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HJR 15

Public access for recreational and tourism-related activities

Poll ranking: #15
Pg. 8 in Draft Work Plan

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Issues & Challenges



- Interest:
 - Landowners
 - Public
- Cost
- Funding Source
 - New?
 - Existing?

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Study Requirements

Evaluate the feasibility of and possible funding sources for creating a program, similar in mission to the block management and hunting and fishing access enhancement programs of DFWP, that would provide monetary incentives to private landowners who grant public access for recreational and tourism-related activities.

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Background



- Recreational and tourism activities benefit all Montanans and the state economy
- Balancing public access/private property rights
- Other income generators jeopardizing opportunities for public access to private land
- Monetary incentives currently provided through block management seen as effective tool



DFWP Block Management Program

- o Currently pays landowners up to \$11 per user, per day for hunting access (approx 1,250 landowners in 2008)
 - Plus \$250 basic enrollment payment
- o Funding source:
 - Nonresident outfitter-sponsored hunting licenses sold at "market" value (5,500 licenses/year)
 - \$1500 Deer/elk combination
 - \$1400 Elk only
 - \$1100 Deer only
 - + \$560,000 from Supertag proceeds (approx.)

= \$7.8 million total revenue in FY 2008
Expended \$6.3 million



Draft Work Plan Options

Option A	Option B	Option C
<p>.05 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oOption B oAnalyze landowner and public interest <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oInterim report oLegislation (if any) 	<p>.04 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oOption C oPanel discussions <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oWhite paper oLegislation (if any) 	<p>.03 FTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oAnalyze block management rules, statutes oFind possible funding sources for new program <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> oBrief Summary oLegislation (if any)