fewer license buyers:

- Resident Fishing License
- Nonresident Hunting License

Table 1. Predicted Effect of \$1 Price Increase.

	Licenses Sold		License Revenue	
	#	% Change	\$	% Change
Resident Fishing License	247,929	-2.3%	\$ 7,933,716	0.9%
Resident Juvenile Fishing License	15,038	-14.1%	\$ 120,308	-1.8%
Resident Combination License	65,639	-2.2%	\$ 3,741,405	-0.5%
Resident Hunting	89,838	-4.7%	\$ 2,560,374	-1.2%
Total: Selected Resident Privileges	418,444	-3.3%	\$ 14,355,804	0.1%
Nonresident Fishing License	15,366	-1.1%	\$ 1,617,262	-0.2%
Nonresident 7/10-Day Fishing License	12,570	-3.0%	\$ 738,492	-1.3%
Nonresident Hunting License	17,229	-0.4%	\$ 2,403,468	0.3%
Total: Selected Nonresident Privileges	45,165	-1.4%	\$ 4,759,222	-0.1%
Total: All Selected Privileges	463,609	-3.1%	\$ 19,115,026	0.1%

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Introduction

This analysis uses historical sales data (1980 through 2012) provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for Oregon hunting and fishing licenses to forecast changes in 2013 license revenues and unit sales for a range of alternative license prices and to forecast license sales through 2018 assuming no change from the current license prices.

The forecasts are based on models often referred to as 'estimated demand equations.' The models, or demand equations, express the quantity of an item sold (numbers of each specific license type) as a function of its cost (license price) and other variables that help to explain yearly variations in license sales. License prices are the key prediction variables that are under the control of policy makers in Oregon. The effects of changes in license prices on the number of licenses sold can then be used to determine whether revenues generated by license sales will increase or decrease in response to price changes. Separate models have been produced for seven different types of licenses for which demand equations could be estimated.

The accuracy of each equation used to predict license sales and revenues is examined by comparing the historical estimates produced by the demand models to actual sales for the years in the study period. Subsequently, revenue predictions are reported for 2013 at various pricing levels.

Modeling the Demand for Licenses and Permits

Estimated demand equations portray the statistical relationship between the quantity of licenses sold, the price of a license, and the other variables that may influence license sales. In addition to the price of a license, other factors also affect license sales in any given year and are included in the models to help isolate the influence of license prices. A variety of economic and socioeconomic factors were tested in the development of the models, including statewide population, per capita income, unemployment rates and construction activity. Factors that sometimes appear in license demand models, such as the price of gasoline, precipitation and temperature data were largely unused in these models. For statistical efficiency, fewer explanatory variables are preferred, and in the case of most licenses modeled in this study a small number of factors including the price of the objective license, prices of substitute licenses, population, long-term trends in sales and per capita income were adequate to achieve high levels of statistical reliability.

Wherever possible, the influence of population is included in the models on the left-hand side of the equations by defining the independent variables as license sales per capita. In addition to reducing the number of explanatory variables on the right-hand side, it mitigates the covariance problems that arise when explanatory variables are highly

correlated. In many instance, population is closely correlated to year. After the demand equations are estimated, the explanatory variable (licenses per capita) are converted to numbers of licenses by multiplying the annual predicted values by the annual population.

Finally, all dollar values in the models are adjusted for inflation and converted to real dollars. The inflation-adjusted dollars represent the true price of licenses and injects annual variation in the license prices while the nominal price only changes in years when license prices actually increase. As a result, the real price of a license generally declines each year that the nominal price is constant (e.g., in the years between price changes). An exception to this trend occurred in 2009 when mild deflation had the opposite effect.

Sales Predictions Comparisons

As an indication of the accuracy of the demand-equation predictions of license sales and revenues, the equations' historical estimates of license sales during the study period were compared with actual sales. The equations' historical estimates are based on all variables in the models being set to their actual values for each year in the study period. The fit of the estimated values to the actual values is an indication of the model's ability to predict future license sales.

Revenue Predictions

Estimates of future revenue at various price levels assume constant long-term trends in the explanatory variables. Given that the non-price variables included in the models are constantly shifting (such as gasoline price fluctuations, weather, regulations, etc.) the models will not necessarily predict exact numbers of license sales in the future, regardless of their accuracy in estimating past license sales. The models are best used when the license sales and potential revenues at different price levels are compared to determine which licenses produce more or less revenue at different prices, and which ones retain greater or fewer sportsmen.

Forecasts of future license sales through 2018 are based on assumed trends in the factors that influence license sales and a constant nominal license price.

Model Results

Demand equations could be estimated for thirteen of Oregon's fishing and hunting licenses and permits. This includes five resident license and permit types, six nonresident licenses and permits, and two permits that are offered to both residents and nonresidents:

- Resident Fishing License
- Resident Juvenile Fishing License
- Resident Combination License
- Resident Hunting License
- Nonresident Fishing License
- Nonresident 7-Day Fishing License
- Nonresident Hunting License

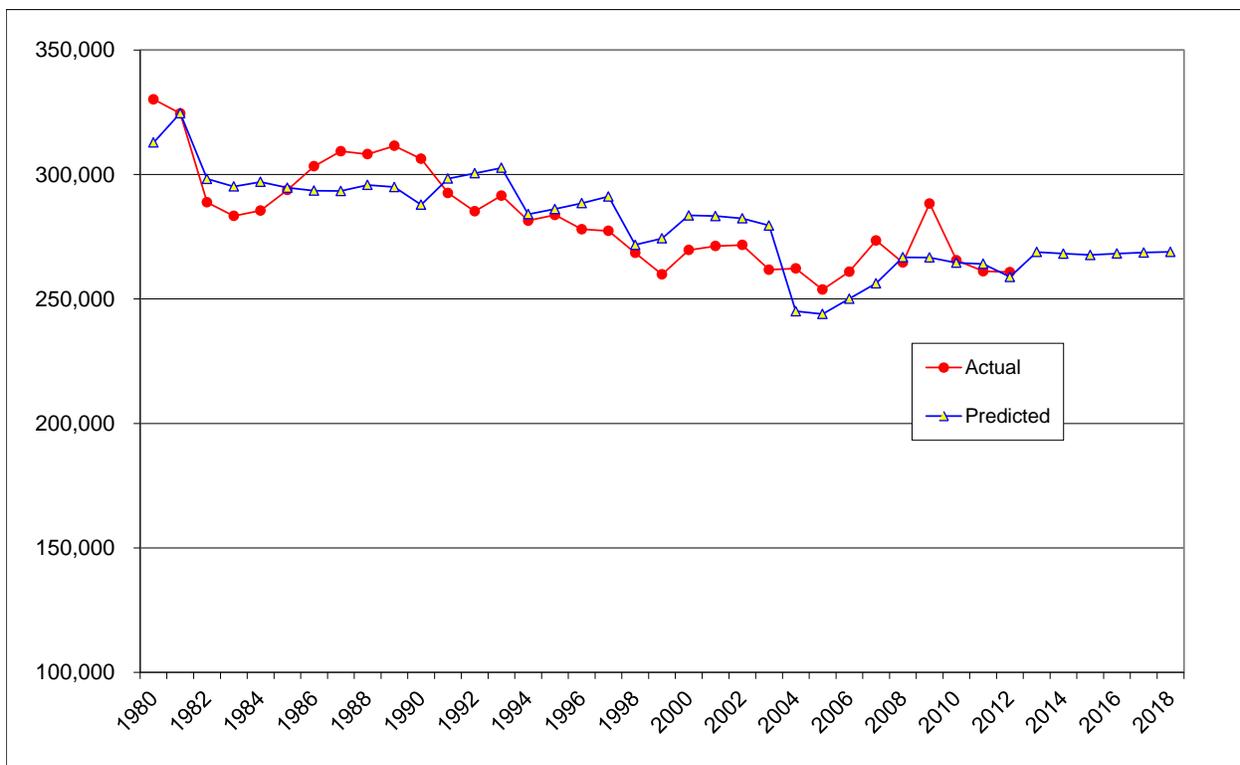
There were also several licenses and tags for which no model was estimated. In most cases this was due to the lack of a sufficient price history or low sales numbers. In the case of the game tags (e.g., deer tag, elk tag, bear tag), an attempt was made to model demand but the results were deemed to be unreliable due to the implementation over time of quota limits on the sale of tags. The use of quotas introduces a non-market restriction on the number of tags sold, therefore in years when quota limits are reached price is a meaningless factor in the market decisions of sportsmen. The Resident Sports Pac could not be modeled, having only been introduced in 2001. However, its effect on sales of other license types is included in some of the models, namely those for the Resident Hunting and Resident Combination licenses.

Summary results are presented for each of the license and permit types for which demand equations could be estimated including two charts and one table: 1) a chart that compares historical sales estimated by the models to actual historical sales as an indicator of accuracy and fit, 2) a chart that shows the predicted effects of price changes in 2013 on licenses sold and total revenue, and 3) a table that shows predicted sales and revenue at the current price as well as with a one-dollar price increase and at the license revenue and total revenue maximizing prices. In the second chart, the effect of price on the number of licenses sold (the demand curve) is represented by a downward sloping, blue line with estimated sales shown on the vertical axis to the right of the chart. The projected license revenue generated by sales at each price point is represented by an orange line with estimated total revenues shown in the vertical axis to the left of the chart. Projected total revenue, including license revenue as well as federal funds, is represented by a pink line. Theoretically, the price that would generate the maximum amount of revenue occurs at the top of total revenue curve. *However, the reader is urged to use caution in cases where the revenue maximizing price assumes a price increase substantially larger than has occurred in the past as estimated sales and revenue under this assumption may not be reliable.* Statistical details for each model and estimated parameter coefficients are presented in an appendix.

Resident Fishing License

- The model generally is a good fit to historical license sales, though an unexplained spike in actual sales in 2009 is not accounted by the explanatory variable. (Figure 1).
- Variation in the independent variables accounts for 95% of the variation in sales (see Table 9 on page 18 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).
- The model forecasts that future sales will stabilize slightly above current levels if the price of the license remains unchanged.

Figure 1. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Resident Fishing Licenses.



- The current price of \$33.00 is below the revenue maximizing price, both in terms of direct license revenue and total revenue including federal aid (Figure 2).
- A one-dollar increase in the price of the Resident Fishing License (3.0% increase in price) would result in a 0.9% increase in license revenue and a 0.3% increase in total revenue including federal aid (Table 2).
- License revenue would be maximized with a 20.3% increase to at a price of \$39.70.
- Total revenue including federal aid would be maximized with a 10.0% increase to at a price of \$36.30.

Figure 2. Predicted 2013 Resident Fishing License Sales and Revenue

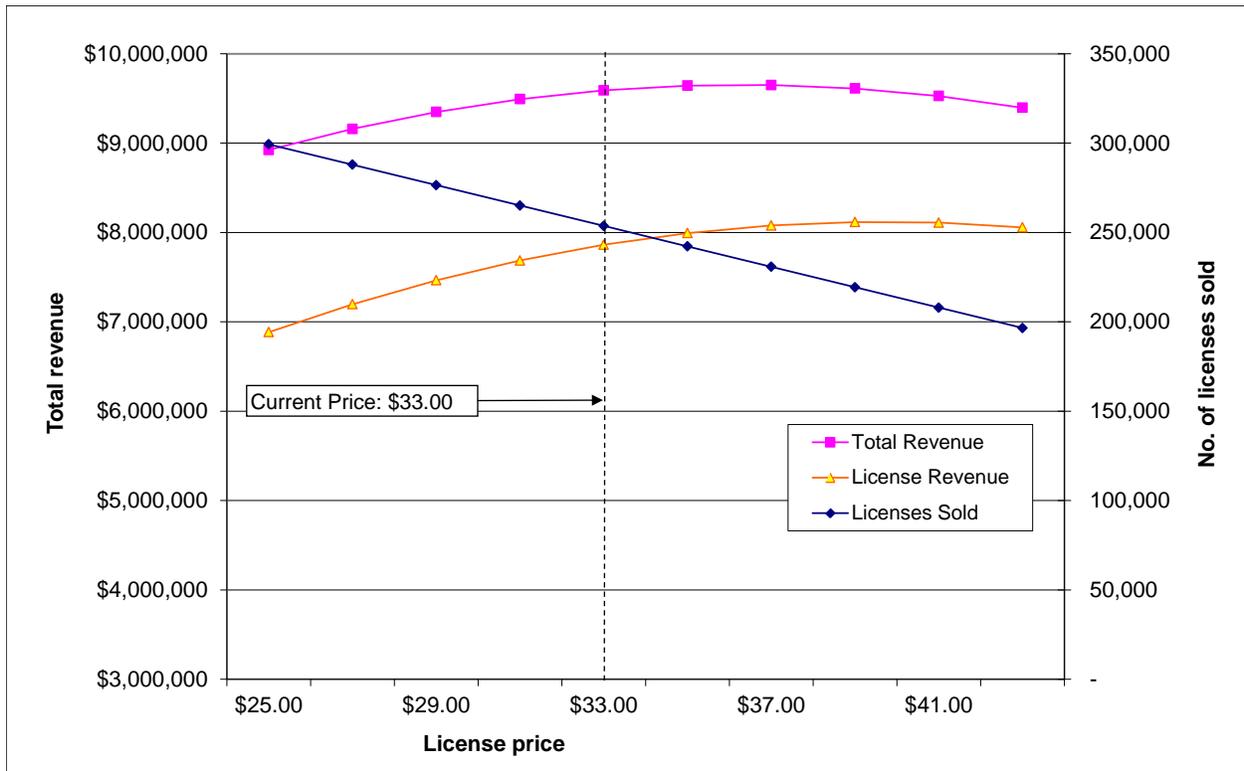


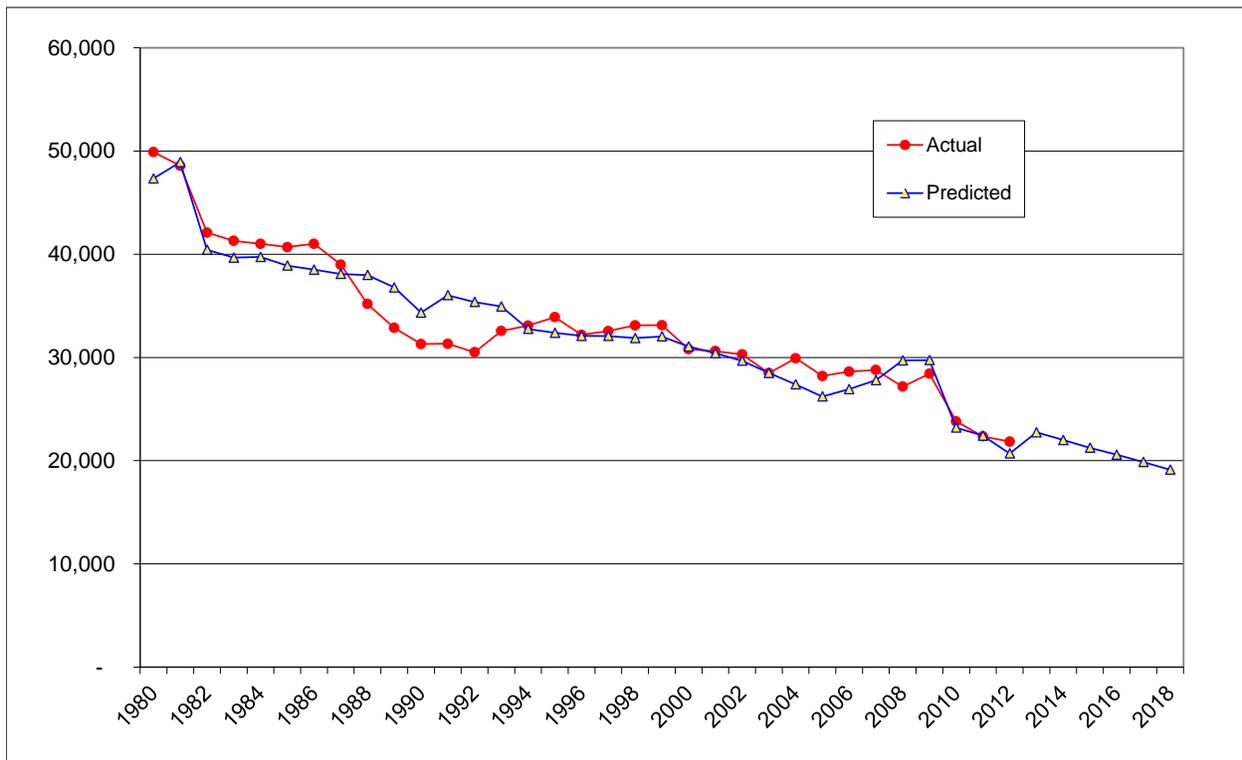
Table 2. Predictions of the Resident Fishing License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$33.00	\$36.30	10.0%	\$39.70	20.3%	\$34.00	3.0%
Licenses Sold	253,640	234,793	-7.4%	215,346	-15.1%	247,929	-2.3%
License Revenue	\$7,862,840	\$8,053,381	2.4%	\$8,119,599	3.3%	\$7,933,717	0.9%
Federal Aid	\$1,727,288	\$1,598,941	-7.4%	\$1,466,506	-15.1%	\$1,688,394	-2.3%
Total Revenue	\$9,590,128	\$9,652,322	0.6%	\$9,586,104	0.0%	\$9,622,111	0.3%

Resident Juvenile Fishing License

- The model is a very good fit with actual sales, particularly in the years since 1994 (Figure 3).
- Variation in the independent variables accounts for 96% of the variation in sales (see Table 10 on page 19 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).
- The model forecasts a continuing downward trend in license sales comparable to the rate of decline between 1995 and 2002.

Figure 3. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Resident Juvenile Fishing Licenses.



- The current price of \$9.00 is almost exactly the price needed to maximize revenue received directly from license sales. Due to the additional funds received through federal aid, total revenue, including the federal aid, could be maximized at a lower price of \$5.64. (Figure 4).
- A one-dollar increase in the price of the Resident Fishing License (11.1% increase in price) would result in a 1.8% decline in license revenue and a 7.9% decline in total revenue including federal aid (Table 3).
- License revenue would be maximized at a price of \$9.05 and total revenue including federal aid would be maximized at a price of \$5.64.
- Construction activity is a frequent factor in license sales (increase in construction activity leads to less available time for fishing and reduced license sales.) It appears in the juvenile model, most likely through the impact on the parents of juvenile anglers.

Figure 4. Predicted 2013 Resident Juvenile Fishing License Sales and Revenue

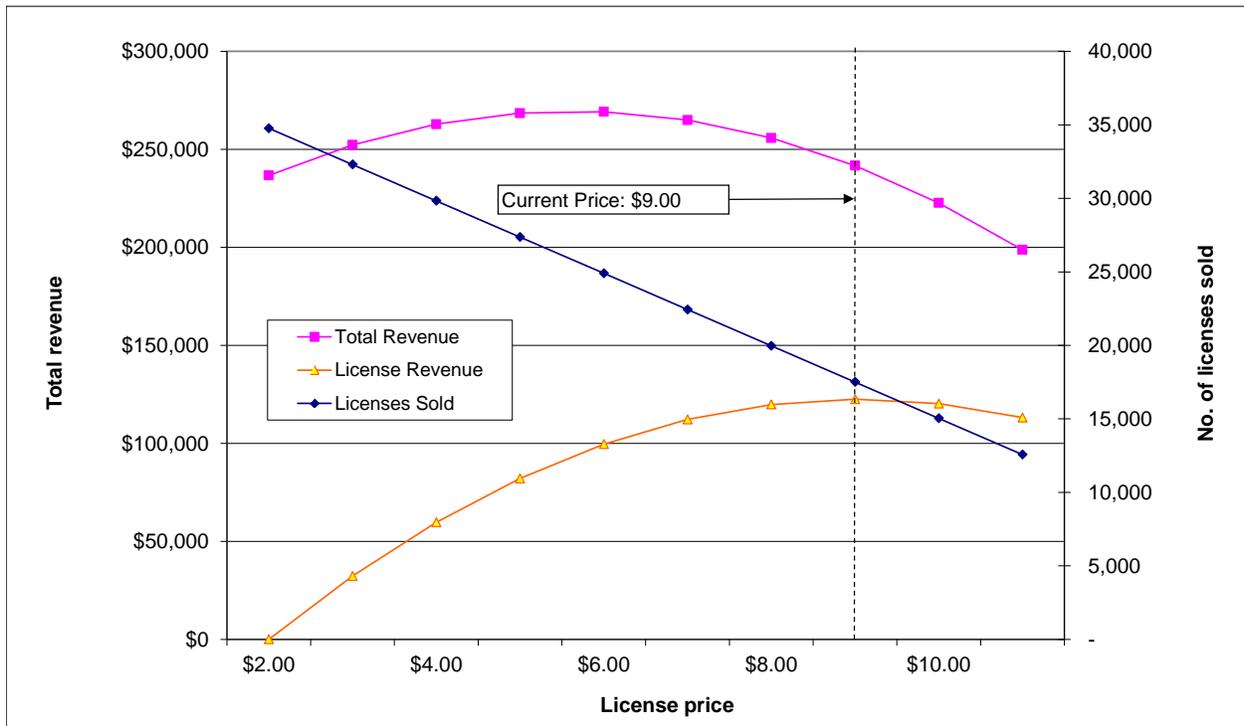


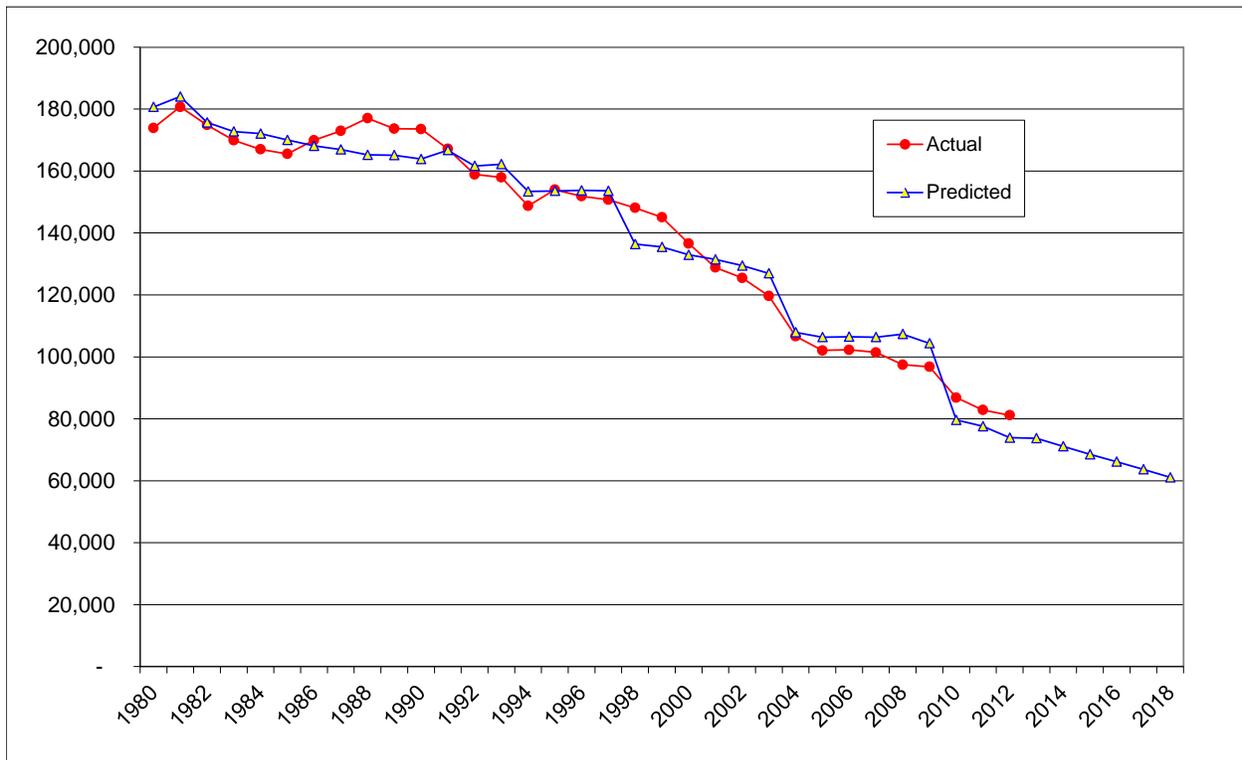
Table 3. Predictions of the Resident Juvenile Fishing License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$9.00	\$5.64	-37.3%	\$9.05	0.5%	\$10.00	11.1%
Licenses Sold	17,505	25,782	47.3%	17,384	-0.7%	15,038	-14.1%
License Revenue	\$122,533	\$93,945	-23.3%	\$122,539	0.0%	\$120,308	-1.8%
Federal Aid	\$119,207	\$175,575	47.3%	\$118,387	-0.7%	\$102,412	-14.1%
Total Revenue	\$241,741	\$269,520	11.5%	\$240,926	-0.3%	\$222,720	-7.9%

Resident Combination License

- The model is a very good fit with actual historical sales (Figure 5).
- Variation in the independent variables accounts for 98% of the variation in sales (see Table 11 on page 20 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).
- The models forecasts continuing downward trend in sales with slight moderation in the rate of decline compared to sales since 2000.

Figure 5. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Resident Combination Licenses.



- The current price of \$58.00 is above the revenue maximizing price both in terms of direct license revenue and total revenue including federal aid (Figure 6).
- A one-dollar price increase (1.7% increase in license price) would result in a 0.5% decrease in license revenue and a 0.7% decrease in total revenue including federal aid.
- The model indicates that license revenue would be maximized at a price of \$52.63 and that total revenue would be maximized at a price of \$49.23. These would require a 9.3% and 15.1% reduction in license prices, respectively.
- The model indicates that the introduction of the resident Sports Pac negatively affected sales of the Resident Combination License.
- While price reductions are sometimes counterintuitive for increasing revenue from license sales, the model provides strong evidence that, at the very least, no the price of the combination license should not be increased in the near term.

Figure 6. Predicted 2013 Resident Combination License Sales and Revenue

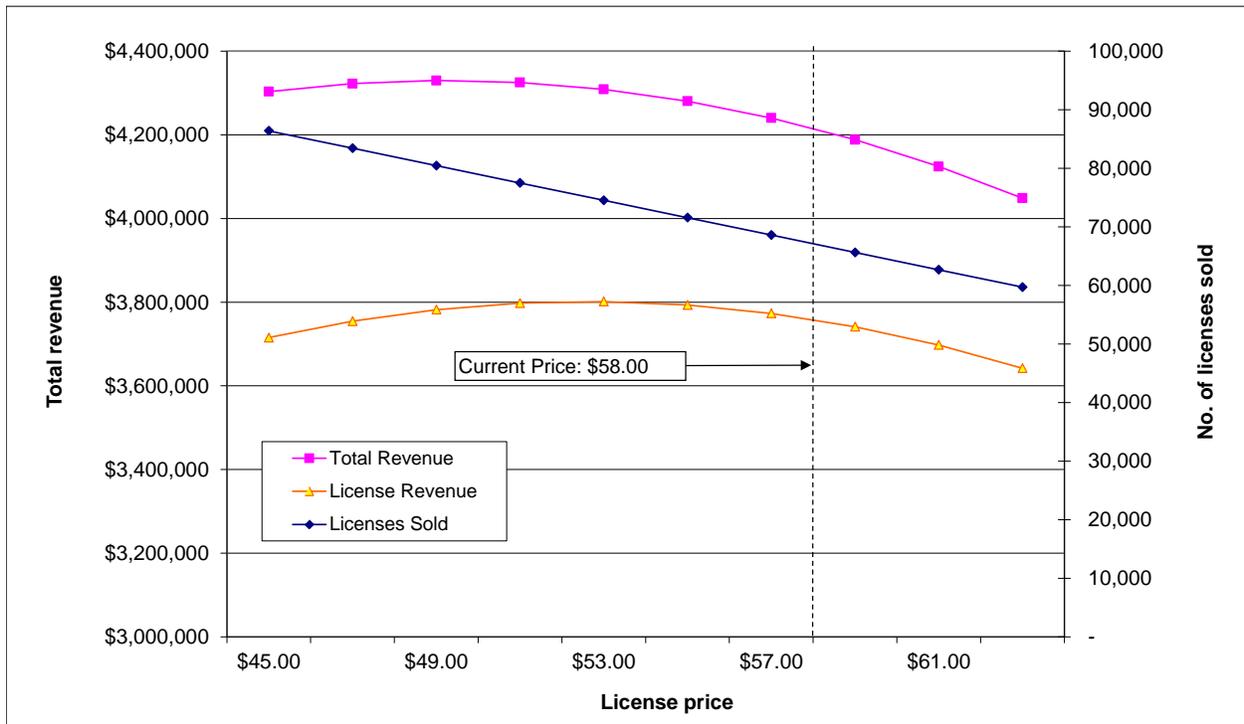


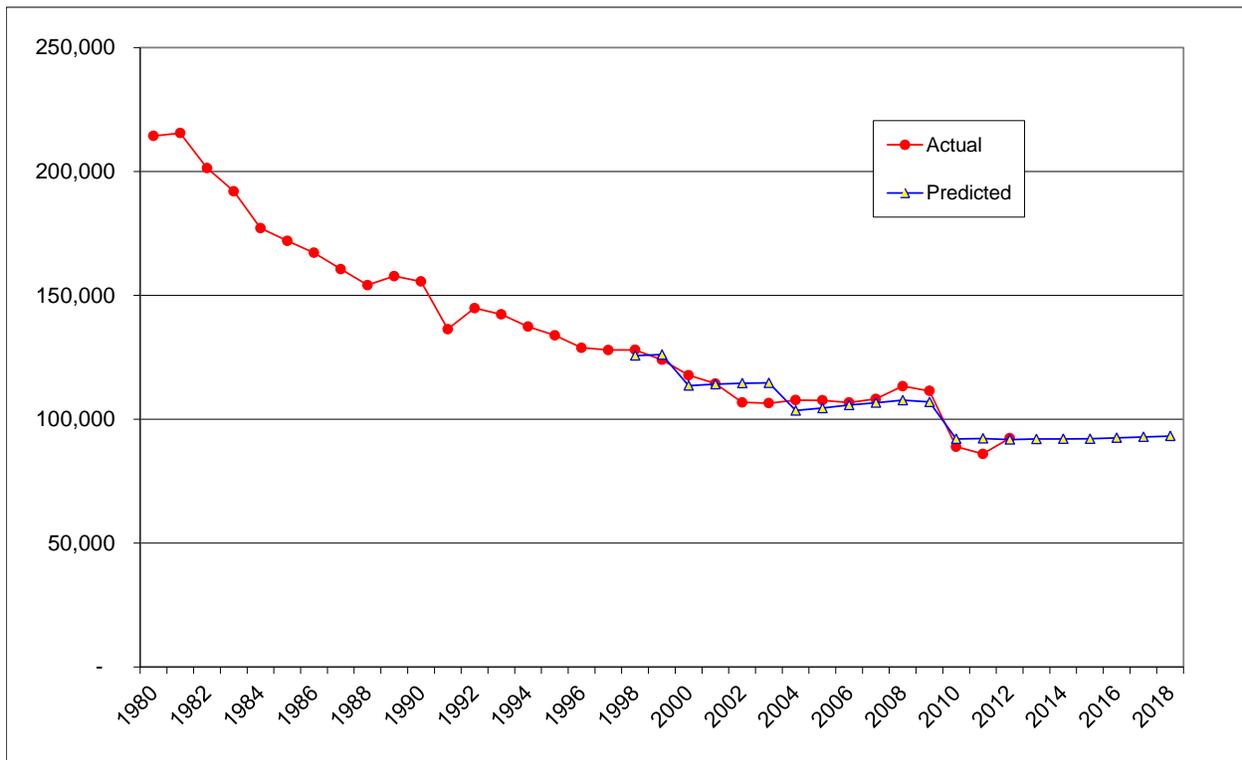
Table 4. Predictions of the Resident Combination License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$58.00	\$49.23	-15.1%	\$52.63	-9.3%	\$59.00	1.7%
Licenses Sold	67,122	80,131	19.4%	75,082	11.9%	65,639	-2.2%
License Revenue	\$3,758,809	\$3,784,350	0.7%	\$3,801,543	1.1%	\$3,741,405	-0.5%
Federal Aid	\$457,098	\$545,695	19.4%	\$511,309	11.9%	\$446,999	-2.2%
Total Revenue	\$4,215,907	\$4,330,045	2.7%	\$4,312,853	2.3%	\$4,188,405	-0.7%

Resident Hunting License

- This partial model is a good fit with actual sales during the period for which complete model data is available. The model incorporates the price of the Resident Sports Pac as a potential substitute license. The resident Sports Pac was not introduced until 1998 (Figure 5).
- Despite the limited data, variation in the independent variables accounts for 92% of the variation in sales (see Table 12 on page 21 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).

Figure 7. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Resident Hunting Licenses.



- The current price of \$29.50 is above the point at which revenue from direct license sales is maximized both in terms of direct license revenue and total revenue including federal aid (Figure 6).
- A one-dollar price increase (3.4% increase in price) would result in a 1.2% reduction in license revenue and a 1.9% reduction in total revenue including federal aid.
- The model indicates that direct license revenue would be maximized at a price of \$26.36 and that total revenue would be maximized at a price of \$22.96. This would require price reduction of 10.6% and 22.2%, respectively.
- The model indicates that the price of the Sports Pac has an effect on sales of the Resident Hunting License. Increases in the price of the Sports Pac lead small numbers of people to shift to the annual hunting license. Conversely, relative

price reductions in the price of the Sports Pac can siphon buyers of the annual hunting license.

- While price reductions are sometimes counterintuitive for increasing revenue from license sales, the model provides strong evidence that, at the very least, no the price of the combination license should not be increased in the near term.

Figure 8. Predicted 2013 Resident Hunting License Sales and Revenue

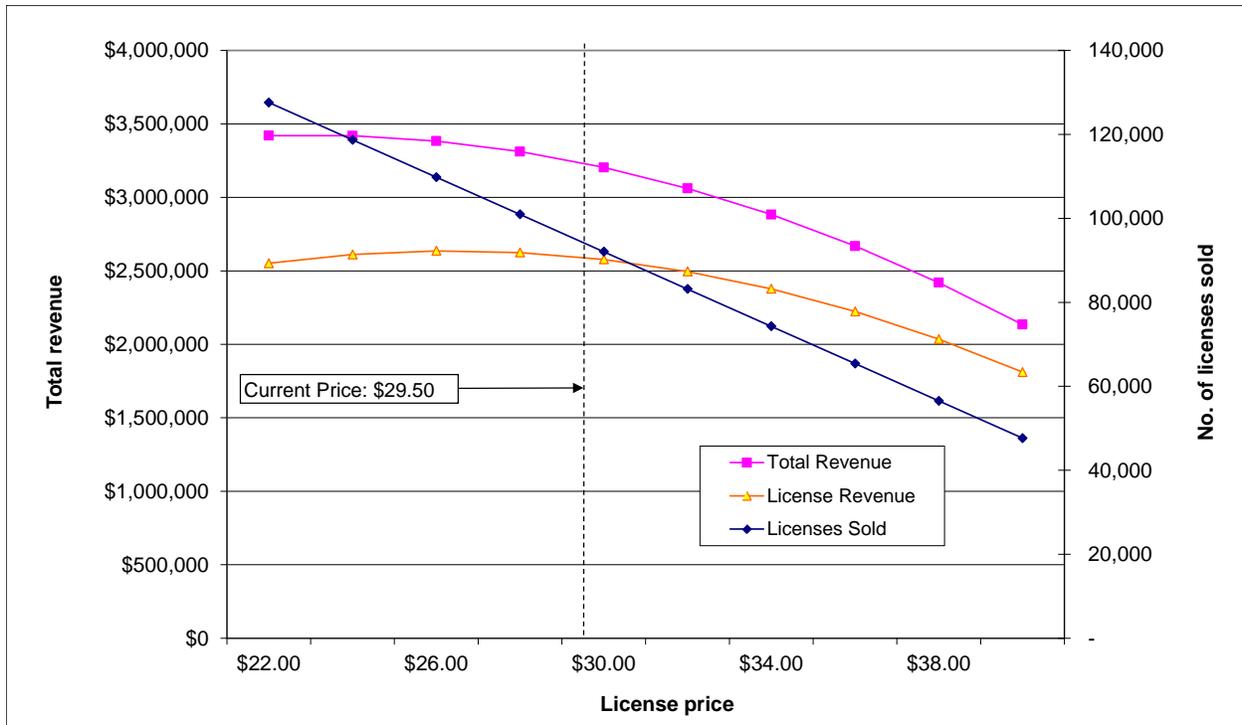


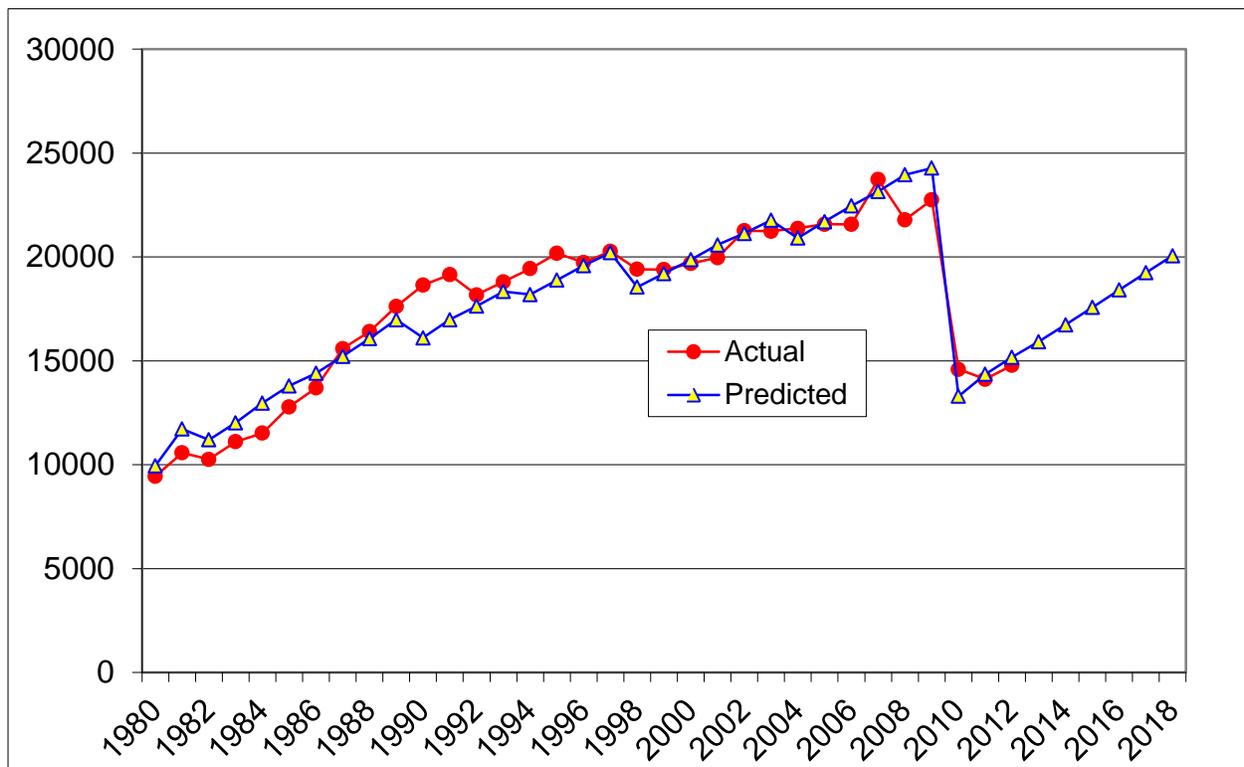
Table 5. Predictions of the Resident Hunting License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$29.50	\$22.96	-22.2%	\$26.36	-10.6%	\$30.50	3.4%
Licenses Sold	94,279	123,322	30.8%	108,201	14.8%	89,838	-4.7%
License Revenue	\$2,592,660	\$2,584,820	-0.3%	\$2,636,308	1.7%	\$2,560,374	-1.2%
Federal Aid	\$642,037	\$839,823	30.8%	\$736,848	14.8%	\$611,795	-4.7%
Total Revenue	\$3,234,697	\$3,424,643	5.9%	\$3,373,156	4.3%	\$3,172,169	-1.9%

Nonresident Fishing License

- The model is a good fit with actual sales and accurately accounts for the step reduction in license sales that occurred in 2010 (Figure 7).
- Variation in the independent variables accounts for 94% of the variation in sales (see Table 13 on page 22 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).
- After the sharp drop in sales in 2012, license sales declined slight in 2011 and increased in 2012. The model forecasts continued strong growth in the sales of this license at rates comparable to those before 2010.

Figure 9. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Nonresident Fishing Licenses.



- The current price of \$106.25 is above the revenue maximizing price, both in terms of direct license revenue and total revenue including federal aid (Figure 8).
- A one-dollar increase in the price of the Nonresident Fishing License (a 0.1% increase in license price) would result in a negligible decline in license revenue and a 0.7% decrease in total revenue including federal aid (Table 5).
- License revenue would be maximized by reducing the license price to \$86.39 and total revenue including federal aid would be maximized with a price reduction to \$82.99. Price reductions are sometimes counterintuitive for increasing revenue from license sales, the model provide strong evidence that, at the very least, no the price of the combination license should not be increased in the near term.

- The model also indicates a potential substitution effect between the annual fishing license and the short-term 7-day nonresident fishing license.

Figure 10. Predicted 2013 Nonresident Fishing License Sales and Revenue.

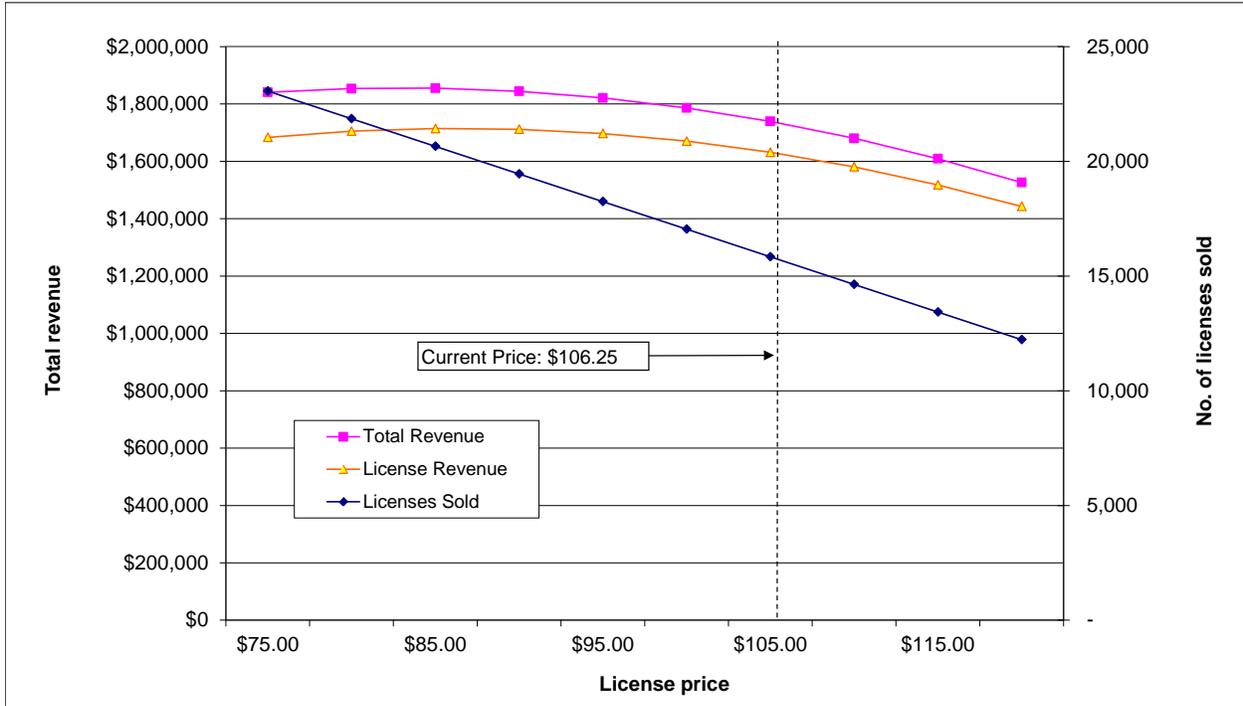


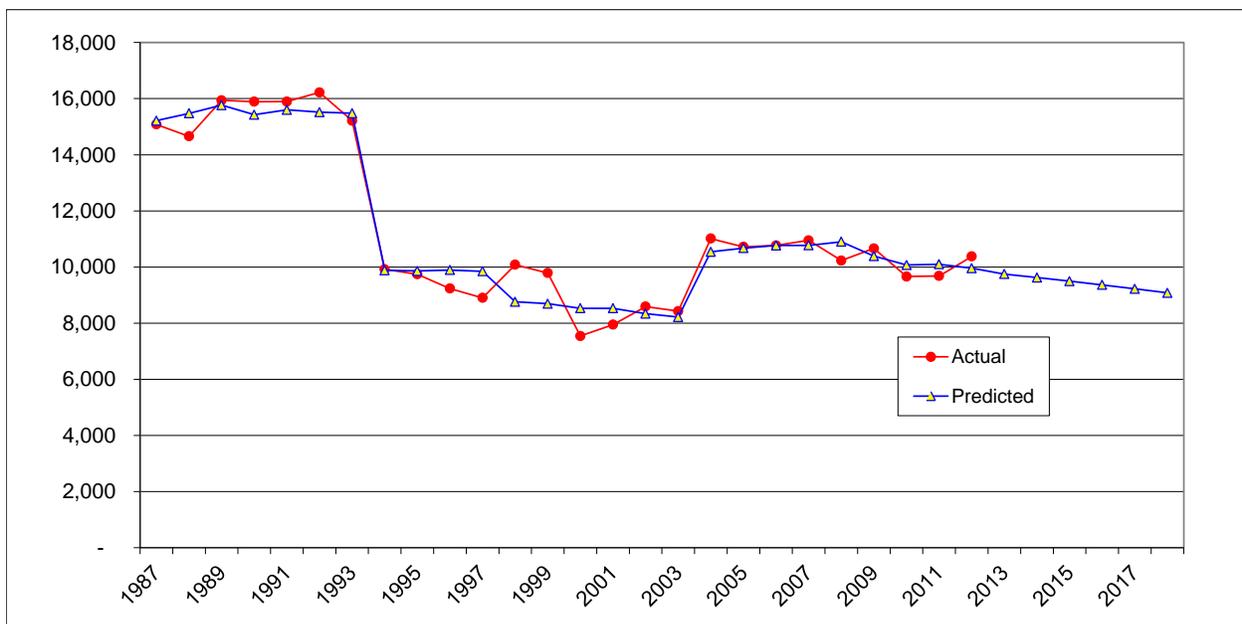
Table 6. Predictions of the Non-Resident Fishing License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$106.25	\$82.99	-21.9%	\$86.39	-18.7%	\$107.25	0.9%
Licenses Sold	15,539	21,139	36.0%	20,320	30.8%	15,298	-1.5%
License Revenue	\$1,619,934	\$1,712,065	5.7%	\$1,714,857	5.9%	\$1,610,132	-0.6%
Federal Aid	\$105,820	\$143,959	36.0%	\$138,376	30.8%	\$104,181	-1.5%
Total Revenue	\$1,725,754	\$1,856,025	7.5%	\$1,853,233	7.4%	\$1,714,312	-0.7%

Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing License

- The price of the 7-day/10-day was increased by 80% in 1982. The magnitude of the price increase was much greater than any other increase since then, therefore the early years were omitted. The resulting model is a good fit to the historical sales data (Figure 11). It captures the sharp drop in license sales in 1994 associated with a price increase that year.
- The sharp increase in sales in 2004 is likely related to creation of the Adult Combined Fish Tag. Since the 7-day/10-day license includes the fish tag privileges, that event likely shifted some nonresident anglers to the 7-day/10-day license. It is addressed in the model with a dummy variable.
- Variation in the independent variables accounts for 98% of the variation in sales (see Table 14 on page 23 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model).
- The model forecasts continued slow decline in license sales absent any future price increases.

Figure 11. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing Licenses.



- The current price of \$59.75 is well above the revenue maximizing price, both in terms of direct license revenue and total revenue including federal aid (Figure 12).
- A one-dollar increase in the price of the Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing License (a 1.7% increase in license price) would result in a 2.7% reduction in license revenue and a 2.9% reduction in total revenue including federal aid (Table 7).

- License revenue would be maximized by reducing the license price to \$38.94 and total revenue including federal aid would be maximized with a price reduction to \$42.34.
- While price reductions are sometimes counterintuitive for increasing revenue from license sales, the model provides strong evidence that, at the very least, no the price of the combination license should not be increased in the near term.

Figure 12. Predicted 2013 Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing License Sales and Revenue.

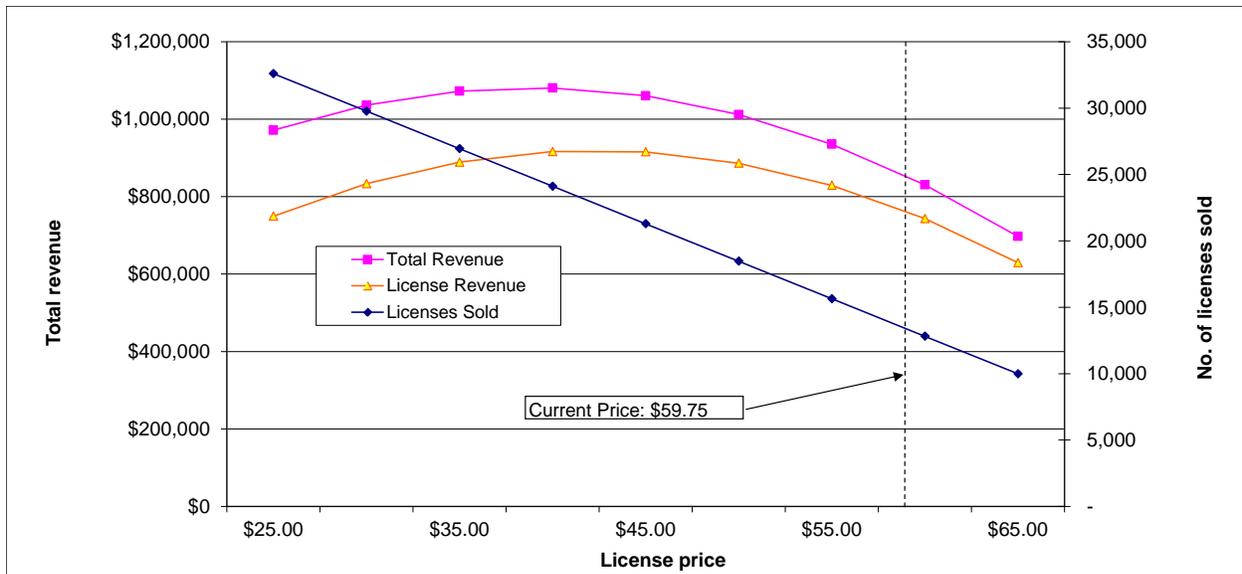


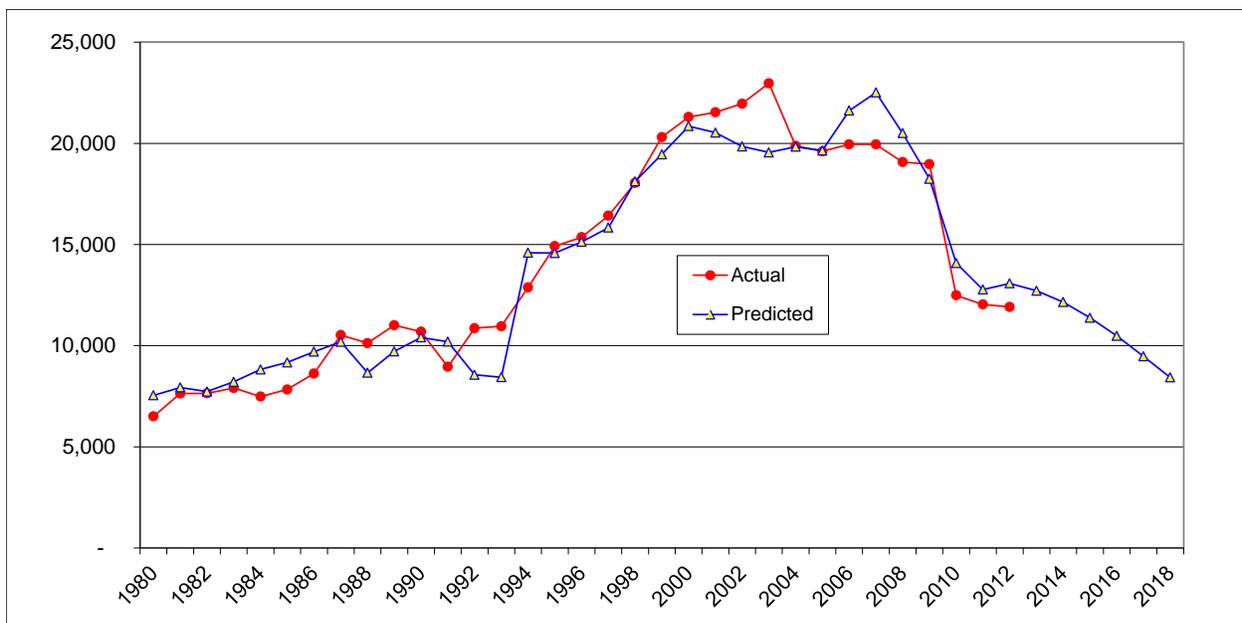
Table 7. Predictions of the Nonresident 7-day/10-day Fishing License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$59.75	\$38.94	-34.8%	\$42.34	-29.1%	\$60.75	1.7%
Licenses Sold	12,958	24,720	90.8%	22,796	75.9%	12,393	-4.4%
License Revenue	\$748,304	\$913,034	22.0%	\$919,585	22.9%	\$728,062	-2.7%
Federal Aid	\$88,242	\$168,343	90.8%	\$155,239	75.9%	\$84,393	-4.4%
Total Revenue	\$836,545	\$1,081,376	29.3%	\$1,074,825	28.5%	\$812,456	-2.9%

Nonresident Hunting License

- The model is a good fit to the actual sales data, with 88% of the variation in sales accounted for by variations in the independent variables (see Table 16 on page 25 in the appendix for complete statistical details of the model). The model accurately captures the growth and subsequent decline in license sales over the study period.
- Both the nonresident fishing and hunting licenses experienced large and sudden drops in license sales due to sharp increases in license prices. In this case, the model forecasts a continuing deterioration of license sales.

Figure 13. Actual vs. Predicted Sales of Nonresident Hunting Licenses.



- The current price of \$140.50 is well below the revenue maximizing price (Figure 20). Demand for this license is very inelastic, meaning price is not a significant determinant in sales.
- A one-dollar price increase would result in a 0.3% increase in both license revenue and in total revenue including federal aid (Table 11).
- The model indicates that license revenue would be maximized at a price of \$197.91 and that total revenue would be maximized at a price of \$194.51.
- In general the model indicates that revenue could be increased by significantly raising the price of the Nonresident Hunting License.

Figure 14. Predicted 2012 Nonresident Hunting License Sales and Revenue.

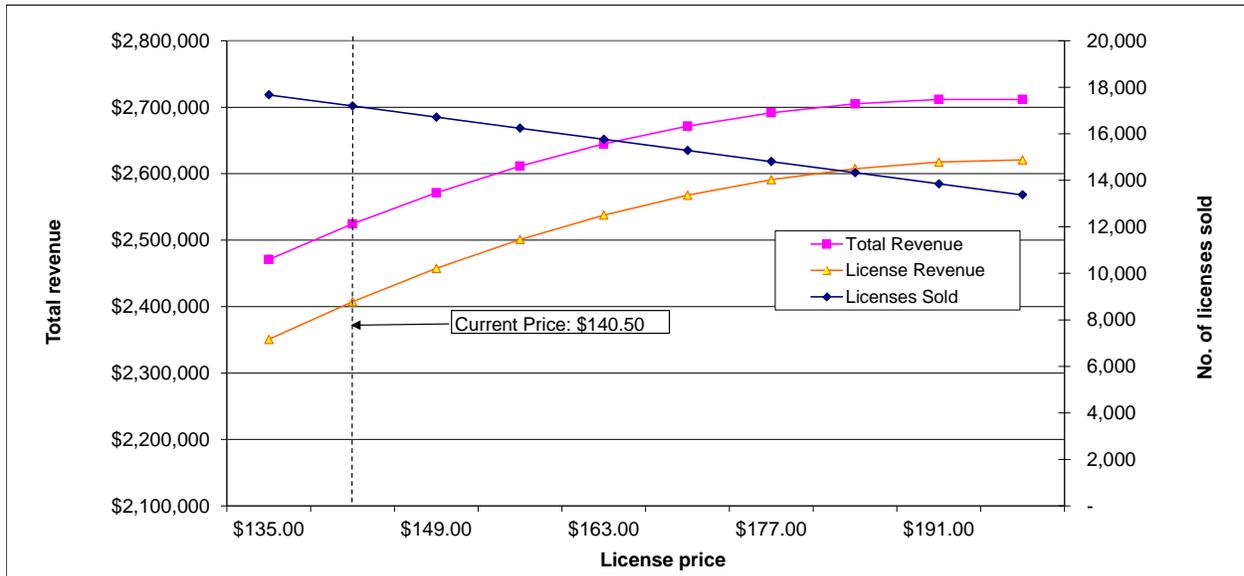


Table 8. Predictions of the Nonresident Hunting License Model.

Pricing Scenarios	Baseline Scenario (no price change)	Total Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	Direct License Revenue Maximizing Scenario*	% Change	\$1 License Price Increase	% Change
Price	\$140.50	\$194.51	38.4%	\$197.91	40.9%	\$141.50	0.7%
Licenses Sold	17,297	13,610	-21.3%	13,377	-22.7%	17,229	-0.4%
License Revenue	\$2,395,696	\$2,619,972	9.4%	\$2,620,764	9.4%	\$2,403,468	0.3%
Federal Aid	\$117,796	\$92,682	-21.3%	\$91,099	-22.7%	\$117,331	-0.4%
Total Revenue	\$2,513,491	\$2,712,654	7.9%	\$2,711,863	7.9%	\$2,520,798	0.3%

Statistical Details of the Regression Models

Resident Fishing License

Model Specification:

$$q_r_fish = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_r_fish + \beta_3*d10_12beyond + buildunits$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_r_fish	Price of Resident Fishing License
D10_12beyond	Dummy variable to account for license restructuring in 2010.
buildunits	Housing units authorized by permit in Oregon

Table 9. Complete Statistical Output of the Resident Fishing License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_RESFISHPOP
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/27/13 Time: 20:17
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	3.609079	0.202736	17.80184	0.0000
YEAR	-0.001742	0.000103	-16.85676	0.0000
RP_RESFISH	-0.001452	0.000414	-3.507971	0.0015
D10_12BEYOND	0.012590	0.004451	2.828310	0.0086
BUILDUNITS	-2.31E-07	1.25E-07	-1.842829	0.0760
R-squared	0.953710	Mean dependent var		0.090226
Adjusted R-squared	0.947097	S.D. dependent var		0.018142
S.E. of regression	0.004173	Akaike info criterion		-7.981798
Sum squared resid	0.000488	Schwarz criterion		-7.755055
Log likelihood	136.6997	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-7.905506
F-statistic	144.2214	Durbin-Watson stat		0.866190
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Resident Juvenile Fishing License

Model Specification:

$$q_r_jntfish = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_r_juvfish + \beta_3*buildunits$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_r_juvfish	Price of Resident Juvenile Fishing License
buildunits	Housing units authorized by permit in Oregon

Table 10. Complete Statistical Output of the Resident Juvenile Fishing License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_RESJUVFISHPOP
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/27/13 Time: 20:45
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.727438	0.027782	26.18386	0.0000
YEAR	-0.000356	1.38E-05	-25.69994	0.0000
RP_RESJUVFISH	-0.000627	0.000124	-5.067327	0.0000
BUILDUNITS	-6.31E-08	1.80E-08	-3.502944	0.0015
R-squared	0.961032	Mean dependent var		0.010749
Adjusted R-squared	0.957001	S.D. dependent var		0.003545
S.E. of regression	0.000735	Akaike info criterion		-11.48000
Sum squared resid	1.57E-05	Schwarz criterion		-11.29860
Log likelihood	193.4200	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-11.41896
F-statistic	238.4004	Durbin-Watson stat		0.556034
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Resident Combination License

Model Specification:

$$q_r_combo = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_r_combo + \beta_3*d1998trend + \beta_4*buildunits$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_r_combo	Price of Resident Combination License
D1998trend	Trend dummy
buildunits	Housing units authorized by permit in Oregon

Table 11. Complete Statistical Output of the Resident Combination License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_RESCOMBOPOP
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/27/13 Time: 20:35
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	2.603334	0.171100	15.21528	0.0000
YEAR	-0.001272	8.71E-05	-14.59435	0.0000
RP_RESCOMBO	-0.000377	9.57E-05	-3.939689	0.0005
D1998*YEAR	-1.62E-06	7.16E-07	-2.267014	0.0313
BUILDUNITS	-5.34E-08	5.30E-08	-1.006717	0.3227
R-squared	0.985285	Mean dependent var		0.045907
Adjusted R-squared	0.983182	S.D. dependent var		0.015860
S.E. of regression	0.002057	Akaike info criterion		-9.396651
Sum squared resid	0.000118	Schwarz criterion		-9.169908
Log likelihood	160.0447	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-9.320359
F-statistic	468.6934	Durbin-Watson stat		0.683896
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Resident Hunting License

Model Specification:

$$q_r_hunt = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_r_hunt + \beta_3*d_R_sport$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_r_hunt	Price of Resident Hunting License
d_R_sport	Price of substitute resident Sports Pac

Table 12. Complete Statistical Output of the Resident Hunting License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_RESHUNTPOP
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/28/13 Time: 09:11
 Sample (adjusted): 1998 2012
 Included observations: 15 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.970877	0.348180	2.788436	0.0176
YEAR	-0.000464	0.000175	-2.656447	0.0223
RP_RESSPORTPAC	0.000124	7.44E-05	1.667712	0.1236
RP_RESHUNT	-0.001129	0.000415	-2.719099	0.0200
R-squared	0.924308	Mean dependent var		0.029887
Adjusted R-squared	0.903665	S.D. dependent var		0.004530
S.E. of regression	0.001406	Akaike info criterion		-10.07307
Sum squared resid	2.17E-05	Schwarz criterion		-9.884258
Log likelihood	79.54804	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-10.07508
F-statistic	44.77556	Durbin-Watson stat		1.521291
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000002			

Nonresident Fishing License

Model Specification:

$$q_nr_fish = _cons + \beta_1 * year + \beta_2 * p_nr_fish + \beta_3 * p_nr_7dfish$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_nr_fish	Price of Nonresident Fishing License
p_nr_7dfish	Price of Nonresident 7-Day Fishing License

Table 13. Complete Statistical Output of the Nonresident Fishing License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_NR_FISH
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/27/13 Time: 22:22
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	-702049.3	71016.50	-9.885721	0.0000
YEAR	367.1745	36.25084	10.12872	0.0000
RP_NR_FISH	-240.7695	20.01226	-12.03110	0.0000
RP_NR7DAYFISH	67.74437	51.61737	1.312434	0.1997
R-squared	0.934260	Mean dependent var		17595.48
Adjusted R-squared	0.927459	S.D. dependent var		4027.791
S.E. of regression	1084.821	Akaike info criterion		16.92943
Sum squared resid	34128287	Schwarz criterion		17.11083
Log likelihood	-275.3356	Hannan-Quinn criter.		16.99046
F-statistic	137.3769	Durbin-Watson stat		1.031822
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Nonresident 7-Day/10-Day Fishing License

Model Specification:

$$q_nr_7dfish = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_nr_7dfish + \beta_3*p_nr_fish + \beta_4*D2004Beyond$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_nr_7dfish	Price of Nonresident 7-Day/10Day Fishing License
p_nr_fish	Price of Nonresident Fishing License Dummy to account for price increase in Adult
D2004beyond	Combined Fish Tag

Table 14. Complete Statistical Output of the Nonresident 15-Day Fishing License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_NR_7DAYFISHPOP

Method: Least Squares

Date: 07/02/13 Time: 13:00

Sample (adjusted): 1987 2012

Included observations: 26 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.024192	0.002036	11.88362	0.0000
YEAR	-1.18E-05	1.03E-06	-11.46997	0.0000
RP_NR7DAYFISH	-1.20E-05	1.08E-06	-11.11050	0.0000
RP_NR_FISH	3.77E-06	3.61E-07	10.46580	0.0000
D2004BEYOND	0.000153	1.17E-05	13.05640	0.0000
R-squared	0.976997	Mean dependent var		0.000285
Adjusted R-squared	0.972616	S.D. dependent var		9.65E-05
S.E. of regression	1.60E-05	Akaike info criterion		-19.08071
Sum squared resid	5.36E-09	Schwarz criterion		-18.83877
Log likelihood	253.0492	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-19.01104
F-statistic	222.9815	Durbin-Watson stat		1.894954
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Alternate Nonresident 7-Day Fishing License

Model Specification:

$$q_{nr_7dfish} = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_{nr_7dfish} + \beta_3*p_{nr_fish} + \beta_4*fishcount$$

<u>Variable</u>	<u>Description</u>
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_nr_7dfish	Price of Nonresident 7-Day/10Day Fishing License
p_nr_fish	Price of Nonresident Fishing License
fishcount	Total spring Chinook run entering the Columbia River

Table 15. Complete Statistical Output of the Nonresident 15-Day Fishing License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_NR7DAYFISH
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/28/13 Time: 08:53
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	29488.48	2887.804	10.21138	0.0000
RP_NR7DAYFISH	-833.0808	83.82462	-9.938378	0.0000
RP_NR_FISH	296.9529	50.95798	5.827407	0.0000
R-squared	0.769999	Mean dependent var		13000.24
Adjusted R-squared	0.754665	S.D. dependent var		5935.243
S.E. of regression	2939.801	Akaike info criterion		18.89658
Sum squared resid	2.59E+08	Schwarz criterion		19.03263
Log likelihood	-308.7936	Hannan-Quinn criter.		18.94236
F-statistic	50.21704	Durbin-Watson stat		0.800995
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Nonresident Hunting License

Model Specification:

$$q_nr_hunt = _cons + \beta_1*year + \beta_2*p_nr_hunt + \beta_3*RegInc$$

Variable	Description
_cons	Constant (Intercept)
year	Year (Trend Variable)
p_nr_hunt	Price of Nonresident Hunting License
RegInc	Personal income in CA, ID and WA combined

Table 16. Complete Statistical Output of the Nonresident Hunting License Model.

Dependent Variable: Q_NR_HUNTPOP
 Method: Least Squares
 Date: 06/28/13 Time: 19:13
 Sample (adjusted): 1980 2012
 Included observations: 33 after adjustments

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	0.055467	0.010033	5.528327	0.0000
YEAR	-2.80E-05	5.12E-06	-5.474440	0.0000
RP_NR_HUNT	-1.45E-06	1.82E-07	-7.935069	0.0000
REGIONAL_INC/CPI_INDEX	7.55E-16	1.36E-16	5.544069	0.0000
R-squared	0.880271	Mean dependent var		0.000359
Adjusted R-squared	0.867885	S.D. dependent var		0.000102
S.E. of regression	3.69E-05	Akaike info criterion		-17.46122
Sum squared resid	3.96E-08	Schwarz criterion		-17.27982
Log likelihood	292.1101	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-17.40018
F-statistic	71.07122	Durbin-Watson stat		1.224183
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

From: [Tim McWilliams](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 7:08:05 PM

I have hunted and fished extensively as a Montana resident for the past 34 years. Although, as a relatively "new" senior citizen, the proposed licensing fees would cost me quite a bit more than I am paying now, I fully support the council's proposals. Our legislature would be foolish not to take the council's recommendations: hunting and fishing generates an enormous amount of revenue for the state, and the FWP needs appropriate funding to properly manage these resources.

Tim McWilliams
Bozeman

From: [Raymond Gross](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Raymond Gross](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 9:48:18 PM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Ray Gross

355 Antelope Dr

Dillon, Mt.

From: [Scott](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Study: House Bill 609
Date: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 10:10:41 PM

Thank you for allowing a review of HB 609 and it's analysis. I fully concur that funding needs to increase for fish and wildlife management purposes. I do not believe that increases in hunting and fishing license fees should bear the brunt of increased financing of the management of the states fish and wildlife management programs. I believe that consumptive users should indeed pay a greater respective share of increased management costs, but as all residents of the state have a vested ownership in the welfare of our resources, it is reasonable that both the general fund and non-consumptive user fees should form a minimum of a total of 33 percent of the fish and wildlife budget. Further I believe that the current senior discount age should be raised from age 62 to age 65.
Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 609.

Scott Swanson
753 Hyalite View Drive
Bozeman, Mt. 59718

Sent from my iPad

From: [Steve/Annette Schindler](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: EQC's draft bill 609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 7:04:03 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Steve Schindler

Glasgow mt.

From: [Joe Esparza](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 7:45:08 AM

I support the draft bill the EQC recommended and believe this will solve the funding gap at MFWP.
Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Joe Esparza
406-586-5504

Sent from my iPad

From: [Eric Hammer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 7:51:45 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Eric Hammer

2200 Carter Creek Rd

Dillon, MT 59725

406 683 5594

From: [Daryl Bertelsen](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:27:14 AM

Strongly SUPPORT FWP license increase recommendation.

I attended license increase information meetings of the FWP this past spring, the unanimous consensus expressed "APPROVAL". Many speakers, myself included, shared the relatively low price of Montana fees compared to the surrounding states.

Thank you
Daryl Bertelsen
Big Timber, MT

From: [craig.mathews](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Future funding Mt FWP
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:33:08 AM

One of , if not the most, important economic drivers in our state is that provided by the outdoor industry. Too, all residents of the state enjoy the outdoor opportunities available here in Montana. From hunting and fishing to biking and hiking and more Montana has unmatched natural resources.

Montana Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is charged with protecting and preserving our valuable outdoor natural resources. The agency operates on a bare-bones budget. This has to change in order to protect, preserve and enhance for future generations all the great outdoor opportunities we as residents of this great state have taken for granted for many years, as well as protect and enhance those rare resources that drive our state's economy.

I have long been embarrassed by how little we pay for hunting and fishing licenses. I am a senior and feel ashamed to be able to have such quality fishing, hunting and outdoor experiences and give back so little to our state and the agency that protects what I, and so many love. It is time we all step up to the plate, all Montanans, to help fund Montana Dept of FWP to continue the protection and preservation of our outdoor heritage by paying a few bucks more for licenses. It will come back many times in terms of the positive effect on our state and local economies by the increased dollars spent by tourists and residents to experience what we residents mostly take for granted.

Thanking you in advance for considering my comments, I remain;

Respectfully,

Craig Mathews
80 E Horse Creek Rd.
Cameron, Mt 59720

From: [John Gibson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: funding For Monttana FW&P.
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 9:47:40 AM

To Whom IT May Concern.(EQC) PLWA supports your proposal for funding FW&P including the increase in license fees.

I am concerned, however with the cut of \$500,000. Montana is truly the last ,best place when it comes to our wildlife resource. History shows that a number of interests would like to turn wildlife and stream access into a commodity sold to the high bidder. One of their tactics is to reduce the funding for FW&P in order to make them less capable of protecting these public trust resources.

In the final analysis, these funds are generated by sportsmen so why should those who do not recognize the importance public trust or have another agenda be allowed to cut the funding for the management of resources they have no part in supporting.

John Gibson President.

From: [Rich Day](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 9:54:43 AM

August 6, 2014

Dear Montana Environmental Quality Council:

I'm writing in support of EQC's draft HB 609 which will continue the funding for the important work of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for fish and wildlife conservation. This draft bill incorporates most of the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council but unfortunately cuts the council's funding recommendation by \$500,000, which I encourage you to reinstate.

I strongly support the proposed license fee increases. I oppose reducing important FWP earmarked programs like Block Management and Habitat Montana, and I oppose cutting the FWP budget.

Montana's fish and wildlife resources are among the best in the nation and they deserve an adequately-funded Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department to continue keeping them that way for all Montanans and our visitors to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rich Day
2615 Yale Ave
Butte, MT 59701

From: [Mike Prescott](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Don't cut FWP funding
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 10:26:38 AM
Importance: High

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Mike Prescott

State Farm Insurance

406-541-9800

fax 721-9090

mike@mikeprescottinsurance.com



[State Farm Insurance - Auto, Life, Homeowners, & More](#)

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

From: [Raymond Gross](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 10:36:56 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council,

Beverhead Hunters & Anglers support EOC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. We strongly support the increase in license fees. We oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. We also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Beverhead Hunters & Angler

Dillon, Mt.

From: [Jon Dahlberg](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:36:52 PM

I fully support an increase in license fees to fund FWP into the future. I started hunting in Montana in the mid-1950's. An elk tag was \$1 and deer tags were also \$1 each. We could buy 2 deer tags. Hunting season ran from Sept. 15 to the end of the year. It was great to hunt during the elk 'bugling' season and still be able to hunt the late season when the snow pushed the animals down. It takes \$ to maintain the hunting we have in Montana and I am willing to contribute my share.

Jon A Dahlberg
101 N Haven Drive
Kalispell, MT
59901

From: [RANDY BENTLEY](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Draft Bill 609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 10:45:46 AM

Dear Members of the EQC,

Having lived in Montana my whole life, I have enjoyed many years of some of the best hunting and fishing in our Great Country. I am IN FAVOR of your recommendation and will support the increase in license fees. We folks have enjoyed the very low price of these fees for many years, and I am sure that the increase in revenue will be put to good use. Though at times over the years I have been in slight disagreements with some actions taken by The Montana Fish and Game and Park Departments, overall my feeling is that these folks do a great job for we the people.

Thank you for your time.

Randy Bentley
1300 Timothy Place
Billings Montana 59106

From: [Ron DeArmond](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:57:32 PM

The FWP needs our financial support. As a senior, I can get a year's worth of enjoyment for less than what I'd spend at Starbucks for a coffee and pastry. Let's get into the real world. The fees for licenses need to be increased to meet the present needs of the agency and the public.

Go for it.

Ron DeArmond

Bozeman

From: [ROBERT B CROOKS](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 9:01:30 PM

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP.

I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I STRONGLY oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana Programs. Without adequate access crowding will increase and the quality of our outdoor experience will decrease.

No one wants to pay more to hunt and fish, but for many of us, it's the reason we are here. Periodic licenses fee increases are a small price to pay for the having the opportunities we do in Montana. Opportunities most people in the U.S. will never have. It's critical that we give Montana FWP the funding they need to manage Montana's wildlife. Any reduction of sportsman's funding for FWP will damage this public trust resource. FWP does an excellent job with Montana's fish and wildlife. Give them the funding increase they need to keep it that way.

*Thanks,
Robert Crooks*

From: northern@itstriangle.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 12:18:58 PM

I'm in favor of increasing the hunting/fishing fees for in-state residents as long as we receive some worthwhile benefit from those increases. These benefits should, in my mind at least, be used to increase hunter/ fisher access to private lands through block management or other avenues, reduce the harmful effects of the checker boarding with both federal and state lands that are currently land locked or have poor access to the public. There are many more things that need to be addressed as well, but for me these are very important. Let the outdoor community know where these extra fees are headed for and you may get our vote.

Ron Vanden Brink
Molt, Montana

From: [Mitchel Kilmer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP Funding
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 1:45:22 PM

In my humble opinion the option of increasing hunting fees more than double the fishing increase is a brainless idea to say the least. Hunter numbers across the country are going down and this will certainly cause more to stop. Hunters are hammered by increased ammunition (dont think lures or flies are getting more expensive), increased fuel costs (can't haul an elk in a Prius but can drive to the river in one), extended stay permits for hunting camps have been eliminated therefore increasing ones cost in having to haul everything back and forth every 14 days. Now I understand the need for adequate finances, but let's keep it simple and fair. Raise Conservation License \$10 and make extended camping permits available at a fee of \$50 each.

Mitch Kilmer
Butte MT

From: [Swep Davis](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 4:31:30 PM

Dear sirs: I strongly agree we have to provide the necessary and increased funding to FWP so I strongly support the revised fee system that will do that.

Swep Davis
406-451-1440 (cell)

From: mrsage@mt.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 4:54:17 PM

Sir,

The proposed bill to fund FWP through 2021 sounds very reasonable to me. I am a retired individual, and therefore watch my costs closer than ever. Even so, for the hunting and fishing opportunities this state has, an increase of approximately \$8 for hunting and \$3 for fishing is very worthwhile.

With FWP facing an almost \$6 million shortfall, this legislation is necessary. The increase in license cost is reasonable and I like the idea of fewer special license fees.

Please support HB 609 Licensing study.

Steve Knapp, sportsman

Helena, MT.

From: [Joe Goss](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 5:38:57 PM

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement. The job of protecting public trust resources has become more complex as the population impact on habitat increases. Large private land purchases have also presented new problems and threatened access. Any reduction of sportsman's funding for the agency will damage public trust resources in the long run.

Joe Goss
StrongHold Realty, Inc.
406-598-8888 Office
406-661-1773 Cell
www.StrongHoldRealty.net

[Find Out If Home Values Are Stabilizing In The Billings Area!](#)

From: [CenturyLink Customer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP license fee increases
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:02:41 PM

For the record, please note that I wholeheartedly support the license increases for hunting and fishing as proposed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council. I am a MT native, but lived and recreated all over North America and other parts of the world for 40 years. I returned to MT in 2002, and consider the fish and game opportunities second to none. Generally we pay premium prices for premium products, and I feel that the public is getting a real bargain with Montana's fish and game fee structure.
Charles (Bud) Gale

From: [Dick & Donna Shockley](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:13:49 PM

As a senior citizen third generation Montanan, I have been a hunter and sportsman for several decades in this state. I have long expressed my opinion that residents should contribute more toward the funding of Montana FWP programs through increased license fees. The long hunting seasons and wonderful hunting opportunities experienced by Montana hunters are a blessing for which we should be very grateful. One significant means of expressing that gratitude is through adequate funding of FWP programs. Please pass on my strong support of reasonable license fee increases.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Shockley FWP ALS # 12/15/1944-4 627 Gateway South Rd,
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730 phone: 406-763-4605

From: [Nancy Schultz email](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: EQC FWP licensing bill
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:23:03 PM

This comment is for the EQC council.

I support sending the FWP licensing bill to the legislature. This is necessary. FWP has a \$5.75 million shortfall and if spending does not increase, cuts will be required that will be detrimental to FWP and the wildlife they regulate. Montanans cherish their wildlife. The licensing increases will not be an undue burden on Montanans and will be simple to administer.

Nancy Schultz
420 N 10th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Pat Simmons](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:25:39 PM

Please approve the licensing study for bill drafting. This is absolutely necessary to support the successful, professional programs that the Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks provides to the public, protecting our “last best place” valuable wildlife habitat and numbers of wildlife, and specifically benefiting hunters and fishers. It is terrible that they have had to wait 10 years to have license increases – this is not the way to run the finances for this large, valuable department and natural resource of the State of Montana. They should be raised a small amount every Legislative Session to account for the increases in the cost of living and to give the FWP more stability and the public to feel comfortable that the wildlife of Montana are being cared for properly. The new rates are very reasonable compared to the surrounding States. This should not be a political issue, but a business decision to protect the natural resources of Montana, to provide professional, experienced and educated staff, and to protect programs that help hunters, fishers, and the general public (game and non-game species) and many other activities that the public and visitors enjoy – photography, hiking, camping, boating and the ability to view the abundant wildlife of Montana.

Thank you.

Pat Simmons
357 Pine Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
psimmons100@gmail.com

From: [Bill and Dale](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:26:42 PM

Dear Mr. Stockwell,

I would like to voice my support of the above study. FWP is facing a shortfall and it is time for revision of license prices. This study has presented a well thought out recommendation for these prices to fund FWP and sportsmen must support it or face a dismal future.

Sincerely,

William J. Peterson
4541 Lake Creek Road
Troy, MT 59935



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From: [hrcrest](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: F.W.P. license fee increase
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 6:54:13 PM

Soon you will be considering a license fee increase for the hunting and fishing people of Montana and non residents. You will undoubtedly get support for the increase and opposition.

I, as a native of Montana for over 75 years, strongly oppose this potential increase.

The department needs a major change of leadership. Leadership that will work to bringing back traditional values. Presently they waste thousands of dollars on predator programs trying to please very vocal anti-hunting segments of our society. Predators are having a detrimental impact on hunting. All one has to do is look at management direction of numerous other states (WY, Idaho, Alaska, etc) and it is obvious that Montana is headed in the wrong direction.

Landowner and sportsman support of the department is at a all time low.

To give the department a fee increase without a change in direction will only result in more of the same. More predators and less big game.

Howard Chest
968 Ruby River Drive
Sheridan, Montana 59749

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [David](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 7:26:23 PM

As a lifelong hunter and angler, I support an increase in license fees to adequately fund FWP programs. I am opposed to any cuts in the FWP budget. They do a good and necessary job of managing wildlife, enforcing wildlife laws, and providing public access for hunting and fishing. I'd like to see more money in the Block Management Program and I'm willing to pay more in license fees to see that done. When you consider what it costs to ski or golf for a day in Montana, and compare it with the paltry license fees we pay to fish and hunt all year, hunters and anglers have the best deal going. We need to step up and see that it gets done. Send the licensing bill to the legislature with no cuts to FWP.

Dave Books
736 Sparta St.
Helena, MT 59601

From: [Alex Russell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fee increase
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:25:03 PM

I strongly urge the commission and Fwp to increase license fees to avoid cuts in critical programs.

Alex Russell
Bozeman, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Lambert](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Input on HB 609
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 9:28:58 PM

I appreciate having an opportunity to provide my input on the proposed legislation of HB 609. Please accept this as my being in agreement with the potential increase to the budget of the FWP. Associated with this increase I am indicating my agreement with the FWP's proposed increase in future Hunting and Fishing License Fees to support the increase in the proposed Budget. As a senior citizen who has retired to Montana for the primary purpose of enjoying the outdoor hunting and fishing activities our great State has to offer, I find the proposed future increase in License Fees to be really insignificant based on the great enjoyment I am having in hunting and fishing. More specifically, I am very concerned about any potential reduction in the scope of services and facilities (Block Management Programs and Fishing Access Improvements) as I already find these important benefits to be less than what I feel they should be. Thus, I find the proposed increase in License Fees to be quite realistic and important to enable me and my family to continue to enjoy the special benefits we gain by coming to Montana to live out the remainder of our lives.

Thanks again for providing me with an opportunity to voice my support for the important proposed Legislation contained in HB 609

John Lambert
659 Triple Tree Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715
(406) 522-0740

From: [Tavis Campbell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 11:35:32 PM

I am writing to strongly suggest and reaffirm my willingness to increase hunting fees if need be to support block management and wildlife management.

This report is required by House Bill No. 609, which asked the EQC to study Montana's hunting and fishing license statutes and fees. The governor tasked a citizens' advisory council with a similar study and the EQC has incorporated that effort into its own work. The advisory council proposed a slate of recommendations for simplifying and streamlining Montana's hunting and fishing licenses, as well as generating additional revenue for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The EQC approved drafting of that slate with two changes for public comment. Email your comments to hstockwell@mt.gov. PI

From: [Eric Lilletvedt](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 11:59:45 PM

Hello,

My name is Eric Lilletvedt. I am a lifelong resident of Montana.

I am writing in support of the proposed \$8 license fee increase for residents. Programs like block management have provided many hunting opportunities and fond memories for me and my family, and I am certainly willing to help shoulder the burden of funding for these programs.

Eric Lilletvedt
1210 Angus Road
Helena, MT 59602

From: martin@fsrconsultants.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 6:52:37 AM

Good Morning,

I support HB 609 because:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special license

Thanks.

Martin Oakland
Senior Project Manager
FSR Consultants, LLC.
Missoula, MT
martin@fsrconsultants.com
406.531.8189

From: [Rick Johnson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 8:09:32 AM

I write to today to support draft bill 609 and full funding for FWP. I am an out of state fisherman who visited Montana two weeks ago and spent a week in the Ruby Valley enjoying public access to the Ruby River. I would be willing to pay more for a license to ensure full funding for FWP and continued support for public access to Montana rivers and streams. It is important to know that fishermen, especially fly fishermen, have several states to choose from when they plan fishing vacations. We planned our vacation to Montana because of the public access laws and because of the public access sites on many streams in Montana. We fished public access sites on the Ruby River, Beaverhead River, Big Hole River, and Pointdexter Slough. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Rick Johnson
rick.johnson@duke.edu

From: [Carter Kruse \(TEI - Montana\)](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 8:25:57 AM

Ms. Stockwell – as a citizen of Montana and an avid sportsman who applies for and buys many hunting and fishing tags annually, I wholeheartedly support proposed legislation regarding changes in the state’s license fee structure. I have always felt that the cost to conduct hunting and fishing related recreation in Montana is one of the greatest bargains I get each year. Even with the proposed fee increases it will remain a great bargain. In my opinion MT Fish Wildlife and Parks does a mostly great job managing our natural resources and we need to continue to provide them the economic resources they need to do so. Please pass along my support for this proposed legislation to any and all that it might make a difference to. Thanks.

Carter Kruse
3360 Magenta Road
Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [Daniel Durham](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 9:00:48 AM

I am a Montana resident hunter and fisherman. I support Draft Bill 609, except for any cuts in FWP funding. I support an increase in licence fees. I am glad to pay a little more to insure good access, more law enforcement and good science-based management of fish and wildlife resources. I strongly support any legislation that will provide more funding for FWP to improve, aquire, or otherwise protect dwindling wildlife habitat. I support any legislation that will increase funding for access programs that allow common folk the opportunity to hunt and fish in Montana. Thank you for helping conserve and protect our wildlife and habitat resources, and reminding legislators that the fish and wildlife are owned by all the people of Montana, not a select few.

Dan Durham
Sheridan, MT

From: [Mike Hull](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 licensing study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 9:09:24 AM

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees . I oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement. The job of protecting public trust resources has become more complex as the population impact on habitat increases. Large private land purchases have also presented new problems and threatened access. Any reduction of sportsman's funding for the agency will damage public trust resources in the long run. Sincerely, Mike Hull 721 E Gallatin, Belgrade, Mt

From: [Corey Fisher](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 9:19:51 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my support recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council that would increase fees for hunting and fishing licenses, as well as establish a reoccurring fee review every four years.

In most cases, the per-person fee increases being considered are nominal, but the need is huge. Without the fee increase, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks budget shortfall would be millions and would severely hamstring FWP's ability to effectively manage our fish, wildlife and hunting and angling opportunities.

I've read bill draft LC 4444 and I feel that all of the license fee increases proposed are reasonable and necessary. As a sportsman, I expect to pay a more for the privilege of hunting and fishing in our great state and I urge the Environmental Quality Council to send this bill to the Legislature for consideration by our elected representatives.

Sincerely,
Corey Fisher
Missoula, MT

From: [Jim Posewitz](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [anthony.smith](#); "[Bill Orsello](#)"; "[Charles McCarthy](#)"; "[Gary Ingman](#)"; [Gayle Joslin](#); jim.posewitz@bresnan.net; "[rodbullis](#)"; [Platt, Stephen](#); [Stan Frasier](#); [Steve McEvoy](#); "[Steve Platt](#)"
Subject: HB 609 Licensisng Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 9:30:54 AM
Attachments: [HB609 MDFWP Funding "14.doc](#)

Dear H. Stockwell,

Attached please find comments and a suggestion relative to your study on HB 609. Thanks for your time and attention.

Jim Posewitz, Secretary
Helena Hunters and Anglers Association
219 Vawter Street
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-2795

HELENA HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ASSOCIATION COMMENTARY ON
MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS PROPOSED
FUNDING CHOICES HOUSE BILL 609

Prepared by Jim Posewitz, Secretary
August 8, 2014

The Helena Hunters and Anglers Association (HHAA) offers the following comments, perspective, and an idea relative to funding the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP). This commentary will focus on Governor Bullock's direction to "... *find simple, fair and stable sources of revenue for fish and wildlife conservation.*"

It is our understanding that the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) is drafting legislation, House Bill 609 (HB 609) largely based on findings of a citizen based Funding Advisory Council. The result of these deliberations produced three choices that, alone or in combination, have been accepted by the MDFWP director and are now pending before the EQC. The EQC in turn has opened the issue for public comment. The three choices under consideration are: 1) a fee increase; 2) cuts to fish and wildlife management operations; or 3) a shift of earmarked funds away from specific programs to shore up day to day operations.¹ Under the current draft of HB 609 Montana hunters and anglers would pay \$8 more to hunt and \$3 more to fish along with some other minor adjustments for seniors and non-residents.

While the HHAA has no problem with choice 1) the fee increase, we reserve judgment on items 2) and 3) until we can become aware of the specifics of these proposed actions. Our concern, however, is that these items taken one at a time, or in total, will not adequately respond to the direction given to "... *find simple, fair and stable sources of revenue for fish and wildlife conservation.*" There needs to be an additional *simple, fair and stable* alternative that enables the state to meet its public trust responsibility to protect and manage all Montana's fish and wildlife in the public interest. That responsibility has reached the point where revenue sources need to be expanded beyond the near total reliance on hunters and anglers.

The HHAA asks that a fourth choice be developed and included in this analysis and in EQC's drafting of House Bill 609. The additional choice would be, 4) *creation of a fish, wildlife and parks general operations trust fund. The purpose of the trust is to apply the earnings of the trust to MDFWP operations.* The trust would be endowed by a tax on oil and gas production – either statewide or specific to the Bakken oil field. It could be administered by the existing Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation. It would be *simple* in that an infrastructure already exists. It would be *fair* in that an activity adverse to fish and wildlife would finally contribute to its conservation. It would be *stable* in that the trust, not the income stream, would produce lasting revenue for fish and wildlife. We have done this before for a variety of community needs when the coal severance tax was created in the 1970s.

¹ Info. source, *In Touch with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Director M. Jeff Hagener, July 31, 2014.*

From: [Mr. Borgreen](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP funding
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 10:41:06 AM

I am writing to urge the Environmental Quality Council to send the Fish Wildlife and Parks funding bill 609 to the Legislature. This package is vital for the continuation of FWP efforts to manage our states natural resources and recreation opportunities. Is is a very small increase in user fees and very much simplifies the licensing process for our states sportsmen and women.

Thanks

Jim Borgreen
Lewistown, Mt.



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: donmon@frontiernet.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 10:54:34 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

The Libby Rod & Gun Club strongly supports the EQC's draft bill 609 with the exception of the \$500,000. cut in funding to F W P.

The Fish Wildlife and Parks Dept. uses little state money, but from time to time needs to increase license fees to offset increasing costs. As Montana hunters and fishermen, we support the departments projects and the need for enforcement.

The cost of managing wolves has been turned over to the Department. New illegal introductions of unwanted fish into Montana lakes costs money. We need continued game warden enforcement across the state. To continue to manage our wildlife for all Montanans it costs money. Some in the legislature would like to control the game management themselves. Our club does not want to see this happen. Please pass H B 609 so the department is not forced to cut enforcement or game management projects.

Don Clark
319 Warren Road
Libby Montana 59923

Vice Pres.

Libby Rod & Gun Club

From: [Wayne Hadley](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:07:46 AM

I support the increase in license fees proposed for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. I am opposed to any reductions in FWP earmarked funding or other cuts to the FWP budget. I am a 40 year veteran of Montana hunting and fishing license purchase and am anxious to see the additional revenues generated for FWP functions.

Thank you for your attention.

Wayne F. Hadley

From: [Scott Reynolds](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: MFWP Future Funding
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:24:07 AM

Hope Stockwell

We support the EQC draft of House Bill 609 that will increase hunting and fishing fees to support the MFWP operation into the future.

Thank you

Scott & Billie Reynolds

1700 Shirley Way Anaconda Mt. 59711

Sent from my iPad

From: [Randy Knowles](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Knowles RE: FWP funding HB 609 FWP licensing
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:51:36 AM

I think a funding plan that lasts longer than 4 years is necessary. FWP is funded by sportsmen BUT politicians think they can allocate the sportsman's dollars. The only safe harbor is to keep FWP funding out of the capital building for as long as possible.... The current system, in the long run, works best.... "large" increases every 10 years, anything less diverts our attention and energy away from managing Montana's wildlife & habitat to political jousting. It does not matter how you do it, just keep it out of the capital as long as possible... Randy

Randall Gene Knowles, Knowlesmontana@Juno.com , Distinguished Toastmaster,
Chevalier:
3017 Ninth Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405 voice [406-452-7250](tel:406-452-7250), cell & text 406-799-1547

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From: [Burch, Todd](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:39:38 AM

I am writing this in response to a letter sent out by the Montana Wildlife Federation concerning the increase in license fees. I attended the meeting held in Miles City earlier concerning this meeting and am in agreement with this increase and the change to review costs every four years.

As a hunter in Eastern Montana I benefit from several of the programs supported by FWP. I have access to private land but hunt block management in conjunction with it.

I feel our fees could be set a little higher and it will not change the number of people participating in the pursuit of game and fish. I do wish there was another way to fund some of these programs that benefit all but continually are paid for by sportsman.

Please feel free to count me as a citizen willing to pay a little more to secure our future access and continued management of the wildlife and land for the public instead of allowing it got to the privatization that is being pushed by other groups.

Sincerely

Todd Burch
PACS Administrator
Todd.Burch@sclhs.net
Office 406-233-2637
Cell 406-853-6707

From: irachar@bitterroot.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:51:21 AM

I thgink that the proposed increase is justified and may be a little too low. The Department definitely needs an increase. – Ira T. Holt 548 Cielo Vista, Hamilton, MT 406-961-3302

From: [Thomas Pick](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing and Funding Advisory Council
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 11:54:18 AM

I am writing to the EQC to submit my comments in support of the EQC's 609 Bill Draft. I am in favor of the recommendations expressed in the bill however, I do not support the proposed \$500,000 cut to the FWP budget. If anything, programs to expand hunter access and habitat improvement programs should be implemented with license fees providing the needed funding. Here in Montana, our license fees are very favorable compared to the cost of any other outdoor recreation. That a one-day ski pass at Big Sky costs over \$100 is a demonstration of the very sweet deal we have here. We all know that you get what you pay for. Efforts to cap or limit license fees are really just an attempt to undermine FWP and if successful, will eventually destroy the excellent game populations that we have here though their inability to manage populations and habitat and enforce our wildlife regulations. The Advisory Council wisely recognized that a fee increase is necessary and that we shouldn't have to wait 10 years to conduct a review and update the FWP budget. I believe that FWP is doing all it can to wisely spend the funds that sportsmen and women provide to them. We've asked them to do a job for us; let's give them the resources to do it properly. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

From: [dwayne_andrews](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 1:02:00 PM

Please support the proposed license fee increase for MT FWP.

The consequences of a failed proposal are negative and costly for the citizens of Montana. Recreationist are not opposed to the increase once they understand the funding process that is used by FWP, which is significantly different than other general fund agencies. The public is typically not aware of those very important differences.

In addition I have to say hunters and anglers as well of the general public have no idea they have an opportunity to participate in this process. Putting your assessments on your web page and expecting the public to find it and make comments is not very realistic. I would be surprised if you illicit very many comments not because of the importance of the issue but because folks do not know about this process.

Dwayne Andrews
1211 North Custer
Miles City, Mt 59301

ddandrewslucy@gmail.com

From: [ChangeMe ChangeMe](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Budget comment
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 1:34:44 PM

I fully support the budget formula to increase dollars to support FWP. I am a hunter and angler and I appreciate the work that FWP does to conserve and enhance game and nongame species, and fully support continuance of this work at full capacity. I support the budget formula, as outlined in the proposed changes, to increase their funding base.

Thomas McMahon
417 Lexington Dr
Bozeman, MT 59175

From: [William Geer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 1:42:41 PM

I am a 66-year old Montana hunter/angler, and former director of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, who fully supports the sportsmen license fee increases proposed in the HB 609 Licensing Study, and associated additional revenue to adequately support Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks programs and services at levels currently provided for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021.

Having administered a state fish and wildlife agency in tough economic times, I appreciate and support changing to a four-year budget review cycle to improve financial management within Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

I also want a more equitable distribution of the burden of cost across the entire community of hunters, and simplification in licenses that will make buying and selling license much easier in the future.

I want management of fish and wildlife and the hunting and fishing culture in Montana to continue for my three adult sons and daughter and my seven grandkids.

Respectfully,

William H. Geer
6135 Delarka Dr
Lolo, MT 59847
(406) 396-0909

From: [Nick Gevock](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 licensing study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 3:57:21 PM

Dear Environmental Quality Council,

I'm writing today not in my position as a staff member of the Montana Wildlife Federation, but rather as an individual hunter, angler and wildlife conservationist in Montana. Please support the recommendations of the state Licensing and Funding Advisory Council to fund Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks through 2021.

The proposal is a needed, fair and simple package that will address the numerous free and reduced priced licenses, simplify and standardize those licenses into half-priced discounted fees and also put Montana more in line with other Western states that offer similar hunting and fishing opportunities.

I can speak personally that Montana's hunting and fishing license fees are well within reason for all Montanans. At one point in my life I earned \$23,000 and had to support a family of three on that salary. I didn't get to ski or partake in other, more expensive recreation at that time, but I still bought my fishing and hunting licenses. At times I had to wait for the next paycheck to get the next license, but for the hundreds of hours of recreation and meat and fish on the table it was worth it.

I strongly support this proposal and ask that the EQC send it to the Legislature for consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Gevock

From: [Nick Gevock](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 licensing study
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 4:04:42 PM
Attachments: [MWF 8-7 HB 609 study comments.pdf](#)

Dear Hope Stockwell,

Please accept the attached official comments from the Montana Wildlife Federation on the recommendations from the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council before EQC.

Sincerely,

--

[Nick Gevock](#)
Conservation Director
Montana Wildlife Federation
5530 N. Montana Ave
PO Box 1175
Helena, MT 59602
Toll Free: 800.517.7256
Phone: 406.458.0227
Fax: 406.458.0373
ngevock@mtwf.org
<http://www.montanawildlife.org>



MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

www.montanawildlife.org



*Protecting
Montana's wildlife,
land, waters,
hunting and fishing
heritage since 1936*

Montana Environmental Quality Council

Aug. 7, 2014

Dear Council members,

The Montana Wildlife Federation represents more than 5,000 members throughout the state and the country, including 20 affiliate clubs. We are the state's oldest and largest wildlife conservation organization, and we work every day to ensure abundant wildlife, healthy habitat and equal opportunity to enjoy them.

MWF supports the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council with the minor changes proposed by the Environmental Quality Council. The License and Funding Advisory Council (LFAC) met regularly beginning in August 2013 and completed its work in June 2014. The LFAC was made up of people from across the state representing diverse interests and included sportspersons, outfitters, landowners, a business owner and state lawmakers. It was charged with conducting a thorough review of the hunting and fishing licensing in the state, with a focus on both simplification opportunities and proposing tools and methods to provide for sustainable adequate revenue to support the future management of Montana's wildlife and fisheries resources and the public's opportunities to enjoy them. They were urged to compare our license fees to those of other western states to make sure Montana stayed competitive based on the quality of opportunities offered and prices charged. There was nothing off the table for the LFAC's consideration. It was a truly enormous charge and one that members, including two MWF board members, took seriously. To a person the members of the group said it was one of the best, most collaborative groups with whom they had worked.

The recommendations present a fair, equitable way to help ensure future funding for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Several of the changes involve adjustments to the numerous free and reduced priced licenses that certain people enjoy in this state. Their

recommendation to standardize the price of those and make them all one half of a full priced license generates needed additional license revenue and creates a more equitable situation for all who purchase hunting and fishing licenses. This still offers a really good deal for seniors, youth and others who qualify for reduced priced licenses. In addition, the proposal to move up the age for a reduced priced license from 62 to 67 years of age seems reasonable when compared to other state's age-qualification requirements.

The recommendation to put FWP's license rate reviews on a four year cycle, rather than the currently used approximately 10 year period, makes good financial management sense and would be good policy. FWP needs to be able to keep up with the growing demands, including managing endangered and non-game species, maintaining fishing access sites and keeping up its state wildlife management areas. The 10 year funding cycle led to annual imbalances between revenues and expenditures over a longer time frame than makes sense for sound financial management. The council's recommendation would likely result in more frequent, but smaller, license fee increases in the future, and it would allow the agency to be better prepared to propose adjustments needed to keep up with changes in predictable costs and revenues.

The proposed base hunting license simply makes good sense. It proposes to spread part of the burden for the increased revenue across all hunters and helps avoid an increase for individual species hunting licenses at this time. It also would prevent a recurring issue when archery hunters acquire archery hunting permits without acquiring the prerequisite archery stamp. The proposal to raise nonresident license fees for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose and bison licenses from \$750 to \$1,250 may appear to be an inordinately large increase, but the cost to hunt those species would still remain lower than in other states that offer those opportunities. Non-resident anglers would see an increase in fishing license costs, yet again Montana's price will be right in line with neighboring states and our fisheries and angler access to them are the best in the lower 48 states.

After all the analysis, it's important to note what this package will mean for most Montana hunters and anglers: an \$8 increase per year to hunt and a \$3 increase per year to fish. This is well within the realm of fairness and reasonableness given the quality of our wildlife and

fish resources and the many opportunities to enjoy them. Furthermore the proposal will simplify licensing for both vendors and purchasers, clearly a result the group set out to do at the beginning.

This diverse group put hundreds of hours of work into crafting this proposal. They drove from around the state to participate in meetings for almost a year. Their commitment to Montana's public fish and wildlife is commendable, and the members of this citizens group came up with a good proposal that would fund FWP's programs and services at current levels from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2021 Their proposal for a four-year cost and revenue review would move FWP to a much improved budget and finance cycle in the future. Please send the EQC HB 609 Study Draft Report to the 64th Legislature with your recommendation to move it forward in 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skip Kowalski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Skip Kowalski
President

From: [Kathy Hadley](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study- public comment
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 4:37:52 PM

Hope,

I am a Montana hunter and angler and am writing in favor of the package of recommendations that the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council developed and the EQC is considering. The Council met for over a year and did a thorough review of our state's licensing structure. And their recommendations are reasonable and modest.

FWP's has not had any significant license increases in 10 years. The proposed average license increase of \$8 for hunting and \$3 for fishing is modest. I would pay far, far more if needed for all the wonderful days I spend hunting and fishing in our beautiful state that has abundant wildlife. I also think it's an important change to have FWP's fees reviewed in a short cycle- 10 years is too long so I'm in favor of the four year review.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hadley
11155 Eastside Rd
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

From: [Jack Sauther](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fees
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 6:08:10 PM

To whom it may concern:

I whole-heartedly support the recommendations of the LFAC. I'm a fourth-generation Montanan who has fished and hunted here nearly my entire life. We are fortunate to enjoy the finest fishing and hunting opportunities around, and FWP does a wonderful job providing and maintaining these opportunities.

If anything, we should charge premium fees because our state offers premium fishing and hunting opportunities.

I completely support establishing contingency funding.....any good business has a reserve fund.

I'd like to see more FWP officers in the field.....I can't recall the last time I have seen one on the river or in the field.

We need to generate revenue from the non-consumptive users.

It's ridiculous to have a 10-yr funding cycle.....trying that in a business and see how it works! 4-yrs is better.....2-yrs would be best.

Let's quit requiring FWP to operate on a pauper's budget and give them some resources to continue to provide our wonderful opportunities!

--

Jack Sauther, CPA, Broker

Top Hand Realty Advisors, Inc
403 West Main St., Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59715
Office 406-586-0356
Cell 406-539-2189
Fax 406-551-1008
Email Jack@TopHandAdvisors.com
Website www.TopHandAdvisors.com

From: [Richard Ramler](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Support FWP Fee Increase
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2014 7:14:30 PM

I fully support the proposed fee increase for FW&P. I would pay more. FW&P is doing a great job.

Rick Ramler
400 Hillside Rd.
Belgrade, MT 59714
406-539-0150

08-05-2014

Draft report of HB 609
Comments related to this draft report

Attention: Hope Stockwell

RECEIVED

AUG 08 2014

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

In Montana politics and government there is no more controversial state agency than, **Fish, Wildlife and Parks**. When all else in Montana is normal and acceptable, anything to do with the natural resources inhabiting our state creates controversy and mistrust.

The Governor's advisory council that studied the structure and cost of hunting and fishing licenses in Montana and the Department's need for changes and increases should be commended for their tireless effort at trying to understand the complexity of the licensing procedure, where the money comes from and where the money goes.

This committee spent a lot of time trying to understand if fees increases were needed and justified. It is apparent that a majority of the committee believes changes are needed in the system and that increases in the costs of licenses are needed to continue the apparent level of service the Department says they must provide. It is also apparent that a majority of those people that commented also feel that changed and fee increases are justified.

I do not, under any circumstances, support this position, nor do I support the need for license fee increases until FWP does a better job of landowner relations. At best I call it pathetic! I must qualify this position statement by saying that I don't think the present situation is created by the present administration, I fully believe that this mistrust and negative feeling was created by the former Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer. This past Governor proved to be arrogant, unapproachable, loved to read about himself and see himself in the limelight, in my opinion definitely not a friend of the private landowners when it came to fish and game issues.

Every issue related to fish and game in Montana revolves around landowner relations! It is totally absurd to believe that FWP has not addressed this issue in a more direct positive way. Records show that the Department is seeing a decrease in the number of licenses sold, much of this decrease can be attributed to a lack of private property access. Ranches have had enough bad relations with FWP that they no longer want anything to do with FWP and as a result this is causing the sporting public to lose access that they once had.

A few examples are the issue with wolves, the open lands Bison policy, the stream access law, the corner fence jumping issue that is sure to come up again in the 2015 Legislature. A number of years ago we had a late cow elk season in many parts of Montana. The season usually ran until December 15 and allowed special permit holders to harvest cow after the general season, where in many cases the elk were not available to be harvested during the general season. This season was very popular and many landowners were receptive to allowing the taking of surplus cow elk. 5-6 Department employees and Jeff Hagener got the cow elk season closure through the State Fish and Game Commission. Isn't their job to increase hunting opportunities, not reduce them?

Good things have a way of coming to an end when it comes to FWP! If it ain't broke , we'll break it so

we can justify our job. FWP decided to do away with the late season for cow elk, it is my opinion that their intention was to force landowners to allow the taking of cow elk during the general season, commonly called blackmail. Obviously this didn't work, the sportsman that for a number of years had access to these late season hunts found themselves without a hunting opportunity again. Just another reason for the landowners to defend themselves against FWP. Where there was agreement and cooperation there now existed hostility and mistrust. Elk numbers have increased drastically in many areas of Montana and the access continues to decrease. The Department fails to remember that game damage was taken care of by landowners long before there was FWP and I'm sure they know how to accomplish this problem should the need again be necessary. In many areas the regulations state that a "B" tag cow elk must be taken on private property outside the National Forest boundary. To heck with this, those elk may never exist on private property outside the National Forest boundary that the Department drew up. You kill those surplus cow elk wherever you get the opportunity!!

FWP has stated that they need a license fee increase and simplicity of their license system. There will be a continued loss of those sportsman buying licenses as long as there is less private land to recreate on and landowner relations are at an all time low. FWP must openly define their position of landowner relations before any types of increase are proposed and granted by the 2015 Legislature. The Department has dug themselves such a hole that I don't know if they have the ability to pull themselves out.

Lastly, I think the FWP must realistically look at the fact that 25% of the hunting public kill 75 % of the harvested game whether they want to believe it or not. Do you spend time educating and training the 75 % of the hunting public that has never for example,(killed an Elk), or do you look at the 25 % that on a regular basis kill an elk. There are a hundred reasons why this 75 % has never killed an elk and never will. The only positive result of this 75% is that they buy a license that operates the Department. I really don't care what the hunter surveys say, nobody wants to admit that they didn't kill an elk last fall and probably never have!

Landowner relations must be explained and positive results must accompany any approval of license fee increases. I don't see how any member of the 2015 Legislature can vote for a license fee increase when landowner relations are not a part of the equation.

Ron Carlson
PO Box 1221
Big Timber, MT 59011

From: [Linda Olinger](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Re: thoughts on funding letter
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 12:45:25 AM
Attachments: [Hagener FWP.DOCX](#)

Jeff Hagener/Hope Stockwell

My quick thoughts after reading this:

- 1) Don't pound on the Seniors. I'd say moving the qualifying age as a Senior to 65 is enough and congruent with other "Senior" definitions. Don't take the political risk of pushing the definition of Senior to that age.
- 2) Non- Resident fees are not addressed. If the rate increases are \$8 and \$3 more for both residents and non-residents, I feel you are missing an opportunity. Look at the increases as a % on the current license costs and apply that to each. Licenses costs are a minor item in the annual "trips of a lifetime" so many folks make annually to fish or hunt in MT. It's almost an afterthought. I'm a non-resident and while I fish more days in Montana than most non-residents, I can say that the price is very fair and not an impediment. I doubt you'll have pushback from such increases. If non-resident fees are to be incrementally higher, or even equal, to the Resident increase, then call them out in these communiques and at the very least you'll get better in-state support. Tourists have to pay – that's the bottom line. They won't stop coming.
- 3) Look at the variability of non-resident licenses and make them buyer friendly. Annual, semi-annual, weekly, daily, etc. Make them consumer friendly. In this new electronic world, the paper costs have declined. Give those non-resident consumers the choices to spend more.
- 4) As you know, cutting operations never balances the bottom line and leads to more deferred costs which will be more expensive. Over-fund the next few years if necessary and put the excess in a rainy day fund for use in future years. Invest in the resource. The economy is recovering slowly.
- 5) Do guide fees/outfitter fees and licenses, etc., go to FWP? If not, they should. There should also be increases imposed there as they have direct pricing power with consumers as well.
- 6) Does FWP get a share of boat license fees?
- 7) Are invasive species an issue yet? If so, that's a justification for fee increases. I've seen increases in several states for that reason.

Thanks for reaching out. I hope there is some value in my feedback.

Mike Olinger
Vancouver, WA

From: [Ed](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: My comment on proposal
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 7:20:51 AM

Increase the license fees and change 10 yr review to v4 yrs-Please.
Ed Manion, Livingston, MT

From: [Bill Janecke](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 9:34:47 AM

Dear Legislators:

Montana is renowned for its outdoor recreational activities. Among the most revered of those activities are opportunities to hunt and fish. Please do everything within your power to insure our hunting and fishing opportunities are maximized as much as is humanly possible by supporting all the financial needs of Montana FWP and by taking all possible actions to enhance our wildlife resources. In particular, at this time, please send the licensing bill, Draft HB 609, to the Legislature.

Thank you.

Bill Janecke
24 Vigilante Trail
Clancy, MT 59634

Ph.: (406) 202-0852

From: [Kolman, Joe](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FW: Hunting license increase
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 9:15:36 AM

From: Bert Otis [mailto:otisranch@wispwest.net]
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 7:45 AM
To: Kolman, Joe
Subject: Hunting license increase

Dear State of Montana,

Just a short note to voice my support for the Fishing & Hunting fee increases that are proposed. As a native Montana, I know the value of our Fish & Game Dept. and I know that the sportsmen have always paid they own way. Unlike lots of other Depts. in the State, that ask the General Fund for funding. The sportsmen have always supported this Dept. and this increase would probably be more if it were put to a vote of them. Please don't play politics with this request, or it might come back as a initiative from the sportsmen.

Thank You
Bert Otis
PO Box 60
Emigrant, MT 59027
otisranch@wispwest.net

 This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Howard Davis](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hunting license fees
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 10:58:16 AM

I just want to offer my endorsement for raising hunting lic. fees as necessary to insure continuation of the Block Management and Bird Enhancement programs. One of the reason I decided to retire in MT was to enjoy the wide range of bird hunting opportunities afforded its citizens. I, and I suspect most, bird hunters would willingly pay an increase to insure these program's are fully funded.
Thank you.....

From: michaelshepard7@gmail.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 11:35:07 AM

Sir..I am in total agreement tht our fee need to be looked at, and a very hard one. The only one I disagree with is increasing my fees, now that I am retired and am at the "old" age of 65. Other than that I am willing to do my share thanks Mike Shepard, Retired CAC Member Region 1

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [MICHAEL MCNEILL](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 11:49:12 AM

Please send HB 609 to the legislature with your highest recommendation. I believe it will provide Montana with a viable and very useful funding mechanism to keep FWP operating for the benefit of all.
Mike McNeill
Bozeman
406.582.8393

From: [French, Steven](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 1:26:22 PM

Hello,

The best way to raise these funds would be to Quit funding wolves.

The amount of hunters is going down because the wolves are killing off the wildlife.

Get the wolves on a predator list like a coyote and kill a bunch off ,the elk and deer come back and more hunters are in the field again.

The wolves cost way too much money and lost license revenue.

KILL ALL THE WOLVES.

From: [Patrick Byorth](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 2:23:34 PM

Hi Hope,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the EQC's modification of the LFAC proposal for an FWP license fee increase.

First, some context is important. As you observed in your report, Montana's fish and wildlife resources are enjoyed by hunters, fisherman, and wildlife watchers from Montana and across the world. Montana's abundance and diversity of fish, wildlife, and hunting and fishing opportunities, are unrivaled in the United States, bar none. Montana's fish and wildlife heritage was rebuilt after being depleted to near extinction by the turn of the 20th Century by market hunting and destruction of streams and wildlife habitats. It took nearly 8 decades for Montanans to restore our fish and wildlife populations through regulations, scientific research, and habitat restoration. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and its predecessor, Fish and Game, led the recovery effort along with the hunters and anglers who engaged in the political process demanding that we restore our heritage. While hunters and anglers benefit from their work to restore fish, wildlife, and its habitats, all Montanans benefit directly or indirectly from this natural heritage: real estate, service industry, high tech industry, and virtually every sector of Montanans economy rely on marketing our abundant wildlife, clean air, and clean water that comprise our natural heritage. It is what sets Montana apart. Please relate to the EQC that failing to adequately fund FWP jeopardizes Montana's economic well-being by decreasing the agency's ability to manage, protect, and sustain our natural heritage.

Secondly, I support the Council's recommendations that simplify licenses and selectively increase license costs. It seems a reasonable way to share the financial burden between resident and non-resident sportswomen and men. Furthermore, Montana's licenses should be competitive with our neighboring states. Montana should certainly not undersell its licenses in comparison to neighboring states.

Finally, I do not support the EQC's reductions in contingency funds. While I do recognize that the legislature must be fiscally responsible, such cuts from the LFAC recommendation eliminate the opportunity for FWP to respond to unforeseen circumstances. So many resources have been drawn from the base mission of FWP to suit political whims. For example, an inordinate burden on the FWP budget has been placed on the bread and butter fish and wildlife to deal with bison, brucellosis, and wolves. While these are important issues facing Montana, they have become a financial and political drain on the department and diminished its ability to manage the basics, like deer, elk, upland birds and wild and native sportfish. Maintaining a contingency fund will allow FWP, within reasonable limits, to have a reserve to respond to hot button issues without draining other programs. Coupling a contingency fund with a 4 year funding cycle should provide some needed flexibility for FWP with plenty of legislative oversight to get back to basics and still respond to collateral issues as they arise.

Thanks for your work and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Patrick Byorth

PATRICK BYORTH | Director – Montana Water Project



321 E. Main Street, Suite 411, Bozeman, MT 59715
406.522.7291x100 | 406.548.4830 c | www.tu.org

From: [Jim Taylor](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 2:54:55 PM

I wanted to thank EQC for their work in studying the budget issue, and I support the recommendations for increased fees for FWP. As a lifelong hunter and fisherman, I think it is important that we continue to support the work that FWP does, and to support it in a manner that allows them to conduct business on a professional basis. I'd pay the increased amounts they are recommending. Thanks.

Jim Taylor

From: [jimmie mckay](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 3:36:17 PM

Dear

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

My wife and I are avid older Montana hunters and support the License and Funding Advisory Council's recommendations with an emphasis on the need to increase hunting licensing fees. Hunting License costs need to reflect real value needs for supporting Montana's valuable and irreplaceable wildlife. I am a 4th generation Montanan from families that homesteaded in this state from the 1890's thru the 1910. I know Montana's wildlife history and today's needs for supporting wildlife. I appreciate your work as a council, and hope you will consider this need which can be better accomplished with just a few extra hunters' dollars.

Sincerely

Jimmie McKay

From: [Mike McDaniel](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 4:07:25 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mail Delivery Subsystem** <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:05 PM
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: mcdanielinmontana@gmail.com

Delivery to the following recipient failed permanently:

hstockwell@mt.gov.com

Technical details of permanent failure:

Google tried to deliver your message, but it was rejected by the server for the recipient domain mt.gov.com by mt.gov.com. [204.200.222.136].

The error that the other server returned was:

550 5.7.1 <hstockwell@mt.gov.com>... Relaying denied. Proper authentication required.

----- Original message -----

DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed;

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:content-type;

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f62g==

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Fri, 08 Aug 2014 15:05:23 -0700 (PDT)

Received: by 10.140.98.11 with HTTP; Fri, 8 Aug 2014 15:05:23 -0700 (PDT)

In-Reply-To:

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>

References:

<CAAVsViwHDFwKNeNnJEXKCeZiwQ8Dte3YN+6VNtN1XVNx9vOk8w@mail.gmail.com>
>

Date: Fri, 8 Aug 2014 16:05:23 -0600

Message-ID:

<CAAVsViyFA5_NnMPCja4gDDzougksxGh=HKuv6hW_fg6CtlKq6w@mail.gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: HB 609 Licensing Study

From: Mike McDaniel <mcdanielinmontana@gmail.com>

To: hstockwell@mt.gov.com

Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=047d7b6765f0dfac8a050025669e

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mike McDaniel <mcdanielinmontana@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:00 PM

Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study

To: hstockwell@mtgov.com

I support the licensing bill and FWP funding. The Environmental Quality Council needs to understand that the package is:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Mike McDaniel

From: [Gene & Sharon](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP Funding
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 4:22:38 PM

Montana has the an incredible amount of natural resources for hunters and anglers. FWP has done great work to maintain these resources and access to them. I pay a lot of dollars for non –resident season fishing and upland bird licenses as well as contribute to local economies via purchase of gas, food, lodging, etc.

The\$11 increase is fair and important to maintain the great resources your state is fortunate to possess and important to continue to maintain habitat and access programs that FWP administers to insure the level of hunting and fishing opportunities.

Please vote in favor of these funds.

Respectfully,
Gene Steiner
Ketchum, Idaho

From: [Hannah](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: pul44mag@hotmail.com
Subject: HB 609
Date: Friday, August 08, 2014 7:06:58 PM

I support the study by FWP that the base fee needs to be higher to keep FWP solvent for the future. Increase basic fees for all licenses holders and simplify the license structure to make more money for the coffers for one of the most important state agencies.

Steven Pulaski
Manhattan Montana
Sent from my iPad

From: [Abuchanan](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [abuchanan@q.com](#); [Cargill](#)
Subject: : : F,W,& P : 18-9-14
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 3:33:27 PM

MT. F&W& Parks Increased license proposal .

Officials selected a group of 13 citizens and told them to indicate how to raise the license fees to acquire six million dollars more a year.. They have done this and outside of stopping the COLA increases on out of state licenses, that we voted for, I am in favor of the methods proposed to raise the revenue..

All we have to do is find a need to support this major raise.

I really resent the incorrect scare statements by FWP director Jeff Hagener indicating that 100 employees will lose their job if the licenses fees are not increased. Another example of the failure to properly inform the public .

The FW&P yearly budget is over 99 million Dollars and employees over 700 employees.

Currently they Project \$44,446,926 plus an additional \$13,247,089 for dedicated projects.from licenses fees. That means they wish to increase the licenses fees by 10,4%. From \$57,691,781 to \$63,691,781 and continue the six million increase for four more years.

I definitely feel they should be required to operate on their current budget.

I definitely feel that a citizens group, possibly the same group, be directed to evaluate and determine 6 million dollars worth of cuts that would not effect Montana citizens and very few of their 700 plus employees. Their department heads have already been directed to evaluate their budgets for potential cuts.

Many of the employees will get raises due to union contracts which is fine. There are many useless studies and procedures and possibly employees that are unnecessary.

They are not operating in the best interest of Montana citizens therefore I do not feel they should be allowed to raise licenses fees.

Some examples of poor management of The Montana wildlife Trust they control.

When asked why not plant fish in the creeks for children to catch? A hatchery superintendent stated “ they just catch them out”.

When asked why they did not plant fish in the rivers, I was told “xxx” wrote a book and we are following that. I mentioned increased fishing pressure and less fish and was told we can control that by catch and release policies and restricted fishing. I used to catch at least eight fish in the Jefferson by Whitehall any day I fished for five hours , from the river bank, and currently I am lucky to catch one. Floaters are averaging 2.5 fish for a four hour float this year.

They are planning on killing rainbow and browns that reach 3 and 4 pounds in a river and then plant cutthroat trout that may reach 1.5 pounds in a couple of years. Possibly just for the grizzly bears to eat when they spawn.

Just a couple of the concerns I see as they try to micro manage each 1--2--3 or so mile of every river. They are currently redoing studies of water temperature in various rivers to gather money to plant trees on private land for shade. The trees they are considering will draw more water from the river and therefore probably increase the temperature of the water.

They are responsible and have the authority to make changes that benefit Montana citizens. They should be informing the public repeatedly and accurately in understandable statements of all actions that restrict or reduce our quality of life. This would include all activities involving predators and restrictions on the public. They are definitely not informing the public.

When I asked what food they forecast for a specific wolf pack they wrote “We do not do that”.

Wolves reduced the Yellowstone elk herd from app 26,000 to less than 3,400 and the moose herd from 2,000 to one moose and they do not loudly and clearly inform the public. How about the diseases that wolves are known to

carry some of them never in Montana prior to the introduction of the non native Canadian wolf.

They have the authority to reduce the wolves to 150 and their failure to do so allows the extra wolves to consume over \$25 million worth of Montana wildlife each year. Why should they get six million for doing this type of work? This number is derived from their studies in the Madison that show an elk killed every week for each wolf when no other food is available. This study is backed up by many studies worldwide.

Where are the comments about the problems that grizzly bears cause. I cannot leave a sandwich on a picnic table and walk 100 feet without getting a ticket. They kill people so they say carry bear spray. If I turn a known killer loose to pray on wildlife and humans I am fined and possibly jailed. They even pay for information about an unauthorized kill of wildlife or humans.

Grizzly bears can only be controlled by man and the same is true of wolves.

At a meeting in Butte regarding the licenses I was informed that they cut costs in 2013 by changing from three quarter ton units to one half ton units.. This was not true because the governor had not allowed this. I was also told that they cut costs by reducing employees. Later I was told that one position in Helena was not filled?

No one should be allowed to make statements to the public regarding wolves until they assure that they have read the book “ The real wolf” by Ted B Lyons & Will N. Graves---The science, Politics and economics of existing with wolves in modern times--available at Amazon, COM for 21 dollars.

I request .

Absolutely no increase in licenses and we really need an independent group to evaluate the current budget and select cuts totaling 6 million dollars to keep within their budget until they realize they are hired to work for the benefit of Montana citizens.

Arnold Buchanan

P.O. box 676
Whitehall, Montana
Ph-1 406 287 2653.

From: [lynn kirtley](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP License Fees
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 3:46:32 PM

Since I'm on To: Hope Stockwell,

I support the FWP proposal on increased fees for hunting and fishing licenses.

Lynn Kirtley
rishakirtley@yahoo.com
1530 South Rouse
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-5875

From: rollandsimons@charter.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Fees
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 4:16:04 PM

Mr. Stockwell,

This e-mail is in favor of raising the State of Montana hunting, fishing and trapping license fees. Being on a fixed income I hate to see things go up; on the other hand I am a retired Park Maintenance Superintendent and know what it takes to run a quality program and now days it takes lots of money. Montana has been doing an excellent job, PLEASE do not let that slip.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Rollie Simons

Bozeman, MT

From: [Mark Parlett](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 4:19:07 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I strongly support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP.

I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees . I strongly oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

The job of protecting public trust resources has become more complex as the population impact on habitat increases. Large private land purchases have also presented new problems and threatened access. Any reduction of sportsman's funding for the agency will damage public trust resources in the long run.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and forward this those how are interested in what the public thinks.

Sincerely,

Mark Parlett

Mark Parlett
Educational and Therapeutic Consultant

Great Lakes Educational and Therapeutic Consulting

"Guidance To A Bright Future"

Cell 406.579.6793

Office 847.441.8911

mark@greatlakesconsult.com

tmparlett@gmail.com

www.greatlakesconsult.com

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From: [James Chalmers](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 5:43:38 PM

Council Members:

I retired to Montana in 1999 and maintain residences in Billings and in the Divide Country east of Lewistown. I serve on the Fergus County Port authority Board, Chair the Lewistown Trails Coordinating Committee and was previously an active member of the Judith Basin Backcountry Horsemen. I do a little bit of ranching, some farming, quite a bit of gardening and a lot of bird hunting and fishing so I won't belabor the obvious in terms of what drew us to retire in Montana.

I have a couple of perspectives on FWP—as an individual sportsman and as a civic-minded resident working with FWP to enhance and preserve our wildlife resources and the habitat on which they depend. As an individual sportsman who frequents fishing access sites across the state, is stopped for watercraft inspections for invasive species, makes heavy use of the Block Management program, etc. I can't imagine a State Agency doing a better job of serving its clientele. Perhaps even more important, I've been an active participant in the long history of productive cooperation between the Department and the City of Lewistown in restoring portions of Big Spring Creek, in cleaning up contaminated wetlands, in acquiring key land parcels that will assure excellent access to the Creek in perpetuity and in assisting in the acquisition of railroad right of way which is the core of the Lewistown Trail System. Bottom line in my view is that I can't imagine a more important objective for the State than to insure an adequate and dependable revenue source for the Department.

The recommended changes in the fee structure make a great deal of sense. FWP is one of the few agencies funded by user-fees. User-fees are entirely appropriate in this context and it's always seemed to me that the fees were way out of proportion to the benefits received (less than the benefits!!). I appreciate the gesture but when I pay my \$8/year but it's pretty obvious that something is out of whack! The recommendations made by the Council are conservative, certainly fair and should be reviewed on a regular 4 year basis as opposed to the current 10 year schedule.

Here's hoping for swift and enthusiastic support in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Jim Chalmers
jameschalmers@vcn.com
406-861-1642

616 Park Lane
Billings, MT 59102

873 Skaggs Lane
Lewistown, MT 59457

From: [Bill Story](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 7:22:07 AM

Having lived in the state for over 50 years, I have seen many changes in our state's wildlife management. I think as a whole our FWP has done a great job considering these changes.

I do NOT support any reduction in the FWP's budget. I am willing to pay more in fees for this great resource.

Please send this bill to the legislature without the monetary cuts.

Thanks, Bill Story

From: [Bill Gilbert](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Comments on HB 609 Study Report to the 64th Legislature
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 7:37:57 PM

My take on the recommendations

1. Standardizing youth, senior, disabled, and non-resident free and discounted licenses.
 - a. I support this. I do not believe there should be a free lunch. Hunting and fishing licenses are not an essential service - I am in no way in favor of subsidizing license fees. I cannot believe that a few dollars on the cost of a license will make or break a father taking his son hunting which is the only case I could make for a discount. As a veteran, I do not believe veterans, the disabled, or other "protected classes" should get a thin dime for non-essential services. I don't like subsidizing 50% of their cost, but that is a lot better than 100% of it.
 - b. I worry this would be used as a basis to veto the bill due to some jackass legislature member screaming "taking away from our disabled/veterans/kids"
2. Base hunting license
 - a. Maybe I'm missing something, but aren't you basically describing the conservation license? With this, what exactly does the conservation license do other than collect money from people who derive no benefit from it if they don't hunt or fish?
3. Fee increases on bison, moose, mountain goat, and mountain sheep non-resident licenses.
 - a. Do it. Somebody with the scratch to come to MT and hunt those higher end opportunities can afford \$500 more.
4. Increasing non-resident fishing license fees.
 - a. Changing the \$5 2 day license to \$8 sounds fine. I would not blink at the difference were a non-resident. The rest of it feels high to me. Maybe it would be difficult administratively, but could you change it to specify the number of days for a license and start/end dates and just charge per day?
5. non-resident B-10 combination license increase
 - a. I would not pay \$1000 for that license. Should find funding elsewhere.
6. Changing refund policy to 95% instead of 80%
 - a. Great idea - given the B-10 license costs - I would definitely not pay ~\$200 for the mere chance of getting said license.
7. 4 year cost model

a. Sure, I suppose. My only concern is the standard government budget process trying to justify your own existence. It sucks, but it is the nature of the beast I guess. As a group, you guys are not trustworthy to spend money correctly.

8. Finding additional funding sources other than license revenue.

a. Absolutely. I think it should be in the form of a lodging tax, or some other mechanism that ties to tourism dollars. The majority of tourism to Montana is focused on things my license dollars go to support. They want to see deer, elk, and etc. My hunting license dollars are a notable portion of what makes that possible.

Other thoughts

1. Make an optional line item on the state tax return to give money for wildlife enhancement and make sure the money is used as such.

2. Make sure when looking at any resident fee changes to take the average income for state residents into account. We are 36th in the nation for average per capita income using 2012 numbers.

2a. Further - it is a hard pill to swallow any fee increases. Most people I know have not had a raise in years, however real inflation is increasing. Unless the average Montanan is getting a raise, I do not want to hear that any portion of this money you are asking for is covering raises for FWP staff. If I don't get more \$\$\$, then neither should you.

3. Make sure all FWP funding is tied to the core mission, no scope creep or unnecessary fluff.

Thank you

Bill Gilbert
2967 Fleet Street
Missoula, MT 59808

From: [tim_vicars](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: jlwmontana@gmail.com
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 9:10:34 PM

Tim and Tonja Vicars would both like to take this opportunity to urge the EQC to send the draft bill 609 to the legislature. As both my wife and I are Montana hunters and fishers we feel that the slight increase in licensing fees would be an overall benefit to the well being of outdoor recreation in our state. Currently Montana's licensing fees are very low comparatively speaking. We need to do everything we can to help fund Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. Thank you for your consideration

From: [Loge Ranch](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 11:32:36 PM

I would like to speak in favor of the License and Funding Advisory Council recommendations to raise hunting and fishing fees as well as all the recommendations they made. I feel these recommendations are very important to the future of FWP and the programs they have implemented. We do not want to lose programs, people, and it is time that Montanans pick up more of their share of the cost of management. Thanks, Denley M. Loge 1296 4 Mile Road St. Regis 59866

From: [William Mealer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 8:55:16 AM

I favor the proposal to increase fees for Montana resident hunting and fishing licenses.
Bill Mealer, MD
Bozeman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michael Babcock](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: EQC DB 609
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 9:56:46 AM

Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Council

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP.

I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees . I oppose reducing FWP ear mark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for the Block Management and Habitat Montana Programs.

We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks adequate funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement.

Thanks,

I am,
Michael Babcock
2716 2nd Ave. S
Great Falls, MT
406-454-1865

From: [Dean Chavooshian](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: EQC
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 10:13:57 AM

I support the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler. I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs and cutting the FWP budget. I also support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana Programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state that is so very rich in wildlife. Let's give Montana Fish Game and Parks the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement. The job of protecting public trust resources has become more complex as the population impact on habitat increases. Large private land purchases have also presented new problems and threatened access. Any reduction of sportsman's funding for the agency will damage public trust resources in the long run.

DEAN CHAVOOSHIAN

(Phone: 212-255-6063)

(Cell: 917-597-2030)

(Email: dean.chavooshian@gmail.com)

www.AuthorsDen.com/DeanChavooshian

www.Twitter.com/DeanChavooshian

www.Linkedin.com/DeanChavooshian

From: [M Logan](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 licensing study
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 10:45:54 AM

I support the recommendations proposed by the EQC to Montana's hunting and fishing license fee structure, to provide continued funding to the Montana Fish ,Wildlife, and Parks. I feel that the changes are necessary to continue to provide the quality of management of this resource, which is such a valuable asset to Montana.

Pat Logan
599 A Street
Lewistown, MT 59457



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Bob Dunnagan](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP funding
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 4:46:13 PM

I certainly agree with increasing lic. fees however I would suggest that seniors get no reduction in fees (with proven exceptions of poverty) and I am a senior at 78. Remember that the wealth of the nation is held in large part by "seniors".

I would further suggest, for your consideration, that the legislature should appropriate funds for say 10-15% of the annual budget of FWP or a percentage of the budget that represents public use and values outside of hunting and fishing. Certainly FWP can come up with this figure from past information but if not use the figures generated by Idaho or other comparable state. Fish viewing in Yellowstone NP is the second or third highest usage in the park. I would assume that fish viewing, park operations and maintenance, bird watching, wildlife viewing etc. etc. is used and enjoyed by others then myself. Why should that cost of operations and maintenance be born solely by the hunters and anglers?

Thanks,

Robert D. Dunnagan

From: [Jeff Cornell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hb609 licensing study
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 6:54:31 PM

Hello, please raise our hunting & fishing fees to cover the expected FWP shortfall. Thank you very much.

Jeff Cornell
Glacier/Sotheby's International Realty
MT Liscensed Real Estate Broker
100 Baker Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937
c 406.253.2501 t 406.863.3060 f 406.863.3066
jcornell@glaciersir.com
www.glaciersothebyrealty.com

From: [jb5715](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP budget
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 8:07:48 PM

I am a 25 year resident of MT and an avid hunter and fisherman. Am also a supporter of FWP and their many excellent programs. I support the findings of the EnvironmentalQuality Council which call for increasing our MT license fees- long overdue- and reviewing the FWP budget every 4 years as opposed to the current practice of every 10 years. Thanks for any consideration you can give this request.
Bill Shields
Bozeman MT

From: [Info](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study
Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014 8:31:18 PM

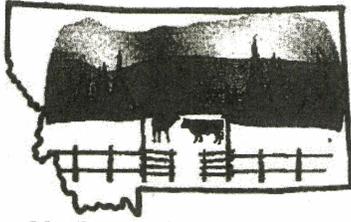
I would like to see this bill forwarded to the Legislature for vote, with the following provisions considered.

I DO NOT support an increase in the Non Resident 2-Day fishing license. The current \$15 fee, along with the fee for a conservation license currently stands at \$25. I am a fishing outfitter and regularly hear from clients that this is too much to spend, especially when they are only going fishing for 5 hours with me. MANY spend ONLY this 5 hours. How about a special "Guides License" that is only valid when fishing with a licensed guide?

Motorized Vehicle while hunting-I am the Montana rep for a company that makes wheeled, propelled amphibious vehicles. They are able to be used as a hunting blind, but in MT, they meet the definition of a vehicle. They can be rendered "unpropelled" by raising the wheels off the ground (or ice when used for ice fishing). I would like to see a provision that a vehicle that is classified and registered in MT as an "amphibious vehicle" can be utilized as a "ground blind" when the propulsion systems is deactivated, just like a boat can be used as a duck blind if the propeller is out of the water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Howe
A Able Fishing Charters and Tours
www.ablefishing.com
Mike@ablefishing.com
406-257-5214
MT Outfitter #12843



Private Land/Public Wildlife Advisory Council

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

AUG 11 2014

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August 7, 2014

Members 2013 -2015

Joe Perry (Chair)
4125 Circle S. Road
Brady, MT 59416

Richard Stuker (Co-Chair)
1155 Boldt
Chinook, MT 59523

Dwayne Andrews
1211 North Custer Ave.
Miles City, MT 59301

Chris King
PO Box 187
Winnett, MT 59087

Kathy Hadley
11155 East Side Rd
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Jack Billingsley
PO Box 768
Glasgow, MT 59230

Blake Henning
5705 Grant Creek Road
Missoula MT 59808

Rod Bullis
6785 Silver Fox Court
Helena, MT 59602

Daniel Fiehrer
PO Box 811
Helena, MT 59624

Lisa Flowers
PO Box 466
Glasgow, MT 59230

Denley Loge
1296 Four Mile Road
St Regis, MT 59866

Tom Jacobson
521 Riverview Dr. E
Great Falls, MT 59404

Jim Peterson
501 Peterson Ranch Ln
Buffalo, MT 59418-8134

Kendall Van Dyk
910 N 31st St
Billings, MT 59101-0744

Gerge Bain USDA-USFS
200 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

Kevin Chappell DNRC
PO Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Pat Gunderson BLM
5 Lasar Drive
Glasgow, MT 59230

To members of the Environmental Quality Council (EQC),

The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council was appointed by the Governor in accordance with MCA 87-1-269, which states "The governor shall appoint a committee of persons interested in issues related to hunters, anglers, landowners, and outfitters..." The current Council consists of 18 members who are hunters, anglers, landowners, and/or outfitters from all parts of the state.

During our efforts over the past 8 months to develop draft recommendations related to our charge, we have become familiar with the work of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, including their recommendation presented to EQC. At our August 4-5 meeting, members voted to have the PL/PW Council comment directly to EQC in support of the License and Funding Advisory Council recommendations.

We believe the Licensing and Advisory Council looked at all the data, listened to all the arguments, took extensive public comment to include holding 9 public meetings at various locations around the state, and made recommendations that reflected careful thought and consideration of all the relevant factors. We certainly appreciate their generous commitment of time and effort! We respectfully urge EQC to adopt the total package of recommendations as submitted by the Licensing and Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Joe L. Perry
Chairman, PL/PW Council

From: [Ken Lumpkin](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Monday, August 11, 2014 8:17:37 AM

After reading the EQC Recommendations I wish to state I am in favor of the proposals.

Thanks

Ken Lumpkin

P. O. Box 1074

Lincoln, Montana 59639

ltc@lintel.net

From: [Arlyn Lemer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License fee increases
Date: Monday, August 11, 2014 9:40:00 AM

I don't support a wolf stamp or user fees that are due to lack of non resident license sales. The problem of lack of non residence license sales was created by lack of good predator management and practices. So FWP created the budget short fall now live with it and cut staff or wages to compensate for your budget and management short falls like the private sector would do.

Arlyn F. Lemer

From: [WILBUR](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Peter Bakun](#)
Subject: FWP License Increases
Date: Monday, August 11, 2014 8:59:19 PM

It is my understanding that increases are being considered in hunting (and I presume fishing) license fees.

As an avid upland bird hunter with some waterfowl and one deer added as well as an avid trout fisherman, I strongly support these increases. Furthermore, as a 73 year old "senior citizen" who uses my hunting and fishing priveleges a lot as do others, I think we "senior citizens" should have a good size increase because of the very low price we pay for a lot of useage. Programs such as Block Management are world class and need our financial support to make them even more attractive to land owner participants and managed by FWP in such a way as to encourage land owners to manage for wildlife as part of their operation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

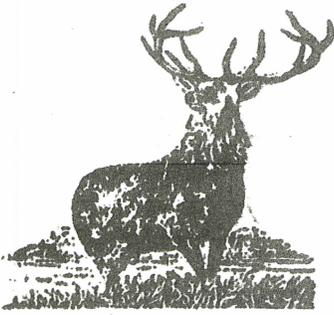
Wil Avril
Bozeman, MT

From: [garry.king](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hb 609 Lic Study
Date: Monday, August 11, 2014 5:05:41 PM

Writing to add my total support to the findings of the committee, and the suggestions on the new license fees. Our fees are long overdue for increases, and the committee's suggestions have arrived at fair increases for all. Montana hunting and fishing lic cost remain one of the great bargains in comparison to other locations. We have the finest hunting and fishing one can find, at a very affordable cost. Garry King Denton, Mt 59430

From: [Gary Kasnett](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Monday, August 11, 2014 6:42:32 AM

Please support the proposed licensing bill.
I am angler and we need to avoid cuts to FWP.
This is a reasonable way to address this.
Thank you,
Gary D. Kasnett



Skyline Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

August 8, 2014 ^{Box 173}

Butte, Montana 59703

E.Q.C. Leadership

H.B. 609 Licensing Study

*P.O. Box 201706
Helena, mt. 59620-1706*

To Whom It May Concern:

RECEIVED

AUG 12 2014

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on Draft Bill 609.

Our group, as well as Anaconda Sportsmen's Club attended the Butte meeting chaired by Rep. Jeff Welbourne. We all felt that his presentation was excellent and to the point. We agree with the increases of \$8.00 to hunt and \$3.00 to fish as well as changing in the age for discounted licenses. Standardizing free licenses is also acceptable.

We do NOT agree with ANY reduction in funding for F.W.P. The increased use and value of our fish and wildlife resources should have MAXIMUM funding, NOT LESS. Over the last couple of legislative sessions bills have been introduced which would defund the department and destroy our wildlife legacy; this should not be allowed to happen. We have a very competent director in Jeff Haganer and a broadminded governor who understand all of these values.

We urge the E.Q.C. board to adopt the recommendations of the independent citizens group with increases and no decreases.

Your considerations of our concerns will be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU

Les Castren PRES. Skyline Sportsmen Assoc.

Tony Schoonen Anaconda Sportsmen's Club

CC: Gov. Steve Bullock

Dan Vermillion Chairman F.W.P. Commission

From: sbmyers@roadrunner.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Montana FWP budget
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 5:24:50 AM

I want to drop you a note to state that I am in full support of a small increase in license fees, if that is what it takes, to keep the outstanding programs, such as Block Mgt and The Upland Game Bird Program, ongoing and hopefully growing into the future.

Montana's FWP has done an outstanding job! They should be rewarded for their hard work and perseverance, instead of threatened with budget cuts.

Thank you

William D. Myers
291 Setters Pt.
Dryden, Va. 24243

From: [jw westman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB-609
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 5:45:06 AM
Attachments: [Westman family license fee comment.docx](#)

Good morning Hope, attached please find the Westman Family's comment on HB-609. Summer coming to an end, hope you've had some opportunities to get out and enjoy Montana. Thanks a bunch.

JW

Dear EQC members:

The JW & Lori Westman family of Park City wish to have our comment on this important issue added to the official record. The Westman family, which includes two children hunt, fish and enjoy our Montana traditions and firmly believe we have an obligation to properly fund our public trust agency, FWP.

We strongly agree with the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council. It increased prices are minimal, on average of \$11 for fishing and hunting. The prices we pay in Montana are very fair for the world class opportunities we enjoy. The recommendations of the License and Funding Advisory Council also simplify with fewer license classes and stronger standardization throughout.

In closing the Westman family urges the EQC to advance Bill 609 to the Montana Legislature, it's definitely needed and wanted so the continuation of our precious outdoor traditions can move forward providing a certain future for Montana's present and future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

JW, Lori, Megan & Dakota Westman

From: [ken barrett](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:03:08 AM

Mr. Stockwell:

While I applaud the recommendations and support them. I feel the increases could have been substantially more. When compared with other forms of recreation, hunting and fishing are a bargain and would remain so at double the price.

Ken Barrett
130 Foothills Dr.
Bozeman

From: [Shannon Taylor](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:13:38 AM

August 12, 2014

Dear Sen. John Brendan, Chair, Environmental Quality Council,

This letter is on behalf of the Headwaters Sportsman Association which is a grassroots organization started in 1996 dedicated to promoting increased opportunities for Montana resident hunters and anglers. We have over 150 members who are Montana residents. Almost all of us vote and pay taxes.

We are in nearly complete, unanimous agreement about the need to fund our Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the current expenditure level or higher. We strongly urge your Council to forward to the Legislature HB 609 as developed by the Licensing and funding Advisory Council.

Our members have no problem paying more for licenses to expand FWP earmark programs such as Habitat Montana, Block Management and the Upland Game Bird program. We do not want these earmarked funds diverted for any other purpose. Most of our members think these programs should be significantly increased now.

We want improved and expanded wildlife habitat and increased opportunities to hunt and fish. We know that Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is one of our strongest allies when it comes to programs that improve our hunting and fishing opportunities and we support increased FW&P revenue.

I know it seems strange to hear tax payers ask for an increase in their fees, but that is exactly what the resident hunters and anglers are saying. Please listen to our requests and forward HB 609 to the legislature.

We also know that no organization, neither public nor private, makes perfect decisions every time when it comes to wildlife management. But we feel a strong, well-funded Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department is in the best interest of Montana to help build consensus among all of the various stakeholder groups. No other organization can do what they do when developing policies that can be accepted by all parties.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be more than happy to discuss this bill or any other Montana sportsmen's issue with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Shannon Taylor, Secretary
Headwaters Sportsman Association
PO Box 1941
Bozeman, MT 59771-1941

Sent via email to hstockwell@mt.gov and write "HB 609 Licensing Study" in the subject line of the email.

From: [Brian Brenton](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Montana FWP budget
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:14:04 AM

Dear Mr. Stockwell,

I am writing to express my support for whatever license increases or budgetary changes are necessary to continue to support Montana's upland bird and block management access programs. As an out-of-state hunter, these programs are two of the primary reasons why I drive over 24 hours one-way to hunt in Montana. I have little doubt that most, if not all, traveling bird hunters feel the same way. Montana has absolutely set the bar with these programs and it would be a shame to see them discontinued due to lack of funds. Speaking as an out-of-state hunters, license costs are mostly inconsequential compared to the costs of getting to and staying in Montana for a week of hunting.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views on this matter and I am hopeful that these budgetary issues can be resolved favorably.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Brenton

Brenton Consulting, LLC
21820 Garfield Road
Northville, MI 48167
(248)342-6590
(248)247-2972 (fax)

From: [John Champion](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Fee increase/block mgt.
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:52:33 AM

I have never commented to a gov. agency, so here is a first.

I have been lucky enough to draw a deer tag back in the 90's. What a great experience. I have also hunted pheasants north of Chinook. Another fantastic hunt. I was even allowed to camp in the coral and communicated w/ the family for years.

Montana and the Block Mgt. program is "gem" among states. I continually use Montana as an example of how hunter access can be so spectacular. As a nonresident, an extra increase in fees is much less than than the cost to travel, lodge, and buy food. I hope that there is a way to maintain your unique approach to hunting. I would gladly support any increase in fees to maintain your hunting program.

P.S. The whitetail that I shot around Scoby was the best wild game That I have every eaten. Keep up the good work. John Champion

From: [Allen & Dixie Schallenberger](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Allen Schallenberger Letter to Helen Stockwell, EQC on FWP license fee increases August 12, 2014
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 9:14:32 AM
Attachments: [Allen Schallenberger Letter to Helen Stockwell, EQC on FWP license fee increases August 12, 2014.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

Please include the enclosed letter in your EQC record.

Allen Schallenberger

Allen Schallenberger
53 Elser Lane
Sheridan, MT 59749-9604
August 12, 2014

Helen Stockwell, EQC
Via e-mail

Subject: F.W.P. license fee increase

I oppose a license fee increase for the following reasons: FWP has gotten away from their main mission of fish and game management; there are over 700 employees with many not working for the main mission; the Dept. has poor leadership at present and that must be change to get outstanding individuals, with graduate level degrees and much job experience in Montana who have institutional knowledge of the Dept. and its problems. They can trim the Dept. staff and projects and get it back on course and within the income budget. Large predators have been allowed to diminish a number of elk, mule deer and moose populations and that has caused a drop in hunting license income from both residents and non-residents.

I am a Montana native, more than 70 years old who grew up on ranches, and I first went to work for MT FG in 1963 as a wildlife research assistant. Later I was the wildlife management biologist on the Rocky Mountain Front and my work records were used as the proto-type job description for a Montana wildlife management biologist. Later I did some of the early grizzly bear research in the state, was a cattle rancher 10 years, a general outfitter 20 years, a gift products manufacturer 36 years and am currently a retired writer and speaker on wildlife issues. I have closely watched the Dept. and Commission and kept up on wildlife management and research for over 50 years.

Montana Fish and Game and the early MT FWP were a highly respected Dept. nation-wide. In the early years, many of the employees were veterans of World War II and Korea. Many had grown up on ranches and farms and had the work ethics and knowledge of those professions. Most had horsemanship skills which are necessary for mountain work in Montana. Pride was taken in data collection and excellent research and job progress reports were written each year as well as final job completion reports which were available to the public and a valuable historical resource for the Dept. MT FWP now claims to have over 10,000 such reports but good luck finding and getting them.

In the earlier days, people who were outstanding, rose through the ranks of various positions in the Dept. to staff positions in Helena and to regional supervisors and ultimately those with the necessary skills became Director and Deputy Director. That has changed for the worse in the last couple of decades and began with Director Jim Flynn, whose background was waste management and he had no institutional knowledge of the Dept. but he would fire anyone who disagreed with him. Dr. Donald Quimby, my M.S. mentor, who founded the wildlife program at MSC Bozeman in 1948, told me shortly before he died in his 90's that Jeff Hagener was the

worst director in his memory of Montana. He never knew Gov. Schweitzer's Colorado college roommate who was allegedly even worse in my opinion. Hagener has a B.S. in wildlife management and a B.S. in range and worked for DNRC in state lands before being appointed director by Judy Martz who had no college degree. Hagener in turn brought in Chris Smith as Deputy Director who failed in Alaska, was lacking in common sense and knowledge of Montana and he was demoted by the next director. He replaced Smith with Art Noonan, a Butte resident with no college education and no record of ever having purchased a hunting license in Montana. He also brought in Dave Risley a parks man from Ohio who had no institutional knowledge, nor MT education and experience to head, fish, wildlife and law enforcement. That was a disaster. Risley put out the edict that no field personnel could contact him. He is still listed on the dept. directory but has no job title.

Hagener, in his first term, moved Ken McDonald from chief of fisheries to chief of wildlife management. Again that has not been good, as he grew up and got a B.S. in California, got an M.S. in Zoology working on river otters in Ohio, worked in wetlands there, then moved to Utah and worked with river otters, prairie dogs and few other species. Then he was hired by Montana as a bull trout biologist and worked his way up the fish ladder to chief of fisheries. He was highly unqualified by education and job experience, in my mind, to be chief of wildlife management in MT. He has stated that bird watching is the coming thing and that 44 per cent of Montana people do that but only 24 per cent hunt. He has also stated that he has the goal of making non-game and threatened and endangered species as important and as well funded as game animals and game birds. A number of very excellent people quit in disgust over McDonald becoming wildlife chief. Other Dept. wildlife people have to work very hard to try to keep wildlife management on track.

Elections have consequences. We need to turn MT FWP around.

//SS// Allen Schallenberger

From: [Jerry Davis](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Montana Hunting and Fishing License Fee Increase bill.
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 10:18:48 AM

Members of EQC,

I am writing to voice my support for the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council (LFAC) recommended hunting and fishing license fee increases as well as program changes.

To begin I think the hunting and fishing license rate review cycle that Montana currently uses to address hunting and fishing license fee increases has never been suitable for addressing the rapid changes that occur in our economy and in our society. I would prefer that the FWP commission be given authority to make fee increases within legislatively prescribed boundaries. But understanding that the political climate will not allow this I think decreasing the cycle to 4 years is the next best solution. The current 10 year cycle requires that FWP make predictions up to 10 years in the future as to what operational costs will be, ie vehicle cost, fuel costs, salaries and wages, etc. I work in a small business and trying to predict these costs over a two year period is difficult.

I think the LFAC did a good job of simplifying the cost increase by creating a base hunting license. A good idea that other states have successfully implemented.

Of course assigning all discounted licenses a discount of 50% goes a long way in simplifying our licensing structure.

I do have a comment for change though in the proposed bill. It is that number of nonresident relative of a resident combination licenses under 87-2-510 for deer (B-11) and 87-2-505 elk (B-10) be included in the cap for licenses for a nonresident relative of a resident licenses, 87-2-526. 87-2-526 states a cap of 500 for each B-10 and B-11 licenses and if there are more applicants than licenses then there will be drawing. I think the B-10 and B-11 licenses under 87-2-505 and 510 also be included in that cap.

Overall I strongly support a license fee increase.

Without hunting a fishing license fee increases FWP ability to fulfill its commitment and mission to manage Montana's wildlife will be severely hindered. That means less wildlife for the public to enjoy either through hunting, fishing or general enjoyment. Wildlife mean a lot to Montanans both as enjoyment and as an economic driver.

We hunters and fishers have a responsibility to fund the management of our wildlife. I fear if we Montana citizens do not adequately fund management of Montana's wildlife someone with dollar signs in their eyes will take up the slack while at the same time diminishing the ability of the normal Montana citizens to hunt and fish the way we always have.

Thanks for allowing my comment.

Jerry Davis
725 Middlemas Rd
Helena, MT 59602
pipelinejerry@gmail.com
406-475-2226

From: evrgreen@bigsky.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Recomendations:
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:23:54 PM

This licensing study was well represented by sportsman the users and I agree with their findings and support the changes and proposed increases...I am a Montana Hunter & Angler of past 35 plus years. This will take us into the future with confidence that finances should not be an issue again. John A Farley Hamilton, Mt

From: [Sky Jones](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 10:48:47 AM

Dear Messrs,

Having read the report and bill, my public comment on HB 609 can be summarized in two words: "Do it."

I have lived all across the United States and hunted and fished everywhere I've lived. Montana's resources are second to NONE and the FWP does a fine job of managing those resources for outdoorsmen like myself. Please choose not to cut management operations or programs. If anything, these programs should be increased. I am a card carrying republican, but believe that a governing body (FWP) is essential in ensuring that future generations get to enjoy what I do. I read that an \$8 increase to hunt and a \$3 increase to fish will close the funding gap. \$3 is about the cost of one decent fly at a local fly shop and is minimal to say the least. I would even suggest increasing the fees by \$12 to hunt and \$5 to fish would not only fill the funding gap, but allow the structurally imbalanced 10-year funding cycle to continue without "emptying the bathtub". A surplus wouldn't necessarily mean expanding programs, as increasing operating costs might land us back in the same position, but I believe it is a start to sustaining the FWP as it now operates. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing more about HB 609.

Sincerely,

SKY S. JONES
JONES LAW, P.C.
416 WEST MENDENHALL
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
TEL: 406-585-3300
FAX: 406-794-0799
SKY@JONESLAWPC.COM

Please note the change of address.

From: [Dan Bailey](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 11:25:24 AM

Hope,

I am writing this email in response to the proposed licensing increase for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I represent Montana Pheasants Forever and we would like to let you know that we want to see the license increase for FWP. We are fully aware that programs such as the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program, Habitat Montana and Block Management are at risk if we do not get this license increase approved by Montana's Legislative process. We need this to happen. Please tell the EQC that the package is:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses

Kind Regards,

Dan Bailey

MT Regional Representative Pheasants Forever

--

Dan Bailey | Montana Regional Representative

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | 931 E. 2nd St | Stevensville, MT 59870

| c. (406)-586-8137 | d Bailey@pheasantsforever.org

www.PheasantsForever.org ♦ www.QuailForever.org ♦ [PF Blog](#) ♦ [On The Wing](#) ♦ [Fan Page](#)

From: [jill_noell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 2:40:05 PM

All resident license fees are bargains. Please adjust fees so that budgets do not face draconian cuts. As a senior, I could afford to pay for both my upland bird license and a fishing license. Resident Big game tags should be raised also.

Dave Noell

From: [John E. Kissel](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 3:39:44 PM

As a seasoned sportsman hunter and fisherman. The new fee structure is something that I would support. Go for the license fee increases. Thank You.

John E. Kissel
Corvallis Mt.

From: [billy jeter jr](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: license fees
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 4:43:10 PM

I travel to Montana yearly from Arkansas to bird hunt. Without the block management program you have I wouldn't make such a long expensive trip. If a license fee is necessary to keep the program, count me as one who sill gladly pay more for the privilege to birdhunt in your state.

Thank you,

Billy Jeter

135 Fairview rd, Little Rock Ar 72205

From: [Doris Fischer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 4:47:21 PM

Hello EQC Members,

I am writing to urge you to send draft bill 609 to the full Montana Legislature for consideration. It is crucial that we increase license fees a modest amount, in order to support FWP adequately and avoid the looming \$5.75 million shortfall.

FWP's ability to perform its fish and wildlife stewardship functions is vital to our state's economy and our own quality of life. What would Montana be like, without the healthy fish and wildlife populations that we citizens and millions of visitors so thoroughly enjoy? Maintaining our fish and wildlife resources requires a proactive, solidly funded and fully staffed FWP.

Thank you.

Doris Fischer
P.O. Box 584
Sheridan, MT 59749

From: [Chris Sullivan](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 5:16:45 PM

I am an out of state bird hunter in Montana. I specifically go to Montana because of the well run BMA / upland bird access program. If you need to raise fees to keep this program, then raise fees. I spend a lot of money in the state of Montana (Hotels, Restaurants, Gas, Groceries) because your state provides great access. If the access to hunt private lands is eliminated, I will (grudgingly) hunt elsewhere.

Thanks,

Chris Sullivan
Portland, OR

From: [Heather Weber](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 5:25:20 PM

Would lime to throw my two cents in on this, my husband and I are both born and raised in MT and are life long hunters and fisherman. We support FWP in their efforts to fund itself realizing that it is one of the only state agencies that is self funded. We would gladly support the raise in cost of license but would hate to see any funding cuts to any programs. Thanks for you time.
Heather & Brandan Weber

From: [Familytipton](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP. Budget
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 5:34:34 PM

I fully support the use of this budget. Please keep it going

Kelly Tipton

Sent from my iPad

From: Sportnlyf@aol.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Comment on Block Management Program
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 6:16:32 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

The purpose of this email correspondence is to provide you with my observations as a 67 year old non-resident who plans a portion of his life around fall bird hunting trips to Montana.

As background, I am retired from a career managing (1974-2003) the nation's largest municipally operated fishing and hunting program as a resource for public outdoor recreation. I have also been a professor of outdoor recreation with an emphasis on multi-purpose utilization of natural resources, as well as an outdoor writer for a variety of national, regional and local publications.

I am acutely aware that none of that may mean much when it comes to addressing the \$5.7 million budget shortfall described by the story that appeared in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

On the other hand, and based on my own experience involving tourism revenues and related local commerce, it appears (based on the story) that outdoor recreation in the state of Montana related to the Block Management Program may be a much larger economic engine than is realized or understood.

As a regular visitor, I can assure you that I am merely one of many who visit Montana based primarily on the public upland hunting opportunities afforded by the state's Block Management Program. Were it not for this program I believe many, if not a majority of tourist hunters would consider going elsewhere for their upland hunting.

The program I managed for fishing and hunting generated approximately \$2 million in direct revenues in the form of permit fees which roughly equaled the direct expenses it cost to provide the program.

An extensive survey and study projected that local business commerce (rooms, gas, meals, etc.) generated between \$45 and \$52 million annually.

Accordingly, I am hopeful that any discussion and deliberations regarding the Upland Hunting Program and Block Management Program will include quantification and recognition of the statewide commerce generated to the benefit of local communities and their businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Brown
5782 Guincho Road
San Diego, CA 92124
858 442-7421

From: [Wingshoot Alaska LLC](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Block program
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 7:04:14 PM

I believe the block program is very beneficial to Montana and needs to be supported as does the upland bird program

Sent from my iPad

From: [Fred Upchurch](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 7:58:34 PM

I am proud that hunters and anglers pay for their chosen activities. I support the license increase. Fred Upchurch Stevensville Montana

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Sent from my Android device with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

From: [DAVID F](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 9:37:49 PM

I am writing to endorse the subject Bill and it's associated recommendations.

I have been a resident and citizen sportsman since moving to MT in 1969. Our natural resources are truly a treasure to be well managed and preserved. In particular our fish and wildlife must be appropriately managed by professionals. Montana's FWP has been charged with this mission and has been doing an outstanding job with scarce resources. The projected fiscal shortfall could have a devastating effect on FWP's ability to do their job.

More revenue and a different funding cycle are an imperative. The recommendations of the subject study are reasonable, well thought out, and fully justifiable.

I am a member of Region 3's CAC. I have asked well over a dozen sportsman about the new funding structure. Everyone I have talked to was strongly in favor of the proposal. In-state sportsmen have been getting a fabulous bargain. The proposed increases are very reasonable and citizens who cherish their opportunities to hunt, fish, and camp want our Montana resources appropriately managed.

In conclusion I and many others support the recommendations of the study and the related Bill.

David F Gibson
2409 Spring Creek Dr
Bozeman, MT

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jack Cowen](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 9:58:13 PM

I live in Texas, but every summer I come to beautiful Montana to fish. I always buy a full year "out of state" license for myself and my wife. The license fee is quite modest and supports the great work done by the state Fish and Game Department. I especially appreciate the state access "Fishing Sites" and the fine job of stream management. I know that any fish that I catch in a Montana stream will be a wild fish....no stockers except in the little lakes where kids fish. I will be happy to pay a bit more for my out-of-state license to support FWP. I am a member of Montana's Public Land and Water Association, and I join them in supporting FWP. Thank you
Jack Cowen, Rockport, TX
jfcowen@gmail.com

From: [Ihor Fedorak](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: BMA program
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 10:57:28 PM

Dear Mr. Stockwell,

I write in support of the Block Management Area program run by the Montana FWP. You and your department are to be congratulated for developing a truly exceptional method of partnering with local landowners and visiting hunters for the betterment of all involved. There have been recent rumors in the upland hunting community that the program is at risk of being phased out. I have sung the praises of the BMA program for almost a decade to my fellow hunters. It is the main reason my hunting partners and I have visited your great state for at least a week each fall and will continue to do so. I sincerely believe we contribute to the economies of the communities we visit each fall. I hope that the Montana FWP is able to continue the program as I am confident it is a net benefit to the ranchers, hotel owners and restaurateurs of your wonderful state.

Many thanks
Ihor Fedorak

From: [Tim Seitz](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Block Management
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 12:25:59 AM

As a non-resident hunter I have come to Montana for 5 out of the last seven years to take advantage of your states incredible public hunting program. My friends and I drive 32 hours straight in order to hunt wild pheasants, sharp tail grouse, and ducks in your great state. It's worth it to us because we have no such program in my home state of Virginia. I fully support this program and will continue to visit Montana in the fall to hunt block Management lands.

Respectfully,

Tim Seitz

Sent from my iPad

From: mcdanielscott79@yahoo.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Fees
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 5:02:22 AM

Sir,as an out of state hunter who enjoys the block mgmt. in northeast Montanna for 8weeks each fall,I would gladly pay more in license fees. I think that the monetary value of Block Mgmt in tourism dollars would be a no brainer. Scott Mc Daniel 3845 Maple Grove rd Marion,Ohio 43302
Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Roger Dallner](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 7:40:52 AM

Continuing to increase the price of a license is a mindless government solution to the problem and will result in fewer people purchasing and enjoying these activities. Wouldn't it be more logical to continually reduce costs of operations over the new budget period and preserve the hunting and fishing opportunity for more Montanans?

1. Have you looked at contract services (privatization) as a way to reduce labor cost and pension liability?
2. Have you looked at specifically outsourcing IT labor requirements and downsizing the scope of services to essentials levels?
3. Have you looked at downsizing full time labor and moving to part time employees?.
4. Have you considered consolidation of offices and elimination of unused assets. Helena included!
5. Have you looked at the cost of carrying for each employee in detail. Everything!
6. Have you asked the citizens you serve to redefine your scope of services?

Every office within the department has outdated service directives and wasted manpower, just walk into an office or follow your employees for a day. I know you could easily cover your projected shortfall by simply reevaluating the scope of services and adjusting labor requirements..

The non government population of the State of Montana is being forced to do all of the above just to stay in business. Until you can demonstrate completion of the above, I really don't know why we should allow you to impose further burden on us in the form of a higher user tax.

From: [Eric](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 7:47:47 AM

It is extremely important that MDFWP receives a budget increase. I support the raising of fees more than what is in the draft bill (and that's still a good deal compared to what's out there), but I support the bill if that's the best we can do. I also believe that the majority of discounted licenses should go away or at least be standardized at 50% of normal price as in the draft bill. Thanks for your consideration.

From: [John Langdell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Budget study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:50:42 AM

As a non-resident hunter I support the increase in license fees to maintain the Upland Bird Hunting and Block Management programs.

These programs generate a great deal of revenue for the small towns in Montana and despite the lack of comments will be sorely missed should they be eliminated.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks does a commendable job in managing the conflicting demands for resources.

I heartily endorse the increase in license fees.

John Langdell
1615 Branding Iron Drive
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-642-2395/605-645-6268 cell
johnlangdell@rushmore.com

From: [Chip Westerman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:05:01 AM

Hunting and fishing are why I live in Montana and I would love to see an increase in resident license costs. \$8 and \$3 seem very modest to me and I hope the proposed increases go through.

Best,
Chip Westerman

From: [Bert BRIDGER](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Proposed License Increases
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:28:51 AM

I support the proposed increases in license fees for both hunting and fishing as outlined in HB 609. We Montana residents have a wonderful set of resources and we need to continue to support the agencies that manage those resources. While not addressed in the HB, I would also support increasing the price of licenses for those of us who are seniors and while I understand the "fixed income" argument against such a increase, the cost of the license is relatively minor in the larger picture of the total cost of a hunting or fishing trip when taking into account the cost of the various equipment/gas/camping or motel fees. I would also argue that the seniors have more time to be active in hunting and fishing and therefore, the cost per hour of the license usage is far less than for those that have jobs.

Thanks for taking my comments.

Bert Bridger
2200 Saddleback Dr.
Laurel, Montana 59044
406-628-5959

From: [David Harlacher](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:59:14 AM

I would like to express my support for HB 609. With the projected short fall in FWP finances this bill only makes sense. We here in Montana share an excellent resource of fish and wildlife as compared to other states and it only makes sense to pony up in the financial support of that resource.

David Harlacher

From: [Webs trading](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:44:09 AM

I am strongly against the raise in Hunting & fishing license being raised in Montana. Its not the citizens fault the department cant control their own spending. My suggestion is lay off a few of the employees that do nothing but stand around and sell off vehicles that arent being used. The problem with raising the fee is that you always raise the fee but not the quantity. People wouldnt mind as much if the fee was raised if the limit was raised also. And as I see again your trying to put more on the backs of the seniors. The age is 62 now and you want to go to 67. How ridiculous is that? Its plain stupid. You might have a senior who got his senior license last year at 62 and then next year cant. What a bunch of crap you bunch try to hand out. Leave the fee's alone and try to fund your mistakes someplace else other then the backs of the people.

Steve Webster
Butte Mt.

From: [Tim Crawford](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:52:35 AM

Dear Council Members,

Please follow or enact the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council recommendations. Our FW&P is woefully underfunded. Our license and fee schedule is an unfortunate bargain relative to our neighboring states offering similar opportunities. The average increase for the Montana hunter is eleven (11) dollars, hardly a day's beer ration for many outings. Simplifying our maze of special licenses and varying fees will correct creeping bureaucratic blunders in an ill-advised attempt to please too many interests.

Thanks,
Tim Crawford
1300 Dry Creek School Rd.
Belgrade, MT 59714
Daytime phone (406) 585-9333

From: [Frank Burns](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: EQC Funding study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:59:41 AM

To whom it may concern,

I support the bill as presented by EQC to fund the FWP revenue short fall. It is important to keep this funding and I don't mind the small increase in license fees. Thanks Frank Burns (Private citizen)

From: [Mike Larson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:08:38 AM

Hello,

I just wanted to voice my support for a license fee increase to support montana FWP. I love the block management and open fields for hunters programs. I would like to see these programs expanded!

Please let me know who I can contact to show my support for this issue..

Thanks, Mike Larson

Mike Larson
Big Timberworks Inc.
mike@bigtimberworks.com
406-539-6845

From: [Daniel E. Ruggles II](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:20:04 AM

Please send the above mentioned licensing bill to the legislature for approval. This bill is needed now more than ever to address the mounting financial shortfalls of the FWP and to maintain the best in class hunting and fishing amenities that this state has to offer. The bill is cheap, simple and most necessary.

Thank you,

Dan Ruggles
Bozeman, MT

From: [Randal McDowell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Fee Increase
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:38:19 AM

Please don't lose programs such as Upland Game Bird Enhancement or the wonderful Block Management Program you have in place.

As an avid Non-Resident Montana hunter I would be devastated to learn that these programs would be eliminated - feel free to increase my license fees!!!!

My hope and expectation is to retire to the wonderful state of Montana. Without the above mentioned programs I would have to choose to hunt and retire elsewhere. I hope that won't be the case. I know my many hunting friends and relatives would also be greatly affected by the elimination of these programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Randal McDowell

Victoria, MN 55386

From: [Dayl Fredrickson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 10:39:29 AM

I encourage you to submit Bill HB 609 to the legislature. The increase is reasonable, and FWP needs operating capital. I'm a native Montanan, a fisherman and hunter, and do not feel the increase will be a burden to myself and other fishermen and hunters.

Sincerely,
Mike Fredrickson

From: [Glenda Rothacher](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:49:15 PM
Importance: High

RE:

Opportunity for Public Comment

The Environmental Quality Council, or EQC, is an interim legislative committee taking public comment now on a draft bill that would generate enough fishing and hunting license revenue to support FWP through 2021.

Absolutely NOT! Do not ask the fishing and hunting people of Montana to support your lack of responsible spending within your agency. If you were like any American family – if we are over spending our means – we cut back. This agency is acting like a welfare recipient who keeps asking for more and more and not trying to live within their means! FWP needs to re-evaluate its program and cut back and like all Montanans are doing.

We are paying enough for licenses and fees now for our hunting and fishing privileges.

The more money put in for the hope to get a license – the less we are getting back. NO – FWP manage your budget and be responsible and don't ask any more of the hunting and fishing taxpayers of Montana.

--

Glenda Rothacher

From: [Glenda Rothacher](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:50:45 PM
Importance: High

RE:

Opportunity for Public Comment

The Environmental Quality Council, or EQC, is an interim legislative committee taking public comment now on a draft bill that would generate enough fishing and hunting license revenue to support FWP through 2021.

Absolutely NOT! Do not ask the fishing and hunting people of Montana to support your lack of responsible spending within your agency. If you were like any American family – if we are over spending our means – we cut back. This agency is acting like a welfare recipient who keeps asking for more and more and not trying to live within their means! FWP needs to re-evaluate it's program and cut back and like all Montanan's are doing.

We are paying enough for licenses and fees now for our hunting and fishing privileges.

The more money put in for the hope to get a license – the less we are getting back. NO – FWP manage your budget and be responsible and don't ask any more of the hunting and fishing taxpayers of Montana.

--

Terry Rothacher

From: [Roy O'Connor](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: BB 609 licensing study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 12:24:32 PM

Sirs, Mt FWP needs additional funding to keep and build on our unique state fisheries and Wildlife. The proposed increase in license fees is justified and necessary to protect and promote these recreational resources. It is an important part of our life and heritage in Montana.

Thanks,
Roy OConnor
Clinton, Mt

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chad Krause](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 1:23:39 PM

I am in support of HB 609, including raising license fees. Montana's wildlife and fisheries resources are critical to the economy of the State. As an individual who purchases hunting and fishing licenses in numerous western states, Montana has greater hunting and fishing opportunity than any other. In addition, Montana's hunting and fishing licenses are very reasonably priced compared to other states. Even if the average outdoorsman pays an additional \$8 to hunt and \$3 to fish, the value (i.e. opportunity/cost) is still way greater than other states. It is imperative that Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is funded at full operational levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Chad Krause
Lewistown, Montana

From: [tenring](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 1:57:38 PM

I am writing to request that you please send this licensing bill to the legislature. As a responsible hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman, I understand the importance of adequate funding for our wildlife professionals and their necessary programs. Nobody likes to pay more for any product or service, but with this slight increase in fees, we would still have the best "cost to benefit" ratio in the country.

Spreading this small increase in fees through all out of our licenses would mean a very slight increase for each one of us, it would be a simple plan to implement, and it would avoid the drastic cuts in services and personnel that would result from the multi-million dollar shortfall that would occur without the increased funding.

We sportsmen (and I think especially we Montanans) have always taken pride in the knowledge of how our licensing fees have funded our wildlife and our outdoor heritage. We are willing to step up to the plate again, because we understand the significance of what is at stake.

Thank you,
Bruce Smith

From: [Ben Matteson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 2:13:41 PM

Please send HB 609 to the legislature to be voted on. This study is very important to the future of the MT FWP and sportsmen and women alike

Tell EQC the package is:

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses

Thank you and I fully support this

Ben Matteson
brotherbear67@aol.com

From: [Superior Archery](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Allen, Robert \(Dr. Bob\)](#); [Bodle, Al](#); [tounsley, jason](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 2:46:59 PM

In reading through "ON THE HOOK", An HB609 study report to the 64th legislature--DRAFT, July 2014, I find a major flaw in item #2 page 22. As the actual draft bill reads,

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Base hunting license prerequisite for other hunting licenses -- fee. (1) To be eligible to apply for a hunting license or Class A-2 special bow and arrow license a person must first obtain a base hunting license as provided in this section. The base hunting license must be purchased once per license year...

it implies that as a bow hunter I may have to buy two base licenses. I must buy a base hunting license to buy a hunting license and then may be required to buy another base hunting license to buy a Class A-2 archery stamp! Under the rationale paragraph, "ON THE HOOK" states that this base license "resolves archery stamp compliance issues". The way this new section is written I see nothing to resolve any compliance issues. Furthermore, I am having trouble determining what compliance issues the base hunting license might even address.

To take the ambiguity out of this draft bill you need to strike "or Class A-2 special bow and arrow license" from this section. If the intent of this bill is to only charge each hunter for one base hunting license this single simple omission will not change the funding gained in any manner.

I believe if you change this new section to read,

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Base hunting license prerequisite for other hunting licenses and special permit drawings-- fee. (1) To be eligible to apply for a hunting license a person must first obtain a base hunting license as provided in this section. The base hunting license must be purchased once per license year. Furthermore, to apply for a special drawing permit all licenses needed to legally use said permit must be purchased prior to applying for said permit.

you will actually increase funding dollars nominally, yet, have little to no resistance.

TJ Smith

From: dennis@montanabirdhunts.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study"
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 3:30:22 PM

Dear Sirs:

Please send HB 609 (draft) to the legislature. I have been a Montana resident for 35 years. I moved to Montana for the outdoor experience and especially for the hunting and fishing. I believe the licensing fee increases asked by FWP is a small price to pay, and even with the increase, is a bargain for both residents and non-residents.

Yours truly,
Dennis Kavanagh
1431 S 3rd Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Bob Newman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: "HB 609 Licensing Study"
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 4:02:38 PM

Please send this important bill to the Legislature.

Thank you!

Bob Newman
National Account Manager
406-238-7859 Desk
406-208-0077 Cell

From: [Taylor Clayton](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Block management.
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 5:50:53 PM

To whom it may concern,

As an avid bird hunter and a yearly visitor to the beautiful state of Montana, I feel that the block management program brings much more to your state than you realize. I travel in a group of 3 to five hunters spending on average around 1500\$ each on our visits. Not only do we buy out os state licenses, we also eat at the local establishments, shop at the local stores and rent places to stay from local Montana people. The block management is the best program I have ever seen in any state and its demise will be a loss to many.

Taylor Clayton

From: [Tim Strand](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 6:25:28 PM

Dear Sir,

I spent last fall in your great state hunting upland Huns, sharptail and pheasents on block management land. One great experience I want to repeat every yea.

. It would be a shame to lose it for a \$8.00 fee increase...so as a non-resident I will pay \$120.00 instead of the \$110.00 to pay my fair share to fund the program if I read the newspaper article correctly.

Appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Best Regards and best Wishes,

Tim Strand
22 Sandwedge Loop
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

From: [Paul Olson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: "HB 609 Licensing study"
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 7:13:00 PM

I'm 68 years old and have hunted and fished in Montana for over 45 years. Montana citizens have enjoyed some the the least expensive hunting and fishing licenses in the United States and they have been worth every penny and are undervalued. I support increasing the license fees we pay for the opportunity to be outdoors in this great state pursuing fish and game.

FWP needs the increased funds to manage our precious resources and to fund their coming potential shortfall which would be bad for the state's wildlife and fisheries programs as well as FWP's access and Montana Habitat Programs. I also agree with simplifying discounts and special licenses. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Paul Olson, 524 Wolf Ridge Rd, Wise River, MT 59762.

From: [Ron Adlington](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hunting and fishing license
Date: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 9:31:26 PM

We support the hunting and fishing license fee increases proposed for 2015. A budget shortfall would be detrimental to the quality of hunting and fishing that exists here in Montana.

Thank you.

Ron and Barb Adlington
Bozeman MT

From: [Jon Uhart](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Montana BMA program
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:56:49 AM

Hello,

I have been travelling and not following up on this issue but thought I would drop a quick note.

I travel to MT every year for at least 1 week to hunt birds. Over that time I spend at least a \$1000 on gas, motels, license fees, and food. Even a substantial increase in license fees wouldn't keep me from coming because the relative increase in the cost of the trip would still be small. I am willing to pay whatever I have to to keep the BMA program open and fully funded. I am sure my other friends here in KS with whom I travel feel the same way.

I also feel that a closure of the BMA program would have us looking at SK or ND for our hunting.

Jon Uhart
Lenexa, KS

From: [Gartner, Ted](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#); [FWP General](#)
Subject: Montana BMA/Upland Bird Program
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 7:15:20 AM

Mr. Hagener:

I am writing you and your department to voice my strong support for Montana's Block Management Area and Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program.

I write you from two perspectives. As a representative of Garmin International and the world's leading supplier of GPS systems for hunters and dog tracking and training products, we have a vested interest in ensuring easy access to quality hunting areas. The public/private cooperation found in these two programs, in our opinion, is the most cost-effective way to achieve this goal. Eliminating these programs will decrease the overall number of hunters and ultimately impact our business.

I am also writing you as an out-of-state upland hunter who has utilized these lands for the past seven years (and will visit again this fall). I spend a significant amount of money on licenses, fuel, lodging and meals in small towns across the eastern half of the state. I rely solely on public lands, including the BMA/UGBEP programs, for hunting. While there is no shortage of BLM, state, and other public land access, my hunting buddies and I consider BMA/UGBEP land to be the crown jewels of Montana public hunting, because they are always well maintained. If these programs are eliminated, we may be forced to consider visiting another state for our yearly pilgrimage.

We both know that the biggest barrier to hunting these days is access to quality land. If the BMA or UGBEP are eliminated, this will have a significant long-term negative impact on the future of hunting in Montana and beyond.

Please do whatever it takes to ensure that these programs are preserved for this and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ted Gartner
Director, Corporate Communications
Garmin International
1200 E. 151st St.
Olathe, KS 66062
913.397.8200

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From: [George Anderson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:01:09 AM

EQC,

This is George Anderson from Big Timber Montana. I am a current Montana Outfitter and past Montana game warden. I believe that FWP has a great mission is managing Montana's game populations at a level for the residents of Montana to enjoy. I recommend following the recommendations of the LFAC in raising user fees.

I also strongly believe that hunting districts that have populations over objective should have extended seasons until the population has been brought to objective or until March 15 of each year. The current game damage system stresses department resources and too often places landowners, sportsman and the department at odds.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this issue and the others you evaluate,

George Anderson
840 Boulder Road
Big Timber MT 59011
www.bigtimberflyfishing.com

From: [Chris and Shelby Kopperhaver](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:04:46 AM

I think that a license increase may not be necessary if a audit were to be done on all programs. I know that would be a large undertaking but with the proper people involved, it could be done with success. After that process, than we would know where we are. As with any big operation there is always waist and every so often we have to rip off the band aid so to speak and visit this problem. I would be against this increase without a process before. The people that were involved in this would have to be stake holders in wild life that have demonstrated years of involvement.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment. Chris Kopperhaver.

From: [jeremy](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: H 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:24:31 AM

Please consider this email support for Robin Cunningham and the group's efforts to rework licensing structures to fully fund the FWP. Their work is too important to Montana to risk losing a single officer.

Jeremy J. Gilbertson
Outfitter #8836

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

From: [Robert Bushmaker](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study - Comments
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:26:17 AM

When this committee starting this study, I provided a comment that was ignored, so I do not expect this comment to get address as well, but my comments will be addressed to the people making funding decision in the future.

I cannot believe you are asking for additional public funding for MTFWP until the organization is first reviewed for not important, not needed services. It is impossible to believe there are some services within MTFWP that could first be reduced or eliminated. I am aware of a number of studies that have been completed within MTFWP and/or their consultants that are ignored or not used.

I was told by a past administrator of MTFWP "Good luck if you think anybody will admit to fat with the organization"!

If you want the support of the public and the hunting public step 1 should have been a review the operations/services/overhead and equipment.

If you are going continue ignoring this most important step in the process you will not get the support when it comes time to ask the people of this state for additional money.

The review of operations cannot be ignored if you have a need for additiona funding.

Robert J. Bushmaker
robert.bushmaker@gmail.com

From: duane.westerbuhr@mindspring.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: duane.bonedryproducts
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:22:41 PM

Hello,

Funding for FWP is going to have a boost when they see the value of using a product named Bone Dry penetrating permanent concrete sealer. Our anti-microbial will help keep fish hatcheries more disease resistant. Boat ramps, and basically anything that is made of concrete can last longer. Deferred maintenance budgets will shrink. Shop aprons, shop floors, parking lots, sidewalks, state parks areas of concrete will have an extended life at minimal cost. We can work together on this and make it happen as soon as the next bid letting, if the State of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks wants to. Feel free to contact me as to how this may work. Our products are proven and effective.

Here are a few questions that need asked.

What are some of the costs that could be eliminated if concrete were to last longer in the Fish Wildlife and Parks ?

How much could you save in 1 year?

How much could you save in 2 years?

How much could you save in 3 years?

How much does it cost to restock a fish hatchery due to disease out break?

What does it cost to replace a fishing ramp that has deteriorated?

How much energy could be saved by using led lights in a better lighted shop or work area after being treated with Bone Dry?

How much workers compensation could be saved by having a slip-coefficient concrete floor to work on?

How many dollars are budgeted for replacing concrete entry ways due to salt and spalling?

How much are the floor maintenance budgets for cleaning?

How much does it cost to clean up the asphalt being tracked into buildings, carpets, floors, automobiles?

What is the total deferred maintenance budget for the entire FWP?

What is the cost comparison between concrete paving vs asphalt? Which adds more heat to the atmosphere?

These are a few that come to mind.

Here is some of my basic contact information:

Duane 'Frog' Westerbuhr Bone Dry Products Inc. Consultant/Sales

Duane.BoneDryProducts@gmail.com

<http://www.bonedryproducts.com>

406-431-0805 phone

406-443-0777 fax

PS What if these questions were applied to entire State of Montana? :-)

I do not work for the state of Montana but as a resident of this state I felt I needed to bring up these issues and **solutions**.

Thanks for your attention to these matters!
Duane

duane.westerbuhr@mindspring.com

EarthLink Revolves Around You.

From: [Wesley Carrillo](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Public Comment on HB 609 Study of Hunting and Fishing License
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 11:05:14 AM

Ms. Stockwell:

As you can see from my email signature below, I am not a Montana resident. However, I visit Montana at least once per year to hunt and occasionally to fish. My primary quarry are upland birds and I usually come with several friends. One of the primary reasons we chose Montana as our destination is access to hunting areas. In Kansas we have a similar program to the BLM program, called Walk-In-Hunting-Access or WIHA. Quite frankly, it is one of the only way that an average joe can access land in the state of Kansas on a regular basis. The similarity of the BLM intrigued us and the vastness of access excited us. The amount of land with suitable upland habitat is remarkable and quite frankly, I cannot imagine the loss of that access and I cannot imagine losing upland bird access.

Generally, I expect to spend in excess of \$1500 in my annual trip. Multiply that by the four in our party and you are looking at nearly \$6000 spent on one small group of hunters in a single week. Less than 10 percent of that goes to license fees (or right there – I haven't looked at my license). The remainder is mainly spent in the state of Montana purchasing food, fuel, groceries, refreshments and lodging. I am sure our situation is similar to others in that a great amount of "general revenue" is produced through our activities and it does not appear as if any meaningful amount of money to fund these programs comes from the general coffers. I believe that needs to change. But I know how protective politicians can be about their general funds and how they will often choose to cut off their nose despite their face when it comes to general coffers. However, that is a change I believe needs to be made as I am sure sportsman and upland hunters generate a generous amount of economic income throughout the state.

Additionally, I would not mind you increasing these fees on out of state hunters. It appeared, from my reading of the bill that it was only for resident hunters? Is that correct? If so, you should explore the same fee for non-residents. I would happily pay an additional or increased fee to hunt in your state. After all, it would be a miniscule increase in my overall costs. Two years ago when we were purchasing our licenses, the teller commented on how expensive she thought the license was. I promptly informed her that it is worth every penny and that I'd even pay double.

I am glad to see that you all appear to be well ahead of the budget shortfall – preparing, rather than reacting. But I, as many others I know, would not be opposed by such a license increase.

Thanks,

WESLEY J. CARRILLO

ENSZ & JESTER, P.C.

1100 Main Street, Suite 2121

Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Telephone: (816) 474-8010

Facsimile: (816) 471-7910

Email: wcarrillo@enszjester.com

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From: tfl3686@blackfoot.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hunting and fishing
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 11:06:45 AM

I would recommend that if anything the cost of these licenses should be lowered. This sounds like an enhancement fee which is already included. Wolves are a problem, meiosis shrimp are a problem, bull trout are a problem, lake trout are a problem and arrogance is a problem. We live in a time of change.

Dams and reservoirs have increased the temperatures of the water. Fish, such as walleyes, are adaptable to these "lake" temperatures, and the FWP is suppressing them. A few less employees would take care of the increased budget.

There are many alternatives to the existing FWP programs, but it takes the FWP 20 plus years to figure out any solutions. Raising the cost of the licenses is not an option.

Fred Fagan tfl3686@blackfoot.net

From: [Roger and Noreen Breeding](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: "HB 609 Licensing Study"
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 12:00:35 PM

FWP is one of the most important, heavily used, and effective state agencies. Funding for it must be kept at adequate levels. An increase in license fees is warranted as the fees are quite low now and have not kept up with inflation. I also support use of state general funds for this department if that becomes an option.

Noreen Breeding
1970 Star Ridge Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Troy Paulson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 12:02:24 PM

Regarding the HB 609 study I am in favor of increasing MT FWP fees.

Thank you,

Troy Paulson
Bozeman

From: [jw_westman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB-609
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 12:14:36 PM
Attachments: [LRGC EQC letter.pdf](#)

Please accept from Laurel Rod & Gun Club. Thanks a bunch.

JW

Laurel Rod & Gun Club
Laurel, MT

EQC Members:

Laurel Rod & Gun Club and our 400 family members wish to have our comments added to the official record regarding this crucial matter. LRGC family members hunt, fish and enjoy our treasured Montana outdoor heritage and we believe it needs to be properly funded. We firmly believe that the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council should be enacted. This group met for over a year and did a very thorough review of Montana's license structure.

LRGC feels the package put forth by this Council is equitable as well as necessary, without it FWP is looking at a shortfall of 5.7 million dollars and numerous cuts if not approved. Those cuts will drastically cut the ability of FWP to managing our public trust resources in a reliable manner. There will be job cuts, less \$\$\$ for programs Montanans treasure and cuts yet to be determined. Let's remember that the State of Wyoming charges its residents in excess of \$40 for a cow elk license and in excess of \$50 for a bull elk license, at \$20 for a Montana resident elk license we are definitely the "cheap date" in comparisons with our neighboring states and beyond.

The recommendations of the License and Funding Advisory Council are inexpensive with the average cost increase of \$11, \$8 for hunting and \$3 for fishing. One would be hard pressed to pay less for a cheeseburger, fries and a beer anywhere in Montana. The recommendations also serve to simplify with standard discounts and fewer special licenses.

In closing Laurel Rod and Gun Clubs 400 family members fully supports Draft Bill 609 and wishes the recommendations of the License and Funding Advisory Council be advanced by the EQC to the Montana Legislature. Thank you for allowing LRGC to comment on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irv Wilke".

Irv Wilke, President

From: [Desiree Disney](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 12:52:07 PM

Dear Sir:

My suggestion would be to raise the non-residence license fees instead of residence fees. I would also raise fees for those who break the law, especially poachers who have massive amounts of illegal game. The economy has hurt everyone who is not rich and raising the fees, even just the \$8.00 and \$3.00 would make it too expensive for those of us who live on extremely limited budgets.

Thank you for your time.

Desiree Disney

From: [Warren Colyer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:18:44 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support the recommendations put forward by the FWP Advisory Council to address FWP funding shortfalls. FWP does invaluable work in MT and it is in the interest of all Montanans to ensure that they are funded adequately to continue to manage Montana's fish and wildlife resources effectively. The Advisory Council recommendations are fair, common sense approaches that spread the funding burden across stakeholder groups. The licensing fee increases are modest, and, compared to other western states, still represent a great value. I encourage the Environmental Quality Council to adopt the Advisory Council recommendations and ensure that MFWP is able to effectively carry out their mission in future years.

Sincerely,
Warren Colyer

From: [Jeffrey Stasz](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP Comment
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 4:17:01 PM

To whom it may concern.

I fully endorse the increase in fee proposed in this year's budget. Montana is a special state made more special by its abundance of natural game. This not only increases the value of Brand Montana but attracts an economically significant amount of out-of-state revenue to the state.

I fully support the proposal.

Best

Jeffrey Stasz

--

Jeffrey Stasz
Email: jeffrey.stasz@gmail.com
Cell: (617) 784-3799

From: jackriv@wispwest.net
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: License Increases:
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2014 4:17:27 PM

I guess these increases are tolerable, but, as usual, I think the agency should make an effort to do a better job of managing their resources. Many government agencies have this issue, not just the FW&P.

Jim Allison

From: [Skip Kowalski](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: skipnmar@bitterroot.com
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 6:30:27 AM

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

I want to express my support for **the EQC's initial draft of House Bill 609 that includes most of the recommendations proposed by the License and Funding Advisory Council. It is a reasonable compromise that permits FWP to continue operations without having to make still further reductions in important programs and personnel. Personally, I would support fee increases that are significantly greater than those that are proposed in the Draft Bill.** We in Montana are blessed with extraordinary fish and wildlife resources when compared to most other states. Managing these public trust resources for the citizens of Montana (and others) does not come cheap. We need to recognize and pay the cost of sound species and habitat management, research and conservation.

For the record, I would oppose any efforts to amend draft HB 609 to remove or divert earmarked funds from existing FWP programs used to finance specific fish, wildlife and habitat conservation measures, especially "Habitat Montana". Habitat acquisition through fee title or conservation easement; improving public access to our fish and wildlife resources and improvement of existing habitat conditions for our wildlife is critical for maintaining our fish and wildlife for public use and enjoyment for this and future generations of Montanans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Gerald Kowalski
1287 Wheelbarrow Creek Road
Stevensville, MT 59870
(406) 777-2321

From: [Doug Haacke](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 7:39:52 AM

Mr. Stockwell:

I speak for the membership of Magic City Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited Chapter 582, when I say our chapter fully supports the proposals put forth in the HB 609 Licensing Study. We have been asking for license increases since the beginning of Gov. Schweitzer's term, and whole heartedly support those increases now.

The advisory board did an excellent job spreading the burden of those expenses and fair, common sense decisions.

Please do not let a few individuals, who's agenda is to destroy FWP, take away our hunting and fishing opportunities.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Doug Haacke
Conservation Director
Magic City Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited Chapter 582
Billings, MT

Chair
Montana Trout Unlimited

(406) 855-6357

From: [Mike Penfold](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hunting and fishing
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 9:16:09 AM

I hunt and fish and hope the legislature will take necessary steps to assure strong game and fish management programs in the state. Although I am a senior I would gladly pay higher license fees to assure continued strong direction in these critical programs.

--

Best regards, Mike Penfold Billings Montana

From: [Ed Lawrence](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hb 609 licensing
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 8:59:11 AM

I'm writing to confirm my support for the increase in fees.

ed lawrence

ed lawrence's flyfishing outfit
96 vita ct
Bozeman, mt 59718
406 582 0888
406 581 5283 mobile
[www:edlawrencesflyfishing.com](http://www.edlawrencesflyfishing.com)
Montana license 10513

ed's law: two cars in the middle of the desert approaching each other from opposite directions will eventually meet at a one lane bridge.

From: [Ryan Busse](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: 609 licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 9:11:57 AM

FWP officials,

Please accept this email as my official support for raising licensing fees to the degree needed to FULLY fund FWP operations.

Frankly, I would argue that the current increases are NOT ENOUGH. Therefore not only do I fully support the recommendations, but I would support increases necessary to anticipate any future increased needs.

Our opportunities in MT are astounding, what we currently pay for fwp management of same is a long way south of commensurate with those opportunities.

Ryan Busse
440 lake hills lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
406 253 0381

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From: [Paul F. Vang](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 9:15:22 AM
Attachments: [pastedGraphic.pdf](#)

I am a lifetime angler and hunter and am also an outdoor writer, with a weekly outdoors column in the Butte Weekly, an independent weekly newspaper in Butte.

I am writing in support of a proposal to increase Montana's hunting and fishing license fees.

There has been no increase in fees in almost 10 years, while the cost of maintaining the many services that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks steadily increases. If we believe, as I do, that these services are important to Montana citizens, we need to increase the revenue stream to keep pace with the demands.

I am also a "senior" or, as I like to think, an old geezer. I support a proposed change to raise the minimum age for the geezer license from age 62 to age 67. While I have enjoyed having fishing and upland/waterfowl hunting for the price of a conservation license, it's really too much of a giveaway. Being semiretired, I have increased opportunities to hunt and fish and to do it during the middle of the week when most working people are doing just that: working. It's time for us geezers to pull a little more weight in supporting our outdoor pursuits.

Thanks for the opportunity to express these thoughts.

Paul F. Vang
2828 Goodwin Street
Butte MT 59701

--

Paul F. Vang
406 494 5736 h/o
415.994.2974 m

From: [Tracy Wendt](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 9:24:57 AM

I would like to comment on the licensing study:

I believe that advisory council's consideration was thorough and the suggestions common sense, ensuring adequate but minimal funding for FWP. The hunting and fishing increases proposes are very modest and still ensure that Montana has the best value in the west. No one is to bare the burden of this increase - it is spread evenly among the groups. FWP does an enormous amount of good in MT and the predicted shortfalls will inhibit their ability to deal with issues that are important to all Montanans - fishing access, weed management, etc. A healthy FWP means a healthy MT economy.

Thank you,
Tracy Wendt

From: [Tudor Marks](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 10:42:01 AM

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of the funding proposals included in draft bill HB 609, including the modest increases in fishing and hunting licenses. It is vital to continue to support the future of hunting and fishing in Montana. As an out-of-state purchaser of hunting licenses, I am willing to support the programs of FWP with my license fees. The Block Management programs in particular have created an opportunity for hunters and fishermen to have access to quality properties. Without this program, funded at reasonable levels, it is doubtful that I, as an out-of-state resident without local connections would hunt in Montana and spend my money in the small towns of eastern Montana. Please continue to allow us to support these and similar programs at the current level. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tudor Marks
12 Sandstone Circle
Sheridan, WY 82801

From: [Mike and Blanche](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 10:53:45 AM

This is to express support for the EQC's draft bill 609, that incorporates recommendations developed by the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council, with the exception of the \$500,000 cut in funding to FWP. I am a Montana hunter and angler and I strongly support the increase in license fees. I oppose any reduction in FWP earmark programs or cutting of the FWP budget. Also, I support more funding for all access and Habitat Montana programs. We pay a very low price to enjoy quality hunting and fishing in Montana, a state so rich in wildlife and with the most liberal hunting season in the Union. Let's give FWP the funding to do an adequate job of wildlife management and enforcement. Any reduction of sportsmen's funding for the agency will damage our public trust resources in the long run.

Michael Chapman, Lewistown

From: [harry_murphy](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 11:48:35 AM

I am writing to let you know I support the FWP license study and proposed license increases. Montana has a great culture of outdoor activities and hunting and fishing are a large part of that outdoor experience. I know that you hear this over and over but a one day pass to Disney Land or Big Sky Ski resort is \$100. So a small increase in an already inexpensive hunting/fishing license is well worth the price and is good for a whole year, not just one day.

FWP preforms important work protecting and enhancing our wildlife and wild lands and the all important access to that wild land.

Harry Murphy
48 riverside drive
bozeman, mt 59715

Hunter and fisherman

Harry A. Murphy, III
Broker
Commercial Real Estate Service
CAM-GMBH Partnership
406-580-7115

From: [J.Rodgers.Free.Jr](#)
To: [Stockwell.Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 11:33:19 AM

An increase in the licensing fee is totally appropriate in this case. Anyone who objects simply doesn't understand the problem.

Regards.

J. R. Free
Missoula

From: [Steve Snell](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: BMA comments
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 11:40:31 AM

I am very interested in the BMA program to remain fully funded. I would also be will to pay a fee or have to buy a permit to help fund the walk in areas. This program is very important to the bird hunters. I drive many miles to hunt in Montana and spend a good bit of money there. A little more to keep this program going is not an issue for me.

Thanks,

Steve Snell
Gun Dog Supply - <http://www.gundogsupply.com>

312 Industrial Park Road
Starkville, MS 39759

For customer service call 1-800-624-6378
FAX 1-662-324-6011

Check out my blog at <http://www.stevesnell.com>

From: [Erik Browne](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Hb609 licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 11:43:45 AM

I wanted to write to support FWP and it's programs throughout the state and to say I would be in favor of modest fee increases to maintain those FWP operations and programs. I thought the proposed fee increases are fair numbers. Please let me know if you have other question.
Thank you,

-Erik Browne
Kalispell, MT

From: [JACK](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: hb609 licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 12:03:13 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Please note that as a Montana sportsman I support license fee increases to appropriately fund FWP operations. Cutting programs isn't a good solution for sportsmen or for wildlife.

Sincerely,

Jack

Jack Ballard
PO Box 1343
1297 Kane Circle
Red Lodge, MT 59068
406-696-9841
www.jackballard.com

From: [Stan Meyer](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 12:46:59 PM
Attachments: [HB 609 Comments.odt](#)

Here are my comments.
Thanks.

Stan Meyer

HB 609 Study Comments – August 14, 2014

Stan Meyer, 3015 18th Ave S – Apt 216, Great Falls, MT 59405

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposals of the Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Funding Advisory Council and the EQC's amendments.

My comments:

Background - Pages 11 – 21: Excellent! Comprehensive and informative; this data provides support for the LFAC proposals.

LFAC Recommendations – Pages 22 -24. Generally, I support each of these changes. Specifically, I found the increased license fees to be unexpectedly modest. We seniors neither need nor deserve the discounts of the past. Proposed increases would make us slightly less dependent on non-resident license sales and that's good.

I could give detailed comments on other parts of their proposals but they would be redundant to those of LFAC. I like what they have suggested.

EQC's comments/edits of LFAC proposals – Pages 8-9.: Thank you for recognizing the importance of our wildlife resources both as a major industry and as part of our culture.

I disagree with eliminating the modest \$379,000 contingency. Every budget needs a contingency.

Some EQC members apparently feel that increased revenue is not needed. I disagree. 'Emergent situations' could include de-listing of grizzly bears, increased effort on sage grouse to prevent listing and a host of other unseen events over the next five years. We need to anticipate the unexpected and to recognize that operating costs have risen for every government agency and private business.

I urge EQC and the Legislature to provide adequate funding to stabilize staff numbers. FWP personnel, prior to the current Administration, lived through perilous times with firings, early retirements and low morale; healing has begun – we need to nurture it, not disrupt it.

Summing up:

1. Modest fee increases would provide adequate funding without curtailing Department operations.

2. Should FWP reduce expenditures? Well, why? Certainly not if it reduces field services of wardens and area fish and wildlife biologists.

Page 2 HB 609 report

Comments by Stan Meyer

3. How about shifting money from earmarked funds (like Habitat Montana, fishing access site maintenance and hunting access?)

Is this legal? Even if legal, it would be unwise because it would

break a promise. I emphatically urge that you not put it on the table.

Thank you for involving me in this interesting discussion.

Stan Meyer

FWP Commission Member and Chair, 1993-2000.

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From: [Jennifer Downing](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: BHWC Comment on HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 12:56:07 PM
Attachments: [BHWC HB 609 FWP Lic Fee Comment 8-2014.pdf](#)

Dear Montana Environmental Quality Council,

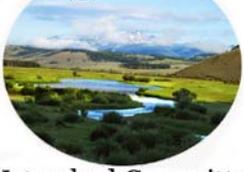
Please find comment on HB 609 from the Big Hole Watershed Committee attached.

Thank you,

Jen

Jen (Titus) Downing
Big Hole Watershed Committee
Executive Director
PO Box 21, Divide, Montana 59727
406-960-4855
jdowning@bhwc.org
<http://bhwc.org>

Big Hole



Watershed Committee

Big Hole Watershed Committee

Post Office Box 21
Divide, MT 59727
(406) 960-4855
info@bhwc.org
www.bhwc.org

August 15, 2014

Montana Environmental Quality Council
PO Box 201704
Helena, Montana 59620-1704

RE: HB 609 Hunting and Fishing Licensing

The Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC) would like to express support of HB 609.

We are in favor of raising Montana hunting and fishing licensing fees in order to support the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget needs. We are not in favor of reducing MFWP services or altering their allocated funding to cover the budget shortfalls. We feel the recreation community is an appropriate place to seek additional financial resources.

MFWP remains our strongest and most invested agency partner in the Big Hole River watershed. The involvement of committed expert local biologists like Jim Olsen, Emma Cayer, Vanna Boccadori and others provides constant support for fish, wildlife and water quality restoration. The Big Hole River has several MFWP Fishing Access Sites used heavily by fisherman and other recreationists. We do not wish to see any loss of services, personnel, or facilities.

The Big Hole Watershed Committee is a community based, non-profit conservation organization dedicated to finding long term solutions to water use and management on the Big Hole River. Since 1995, we've been successful in bringing ranchers, sportsmen, conservation organizations, public utilities, outfitters/guides, local businesses and agencies together to address issues and find common ground. MFWP is a strong partner that has provided significant contribution to the success in the Big Hole River valley.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Downing
BHWC Executive Director

For BHWC Steering Committee:

Randy Smith, Chairman
Jim Hagenbarth, Vice-Chairman
Bill Cain, Secretary
Steve Luebeck, Treasurer

From: [Conrad Evarts](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 1:43:21 PM

As a hunter and angler I think the best solution to the budget shortfall is raising hunting and fishing licenses.

I also think non-consumptive users such as rafters, kayakers and cross country skiers should have to purchase a conservation license.

Thanks,

Conrad Evarts
(406) 475-4994

www.craigboddington.com

<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialCraigBoddingtonPage>

From: [Peg Wagner](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 2:56:24 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Doug Wagner** <dwagner72@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 15, 2014 at 2:53 PM
Subject:
To: Peg Wagner <huntinglady75@gmail.com>

please do not increase the costs of liscenses or change the age from 62 to 67, instead, look for ways to reduce or eliminate programs. Maybe a few less decoys for entrapping hunters and a few less vehicles and snowmobiles and watercraft. Another idea would be to stop acquiring more and more lands and instead leave that up to RMEF or other conservation groups. FWP can not continue to keep growing and expecting to increase liscense fees even if it hasn't happened since 2005. It should not have to happen at all! I do like the idea of allowing non-hunters and non-anglers to have the opportunity to donate to the funding mechanism as long as we are not growing more department or government. In closing, I think it's a very bad idea to lower the cost of applying for a moose tag to 10.00 because everyone will be encouraged to apply making the odds even more ridiculous than they are now. thanks fof the opportunity to coment Douglas T. Wagner

From: [Chris Schustrom](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study Comments
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 3:17:09 PM

To: Environmental Quality Council

Re: Support for proposed increases to MT hunting and fishing licenses

Dear Council members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed increases to Montana's hunting and fishing license fees.

As a third-generation Montanan I have been hunting and fishing in Montana since I was 15 years old. That was 31 years ago. I support the modest increases being proposed for Montana's hunting and fishing license fees. I believe that the proposed increases are modest and would still be the best value anywhere in the west for those who wish to take advantage of the hunting and fishing opportunities that Montana has to offer.

After looking at the licensing study, I see that the advisory committee did a good job of arriving at common sense recommendations. The proposed increases will provide adequate, but still minimal funding for Montana FWP. This will allow FWP to, at a minimum, do the work necessary to maintain things that are important to Montana's sportsmen and women, like fishing access, weed management, and surveys necessary to manage our fish and wildlife.

My business relies on resident and non-resident visitors who hike, hunt, and fish in Montana. Well managed fish and wildlife populations, and well-funded programs that support long term management of our fish and wildlife populations contribute significantly to healthy lands, and to a healthy Montana economy.

I hope you will support the proposals in the HB609 Licensing Study.

Sincerely,
Chris Schustrom

Chris Schustrom
504 Spokane Avenue
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-862-3440

From: [John Hosack](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 3:57:10 PM

Sir:

The Licensing Study, as is, should be sent to the Legislature for their approval.

The small increases in license fees are necessary to fund the FWP for the next 6/7 years. Remember, there has been no increase in license fees since 2005, a period of 9 years.

Overall, these small increases will certainly be cheap in the long run.

I'm sure most outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen will support this important legislation.

John Hosack
3736 Slalom Dr.
Billings MT 59102

From: [Pablo Parson](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 4:17:39 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of FWP and all of the great work that they do. With predicted budget shortfalls I feel that we as citizens, sportsmen and conservationists continue to fund FWP and modest increases are not a burden.

Regards,
Paul Parson

Missoula, MT

From: [Kelley Willett](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 4:47:07 PM

Hello:

I think it is important to thoughtfully consider creative ways to remedy FWP's budgetary shortfall, and implement the suggestions of the advisory council. I'm confident that the advisory council looked at the issues thoroughly and came up with common sense suggestions to ensure adequate but minimal funding for FWP. I believe that the hunting and fishing fee increases proposed are incredibly modest. Even with the increases we in MT have by far the best value in the west. I like that no one group bears the burden of this increase. It is spread evenly among all the groups. I know that a healthy FWP contributes substantially to a healthy Montana economy. Thank you for your time.

kind regards,
Kelley Willett
Missoula, MT

From: [Mike Getman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 License Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 5:25:09 PM

August 15, 2014

To: Montana Environmental Quality Council

Subject: EQC HB 609 Study Draft Report

Dear Council members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill. I have been a resident of Montana for over 15 years and choose to live here because of the hunting and fishing opportunities.

I support the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council with the minor changes proposed by the Environmental Quality Council with the exception of the \$500,000 reduction. The recommendations present a fair and equitable way to help ensure continued funding for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I also oppose any further reduction in FWP earmarked programs or actions that would reduce their budget.

The following are comments on several of the specific recommendations that I support –

To standardize the price of numerous free and reduced priced licenses and make them all one half of a full priced license. This is an improvement. I and most of my companions are of this age and we are better financially able to pay the full license price now than when we were younger. Free and reduced priced licenses were the result of the Legislature not a recommendation by FWP which has cost the agency millions of dollars in revenue.

To put FWP's license rate reviews on a four year cycle rather than the currently used approximately 10 year period. This would better allow FWP budgets needs to be able to keep up with inflation and resulting costs. The 10-year funding cycle has led to imbalances between revenues and expenditures especially near the end of the cycle.

To implement a proposed base hunting license is reasonable.

To raise nonresident license fees for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose and bison licenses from \$750 to \$1,250 places there cost similar to other states. The same applies to non-resident fishing licenses.

In closing, my hunting and fishing license prices have not changed since 2005, whereas most of my other expenditures have. I support these changes and will continue to hunt and fish in Montana. Please send the EQC HB 609 Study Draft Report to the 64th Legislature with your recommendation to move it forward in 2015.

Sincerely,

Mike Getman

1607 Golden Eagle DR

Lewistown, MT 59457

From: [Dan Short](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 licensing study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 9:59:55 PM

Hello-

I would like to submit some brief comments on the the issue of the pending funding gap facing FWP.

I really do not want to see cuts to fish and wildlife management operations or a shift of funds from specific programs to shore up the day to day operations of FWP. I really think that the proposed fee increases are modest and WAY OVERDUE. What business out there has not raised their rates over the last 9 years? This is ridiculous to expect FWP to deal with increased costs with no commensurate increase in income! I sort of understand why there would be some reluctance to raise license fees for hunting and fishing on a regular basis, but 9 years? I can't think of many things that have not gone up in price since 2005. It looks to me like the proposed fee increases are more than reasonable. Resident hunting and fishing licenses are still a bargain, even at the new rates. I would certainly support this bill and any legislator that also supported it.

thank you for your consideration of my comments,
Dan Short
164 Juniper Bend Dr
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-250-5064

From: [Charlie McKinney](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP Budget Bill
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 10:40:33 PM

Dear Mr. Stockwell,

This is to express my concern about FWP's budget situation. As an out-of-state hunter in Montana for 20 years, I support an increase in out-of -state hunting license fees. We are willing to pay our share of the needed increases.

Thank you,
Charles McKinney
308 E. Bender Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926

From: [Tory Fantozzi](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Cc: [Tory Fantozzi](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 10:41:33 PM

First off, I think the public is owed why there's a shortfall and who is accountable. I don't mean this in a negative way, but if this were a corporation, it would be insolvent. MT FWP needs to be agile and run their agency like a business.

I was born and raised in MT and undoubtedly spent most of my best years as a resident under the Big Blue Sky. After living in several other states in the last 15 years I now reside in Idaho. One of the best things the agency has done was to create the MT Native program. It allows me to afford coming back each Fall to hunt deer/elk in my beloved home state. I also boost the economy in many different ways when making at least a half dozen trips over there a season. Oftentimes bringing family or friends who spend money to help the economy (food, gas, discretionary items, etc). All that on top of the fees, which I think are reasonable.

However, if the MT Native program ever ceases to exist or radically changes, I will no longer be able to purchase the licenses/tags/permits and would not make the multiple trips every year to MT because it's no longer affordable. Idaho has plenty of good hunting, but I love MT, but not enough to pay full non-resident prices. I like most others cannot afford it. Unsure if a consistent reduction of 50% off normal non-resident prices is in consideration. If so, that's too much and I would not participate any longer as it's not in the budget. I would compromise to increase fees based on inflation, but nothing more.

Also, the changes for non-residents when applying for controlled hunt trophy species really changed too (moose, sheep, goat). I don't like it because I don't get my money back if not drawn. It's now a substantial investment to play a losing game because the point system is lousy. My kids would likely never in their lifetime be able to draw one of those tags because the odds would be so out of favor, even if they were residents. They are just too far behind in the 'point' game. Dumb and it takes away opportunity.

Net/Net - I think it's in the best interest of sportsman and FWP to shift 'earmarked' funds. Us non-residents support alot already, making us who participate in the MT Native program potentially pay more may have a negative impact that is not foreseen by FWP and Legislature due to further loss and shortfall from that revenue stream. Keep that in mind.

Thanks,
Tory Fantozzi

From: [Jim Vashro](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 11:42:53 PM

I urge the EQC to adopt the results of the HB 609 study and forward the draft bill to the 2015 Legislature for consideration.

Wildlife, hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation are important to the Montana way of life. They are also important drivers in the Montana economy. Montana is regarded as having the best outdoor recreation opportunities in the lower 48 states. Having the best resources is not an accident, it is due to the hard work and dedication of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). However, you cannot maintain a first-rate resource with a second-rate program and that is what will happen without adequately funding FWP.

FWP has done an admirable job of keeping costs in line despite some major cost increases over the last 10 years such as increasing fuel costs and absorbing a wolf management program. I cannot think of any successful company that would manage with fixed prices for 10 years in the face of increasing costs. It is imperative to switch to a 4-year funding cycle to better follow costs and to avoid "sticker shock" to license buyers.

I hunt and fish in a number of states and provinces. Montana's license fees are much lower than surrounding areas, especially considering the quality of resources. I readily pay non-resident prices to enjoy unique opportunities elsewhere. The amount of opportunity in Montana is incredible, I would readily pay much more to maintain the level of opportunity.

I actively use the access programs available from FWP including FASs, WMAs and Block Management. Top resources have little value to the common person if they can't access them. The Licensing and Funding Advisory Council worked very hard to develop new funding recommendations. I think the EQC should respect the hard work and wisdom of the LFAC. Even though it will cost me personally, I agree with the concept of reducing and standardizing discount licenses. Minimal fee increases are just a small part of what I spend on outdoor recreation each year, it's an investment in the future I will gladly make.

Thank you for your consideration, Jim Vashro, Kalispell, Mt.

From: [Joelle Selk](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 6:10:37 AM
Attachments: [MBA response to EQC draft HB 609.docx](#)

Hope -

Please find attached our comments on the EQC's HB 609 draft.

Thank you,

Joelle



From: Montana Bowhunters Association

To: EQC

Re: Draft HB 609

August 16, 2014

In reviewing draft HB 609, the MBA requests remediation of language that indicates the “nonresident relative licenses” are not counted towards the B-10 limit of 17,000 licenses (Section 4). According to the Legislative Environmental Policy Office, the proposal would change these licenses from standalone licenses to combination licenses. Based on data from sales of standalone licenses in 2012-2013, it appears this might result in an increase of between 1,000-1,300 additional elk combo licenses and between 1,000-1,600 combo deer licenses (2012-2013 data courtesy of Legislative Environmental Policy Office). We request that these licenses be counted towards the 17,000 limit or that the draft be amended to strike Section (4) from the bill. These proposed changes would help encourage our members’ support of the final bill.

Thank you,

Joelle Selk

MBA President

From: [pat_howe](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 License study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 6:10:47 AM

I am writing in support of an increase in license fees to support FWP programs. Though the upland game bird program is not being utilized to it's potential, I do not think funds from that program or others with fees attached to fund them should be used for other purposes than what they are collected and intended for.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Leslie Howe](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 License study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 7:03:26 AM

>

> I am writing in support of an increase in license fees to support FWP programs. Although the upland game bird program is not currently being utilized to it's potential, I do not think funds from that program or other programs with fees attached to fund them should be used for purposes other than what they are collected and intended for.

Thanks

From: [Robbins](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 licensing study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 7:40:24 AM

My comments on the licensing study have to deal with the proposed change to the non-resident license cost. I am not even convinced that legally you can change part of this law because of the way it was passed.

By capping the cost of these licenses you will be changing what the people of Montana voted for in I-161. I-161 was passed on the concept that more revenue would be received if this was passed. If you are going to change part of this law you should have to change all of it and go back to the old system of selling licenses. The cost of these licenses is not the barrier to selling the non-resident licenses; it is the fact that so few of these people can hunt in the central and eastern part of the state. Under the previous method, the license had to hit \$1500.00 before any resistance was found. I have a small outfitting business in eastern Montana and since the passage of I-161 we have had between 20-30 non-residents be unable to get permits to archery hunt with us, so they choose not to come to Montana. If Montana FWP is facing a revenue problem it is of their own making and could be changed without most of these proposals. The increases that they have received from the P-R funds should be enough revenue for them.

I am opposed to capping the cost of non-resident licenses and changing what the people of Montana voted for and I ask you to not make this change, and again, I question the ability to change this law because of the way it was passed.

Thanks,
Mark Robbins
Roy, Montana

From: [Lou Bahin](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study - comment
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 7:42:18 AM

Hi Hope,

Thank you for the excellent report on MT FWP funding. I have a couple of comments:

- consider reinstating the full license fee increases recommended by LFAC
- consider other sources of revenue, such as designating a percentage of tax revenue from oil and gas production, which arguably can be linked to degrading wildlife habitat in Montana.

Best regards,

Lou Bahin

8625 Jacot Lane
Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 542-1542 (h)

From: [jon](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: FWP comments
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 8:39:00 AM

Sirs ;

i cannot express my frustration with Mt.FWP. they have overreached their job description and morphed into a convoluted,greedy, self-serving bureaucracy.

their staff is bloated,there are more wardens than in state history and they have been questioned repeatedly by the powers that be in Helena.

it's been 19 yrs now and most folks have forgotten (conveniently) how FWP STOLE the funds from the sportsman's pittman-robinson fund to create the worst monster ever foisted on the folks who's license dollars pay their salaries.....THE GREY WOLF PROJECT.

generating massive amounts of income to further their agenda(i.e bear games, lotteries, now wolf stamps) WHEN WILL THIS END?

increasing license fees to fund a bloated entity totally off track IS NOT an option.

PLEASE shelve this greed fueled proposal!

the WOLF PROBLEM needs fixed. lay off some pencil pushers and DO IT!

jon bush , libby MT.

From: [JIM BROWN](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 8:53:25 AM

To Environmental Quality Council

Please support the recommendations of the FWP licensing study and enact legislation to fund FWP so it can continue to carry out its programs.

Thank You, Jim Brown P.O. Box 172, Clancy, Mt 59634

- Necessary: Failing to enact these proposals will result in a \$5.75 million cut to FWP
- Cheap: Most Montana hunters will see an \$11 increase
- Simple: Fewer special licenses and discounts will be fairer and easier to use

From: [Larry Wilbeck](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Please send my thoughts to your legislature.
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 10:05:12 AM

Hope you fund the Block Management Program. I don't mind a increase in out of state fees to support it and other programs you have.

You would be playing politics if you did not raise your own resident fees however. As you are well aware more then half of your state is public land , many acres are Forest, BLM, Reclamation, etc.

However, that being said , I am sure this lack of funding is a back door approach to sell public land for the benefit of the organized , moneyed fee at the expense of many. MR Bundy of Nevada lives in the heart's of many a western state rancher, forest company, mining, you name it I am sure.

I am surprised the towns don't chime in on this. When I have been to Montana, the motels, bars, cafe's etc are busy for weeks with outside money coming into town. (Scobey, Plentywood,Circle, Glasgow etc)

I recall under George W couple of representatives from California were introducing bills to sell America's Public land (get this, to reduce the deficit, all while they rolled back taxes and put two wars on the credit card)

Thanks for listening but we all know what the end game here is, and isn't about the majority of Montana citizens or for that matter American taxpayers who foot a lot of bills in Montana for the support of public land.

Thanks for listening.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Brant Oswald](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 12:09:39 PM

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

I am writing in support of the Environmental Quality Council's recommendations on the changes in license fees and funding for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, as reflected in draft bill HB 609.

As a licensed outfitter, the management programs of MT FWP are absolutely critical to me, both personally and professionally. I am in total support of license fee increases as part of the effort to provide a more stable funding process for FWP, and I know my fishing clients share the same opinion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me with any questions.

Brant Oswald
MT Outfitter #1581
117 S. 9th St.
Livingston, MT 59047
406-223-2047 cell
Web: www.brantoswaldflyfishing.com

From: [DONNA HANSEN](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 1:07:30 PM

I am writing in support of HB 609 to increase license fees for the following reasons.

1. Necessary, with FWP looking at a \$5.75 million shortfall and cuts required if it's not approved
2. Cheap, with most seeing only an \$11 increase
3. Simple, with a standard discount and fewer special licenses

Jeff Sturm

From: [Casey Hackathorn](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 4:15:36 PM
Attachments: [HHA HB 609 Licensing Study Comments.pdf](#)

Hello Hope,

Please find the attached comments from Hellgate Hunters and Anglers in support of the FWP licensing changes proposed in the EQC's HB 609 report.

Regards,

Casey Hackathorn
President, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
406-546-5680



P.O. BOX 7792 MISSOULA, MT 59807 (406) 546-5680
www.hellgatehuntersandanglers.org

August 14th, 2014

Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

RE: HB 609 Licensing Study

Environmental Quality Council members:

Hellgate Hunters and Anglers is a Missoula-based organization of over 300 hunters and anglers. We have closely tracked the work and recommendations of the License and Funding Advisory Council over the last year, and participated in the public meeting that was held here in Missoula to take comments on their recommendations. Our comments at that time strongly supported that Council's work and today, we strongly support the associated EQC Report and Bill Draft that are now out for comment.

Specifically, HHA supports the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council with the minor changes proposed by the Environmental Quality Council. The LFAC was made up of people from across the state representing diverse interests and included sportspersons, outfitters, landowners, a business owner and state lawmakers. We strongly believe that they conducted a thorough review of the hunting and fishing licensing in the State, with a focus on both simplification opportunities and proposing tools and methods to provide for sustainable adequate revenue to support the future management of Montana's wildlife and fisheries resources and our opportunities to enjoy them. Based on their recommendations that are now in the EQC report, they approached their work with a "no holds barred" perspective.

HHA believes that the recommendations offer a fair and equitable approach that ensures future funding for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. We believe their focus on the numerous free and reduced priced licenses that certain people enjoy in this State was much needed to both generate revenue and distribute the burden of increased revenue more equitably than it had been previously. The proposed changes will still offer benefits for seniors, youth and others who qualify for reduced priced licenses. The proposed change in the age for reduced priced licenses from 62 to 67 years of age seems reasonable and comparable to what is happening in other states.

We support the FWP's license rate reviews on a four year cycle. It enhances the structural balance and puts a more realistic timeframe in place for identifying and addressing any needed adjustments. FWP needs to be more financially nimble in order to keep up with the changing demands sometimes brought on by mandates to address rapidly developing management needs for such things as delisting of endangered species. A positive result could also be more frequent but smaller license fee increases in the future.

The proposed base hunting license would spread part of the burden for the increased revenue across all hunters and save raising increases for individual species hunting licenses for another time. Based on prices in other states, we think raising nonresident license fees for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose, and bison licenses from \$750 to \$1,250 makes good sense, and under current application processes, will not chase applicants away.

Non-resident anglers would see an increase in fishing license costs that are fitting given that our fisheries and angler access to them are top of the line for the lower 48 states.

That fact that most of us residents that hunt and fish would only see an \$8 increase per year to hunt and a \$3 increase per year to fish helps support our pleasure with the proposal and the thought that went into its development. We see the plan as both fair and reasonable. We also really like how the proposal will simplify licensing for both vendors and purchasers.

To sum it up, we strongly support the proposed EQC Draft Report and Bill Draft. We hope to see this addressed, as is, in the 2015 Montana Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey D. Hackathorn', written in a cursive style.

Casey Hackathorn, President
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers

From: [Reid Stuart](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2014 3:49:18 PM

I am a born and raised Montana Senior Citizen. I recently purchased my license. I received the conservation, waterfowl, upland game bird, deer and fishing all for just over \$16.00. If this is not a bargain, what is? Any senior complaining about the cost is just way off base. That amount of money is less than lunch costs in some restaurants, its even less than the cost of a box of 22 shells. I am out and about quite a little and although deer number might be down a little there are still thousands more than when I was a youngster. Even we old timers can fill our tags if we pay attention and for only about \$8.00 for the deer, what a bargain.

Reid Stuart,
Conrad

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Version: 2014.0.4716 / Virus Database: 4007/8092 - Release Date: 08/24/14

From: ursus000@aol.com
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 study
Date: Sunday, August 17, 2014 6:41:24 PM

I just discovered that you were taking comments re: the HB 609 study on license fees, and want to voice my strong support for the proposed license fee increases. I have been an Montana sportsman for 35 years. This license fee increase is LONG overdue.....thank you....Rodd Richardson Saint Ignatius, MT

From: [DENNIS SUSAN](#)

To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)

Subject: It appears Montana will continue to live in the dark ages when it comes to funding wildlife management and enforcement. A resident will still be able to hunt elk for the price of a case of beer or two! Unfortunately for Montana, it also appears nonresi...

Date: Sunday, August 17, 2014 12:52:43 PM

From: [Karl Gies](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2014 8:44:49 PM

August 16, 2014

To: Montana Environmental Quality Council

Subject: EQC HB 609 Study Draft Report

Dear Council members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 609, Licensing Study. I have been a resident of Montana for over forty-five years and chose to live here because of the hunting, fishing and outdoor opportunities. I am a native Montanan born in Great Falls in 1937 and left to serve three years in the Marine Corps from 1957-60. I came back to attend the University of Montana, graduating in 1964. I left Montana in 1966 to further my education and taught in California for three years. I moved back to Montana from California taking a teaching position and a considerable pay cut to live in Montana and enjoy our natural resources. I have never regretted this decision.

I support the recommendations of the Licensing and Funding Advisory Council with the minor changes proposed by the Environmental Quality Council with the exception of the \$500,000 reduction. The recommendations present a fair and equitable way to help ensure continued funding for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I also oppose any further reduction in FWP earmarked programs or actions that would reduce their budget. I support standardizing Montana license fees. I am now seventy-seven and can afford to pay more than the discounted senior citizen fee. I frequently fish Big Spring Creek located in Lewistown, Montana living in Lewistown. I see and visit with many other fly fishermen. Most of them are over sixty and to a man can well afford to pay more for a fishing license. If the present senior citizens fishing license in Montana were cost accounted out I am willing to bet that it is being sold for a loss. We presently have eight state fishing access sites on Big Spring Creek and will soon have ten. Many people come here to fish because of the superb access to Big Spring Creek.

I know that the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is funded on a ten year cycle. This is an untenable position for any business, government run or private. This cycle needs to be shortened up to no more than four years. To my knowledge none of the surrounding states have hunting and fishing fees as low as Montana fees.

Our natural resources attract many to this state and tourism is a major industry. Many come here not only for scenic viewing and the majestic parks but to bird watch, fish and hunt. Unless the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks are adequately funded there will be cuts in many areas of this agency including the front line of game wardens and biologists. If our fish and wildlife populations are not managed well and wisely then the word will get out and sportsmen will quit coming here in large numbers. Nationally, there has been a steep decline in the numbers of fishers and

hunters. Montana needs to keep offering world class fishing, hunting and outdoor activities to stay in the forefront This has huge consequences to the businesses of Montana across the board. The sportsmen who come here to enjoy our superb fisheries and game resources spend a lot of money on lodging, restaurants, with sporting goods dealers, outfitters and guides not to mention many other businesses. Many sportsmen I know have moved here and are residents.

I remember when Michael Poore was the resident FW&P fisheries biologist in Lewistown. When Michael, a terrific fisheries biologist, left this area and it was many, many years before we got another resident biologist. Big Spring Creek had some real setbacks without an active resident biologist during this period.

I urge both sides of the aisle to look at this and come up with a plan to adequately fund the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department who are doing a fine job in managing our wildlife resources. If this is done we will all benefit from these resources being managed adequately and wisely in the years to come.

Please send the EOC HB 609 Study Draft Report to the 64th Legislature with your recommendations and again I urge the coming legislature to join hands and adequately fund the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Sincerely , Karl Gies, an active Montana Sportsman since 1946

131 13th Avenue South

Lewistown MT 59457-2808

406-538-8503

skyland@midrivers.com

From: [Reid Stuart](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB609 Licensing Study
Date: Sunday, August 24, 2014 3:49:18 PM

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Reid Stuart,
Conrad

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From: [DENNIS SUSAN](#)

To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)

Subject: It appears Montana will continue to live in the dark ages when it comes to funding wildlife management and enforcement. A resident will still be able to hunt elk for the price of a case of beer or two! Unfortunately for Montana, it also appears nonresi...

Date: Sunday, August 17, 2014 12:52:43 PM

From: bkampschorr@gmail.com on behalf of [Beth Kampschorr](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:16:21 AM
Attachments: [support for license fee increase - Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument.docx](#)

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

Attached are some comments from the Friends in support of the license fee increase.

I do apologize for missing the deadline. I hope that these thoughts might still be able to add to the discussion.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Beth Kampschorr

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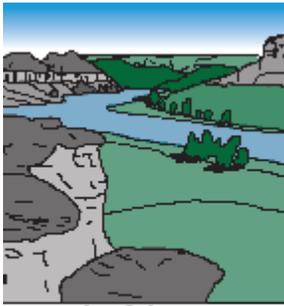
Beth Kampschorr
Executive Director
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument

www.missouribreaks.org

406-502-1334 (office)

406-461-6850 (mobile)

To protect and preserve the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument by educating the public, advocating for responsible access and environmentally responsible uses, and supporting groups and agencies that protect and restore the Monument.



**Friends of the Missouri
Breaks Monument**

September 4, 2014

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

On behalf of the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument, we would like to extend our support for sending the licensing bill before the Environmental Quality Council to the Legislature.

We are the non-profit 501(c)(3) group that supports the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument – some of the best hunting country in all of Montana. The Friends work to protect and preserve the Monument by educating the public, advocating for responsible access and environmentally responsible uses, and by working with groups and agencies that protect and restore the Monument. We represent around 500 members, volunteers and supporters both inside and outside Montana.

We're weighing in because we are concerned that the \$5.75 million shortfall facing Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will gut FWP's ability to manage our state's wildlife – and in particular the wildlife in the Breaks country that thousands of people hunt every year. We are worried about the ramifications this will have not only for wildlife and hunting, but for the annual revenue hunting brings to central Montana's towns every fall. We're also worried that a gutted FWP would threaten the very concept of wildlife belonging to the public – a model that the Friends supports wholeheartedly.

This potential bill addresses our concerns. It's asking all of us to pay just a tiny bit more -- \$8 for hunting and \$3 for fishing sounds reasonable to us – and it's simple and streamlined, with fewer special licenses. In conversations over the years, we've heard our members and allies say they would like to pay more for the privilege to hunt and fish in Montana. And I can say without reservation that both anglers in my own family would be happy to pay the \$3 increase to preserve our Montana way of life. We would imagine it's rare to hear from user groups who are begging for higher fees, and we would ask the EQC to take this into consideration.

We strongly urge the EQC to send the licensing bill to the Legislature. Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts. We wish you all the best in your work.

Sincerely,



Beth Kampschorr
Executive Director
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument

From: [Stock, Frank](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: HB 609 Licensing Study
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:48:05 PM

I'm in favor of the increase in license fees and also of re-evaluating those fees on a cycle that is not 10 years long. While I have grown up in Montana and now permanently reside here, I have lived in several states around the country. I have to say our fees are a bargain based on other places I have lived and that an \$8 base fee raise to cover cost increases over the last decade seems reasonable, and still is a bargain.

Thanks,
Frank Stock
406 600 8533

From: [Clay Hall](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Subject: Support Hunting License Price Increase
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 7:28:03 AM

I fully support the proposed increase in fees and spending.

All the best,

Clay B. Hall
11330 Bridger Canyon Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

H. 406.586.0506
C. 406.599.1250
E. claybhall@gmail.com

From: [jw westman](#)
To: [Stockwell, Hope](#)
Date: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 11:50:16 AM
Attachments: [LRGC EQC comment earmarks.docx](#)

Good morning Hope, this is another comment from Laurel Rod & Gun Club, please hand out to EQC members. Thanks a bunch, have a good day.

JW

Environmental Quality Council
Helena, MT

Dear Chairman Brenden & Council Members:

Laurel Rod and Gun Club is a local sporting club in Laurel, MT. LRGC has 400 family members who hunt, fish and are concerned about our outdoor traditions.

Our family members at LRGC believe this Council should agree to forward the finished product of the License Fee Committee. The ~\$11.00 combined increase for those who both hunt and fish is more than reasonable. Let's remember Wyoming charges its resident hunters \$40 plus for a cow elk tag and \$50 plus for a bull elk tag, that's a far cry what we charge. Montana needs to streamline our license fee structure and stop giving away licenses to non-residents who are originally from Montana and remove the coming home to hunt. You move from Montana you apparently do so by your own free will and conscience.

What our family members don't want to happen is taking money from Habitat Montana or Upland Bird to pay for the short fall. This is very short sighted and irresponsible, it's the rob from Peter to pay Paul syndrome-that thought process never has worked, matter of fact we always teach our children not to do this, why would Montana?

In closing we want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on issues of importance for our 400 family members.

Respectfully submitted,

Irv Wilke, President