

Chairman Robinson & FWP Commission:

On behalf of the Daniels County Conservation District, landowner & leaseholder of Daniels County, as well as the Main Street businesses of Flaxville and Scobey, thank you for listening. We remain appreciative of the attendance of Chairman Robinson and Director Temple at our January 17th meeting and grateful for the Amendment to move non-resident opening day to September 15th.

We support the Amendment to move Non-resident Upland Gamebird season to September 15th.

Having polled 6 Main Street businesses between the 2 largest towns in the county, I have come to understand that the pressures and strains of hunting season extend all the way to the asphalt and concrete. Repeatedly, bars and restaurants urged “shorten the season”.... the only after hours convenience store in the county said they would “gladly take less money to support our community’s sanity and lessen the strain on landowners during harvest”....the only grocery store in the county explained that groceries for residents grow scarce and deliveries to shut ins are difficult during hunting season...the only hardware store in the county discussed the tenuous situation of offering over the counter licenses to “confused, un informed, rude nonresidents” who consume the time of hourly employees for licenses that yield next to no revenue for them or the county. Every year they consider terminating the sale of licenses, but ultimately, they do so to benefit the local hunters of Daniels County. Motels in both countries expressed concern that they would lose a valuable couple week of revenue if the date was moved back.... **but** after further conversations, all agreed that more resident Montanans would come to this area to beat the non-resident rush, thereby filling any open dates due to non-resident cancellations.

We very much support this Amendment to shove the opening date back to more closely match that of neighboring states. It will alleviate the crushing pressure (1) of being the first state to open upland game bird season and (2) of being the county in Montana with the highest percentage of state land.

Thank You for your consideration and support!

Alycia Nathe, landowner & leaseholder, farmer/rancher, Daniels County