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Ref: DO0429-05
September 13, 2005

Clayton Schenck
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Room 110 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 201711
Helena, MT 59620-1711

Dear Mr. Schenck:

Thank you for your recent request for an update pertaining to the Regional Investigator positions approved during the 2005 Legislature. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) received authority to hire 2.00 FTE as Regional Investigators to increase the ability of the Department to investigate and prosecute serious resource crimes occurring in Montana. FWP completed a job profile for these positions and posted a job announcement on June 15, 2005. The recruitment period ended on July 31 and the hiring process was completed on August 22 when two employees began their assignments in the positions. The new positions were assigned to FWP administrative regions Three (Southwest Montana) and Five (Billings Area).

Throughout the hiring period, FWP has worked with the Legislative Fiscal Division to establish performance measurement objectives and the criteria to track program activities and accomplishments. Currently FWP has draft performance criteria in place that focuses on the following areas of investigation by these positions:

1. FWP will track the total number of investigations by misdemeanor vs. felony; commercial vs. non-commercial; violations charged vs. violations detected; and the amount of time spent by the investigators assisting field game wardens with investigations.
2. FWP will track the amount of time spent by the investigators coordinating investigations with other agencies; i.e. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the BLM, the Board of Outfitters, the Dept. of Revenue, etc.
3. Regional Investigators will investigate violations based on the merge of ALS data with department of Revenue data. FWP will track license fraud cases made as a result of the merge and the number of individuals referred to the Department of Revenue for income tax violations.

4. FWP will track the commercial wildlife inspections completed by the investigators on taxidermists, game processors, fur dealers, alternative livestock farms, etc.
5. FWP will track the amount of criminal intelligence reports submitted and the number of interviews with subjects and informants.
6. FWP will track the amount of time spent by the investigators attending or conducting training in specialized investigative training courses.

Currently the investigators are working on assembling intelligence from the field wardens and other agencies and are becoming apprised of ongoing and new investigative details within their respective regions. FWP is in the process of finalizing the performance measures and the investigators will report monthly on their activities.

FWP appreciates the support of the legislature with these new positions and look forward to updating you on the implementation progress. In the interim, please feel free to contact Enforcement Administrator Jim Kropp (444-5657) or myself if FWP can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

M. Jeff Hagener
Director

c: Jim Kropp