

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:19:45 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:32:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:41
IP Address: 174.198.144.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel Truesdell
City/Town:	Townsend
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dtruesdell85@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please consider moving pacific flyway season dates to close later in the year, possibly to FWS limit. Possible with a break maybe in November. The last couple of years non-resident ducks have not been showing up until mid December and Canada Geese not until the last couple of days or mostly after season. Thanks

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:32:03 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:42:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:04
IP Address: 174.198.143.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jaeger Evinger
City/Town: Townsend
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jaegerevinger@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like to request a modification to the season dates. Later start in the season, and specifically the season running until the end of January with the later start date and a mid season break to accommodate the later ending in the season. Most outdoorsmen in Montana are able to pursue big game, and do, until after thanksgiving. The adjustment of the season dates will give Montana sportsmen more opportunity for waterfowl hunting when other seasons are closed. Migrating waterfowl are more prevalent in the later months of the winter as well. I know the state has limitation of amount of days to allocate per the respective flyways, I ask that the commission restructures the season dates to allow more opportunity when competing seasons are closed, better hunting opportunity due to timing of waterfowl migrations, increased revenue in smaller rural towns across Montana due to traveling hunters, and better alligned with other states in respective flyways.

I would like to request the consideration of adding a Veterans/youth only day for waterfowl to honor and support Montanas veterans. This day is usually on the Saturday after the close of the regular season and only open for veterans/youth

#3

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Time Spent: 00:04:12
IP Address: 72.174.136.78

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tom Gagnon
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tgagnonmt86@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am commenting on the upcoming migratory bird season to recommend extending the pacific flyway season further into January. I propose that the season should start with a 5-10 day window followed by a 10-14 day closure. Similar to the closure in zone 2 of the central flyway this would help push the season later into the season.

#4

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Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 11:04:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 70.120.209.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	JR DAVENPORT
City/Town:	UVALDE
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	jrdavenport14@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Removing Yellowstone closure is a positive all the way around, thanks for finally doing something about this...

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 04, 2024 11:31:16 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 11:53:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:24
IP Address: 216.147.124.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jon Gabrio
City/Town:	Townsend
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jgabrio@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like the commission to adjust the waterfowl season dates in Montana, where the last day of waterfowl season ends on the last weekend in January. I am a Montana resident and the change would allow for more opportunity for Montana sportsmen. This change would also help small businesses and towns with sportsmen's dollars by allowing longer hunting dates. The waterfowl migration has been apparently later in the winter as this year didn't even push in until season was over. With big game seasons closed, it would provide better opportunity and participation for Montana sportsmen further into the season.

#6

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Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 12:54:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:45:09
IP Address: 75.244.174.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Michael Clingan
City/Town: Toston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: montanaoutdoorimagery@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Thank you commissioners for the opportunity for public input on a resource that is near and dear to my heart. I am a life-long waterfowl hunter and have hunted all over the country, but my home state of Montana is still my favorite place to hunt. As our climate continues to change, waterfowl migrations are adapting to the changes. These changes have been very noticeable, especially during the 23/24 season. In January I polled the Montana Waterfowler Facebook group (which represents a large portion of Montana's waterfowlers) about our current season framework. The nature of the poll was to see if there was any interest in changes to our current season frameworks, specifically the Pacific Flyway, where I reside. There were 297 respondents to the poll and 225 of them (77%) were in favor of having a continuous season using the last date available set by the feds for ducks and geese. (e.g. January 31 and the previous 106 days) as our season going forward.

There was also interest in the creation of a north and south zone within the pacific flyway, with the north zone being defined as an area east of the rocky mountain front and north of the Missouri river, which is very logical because that area doesn't have the open water opportunities later into the season like the southern zone has. It is also suggested that the north zone uses the current season framework.

If these changes were enacted it would offer more hunting opportunities for all waterfowlers in the state, it would also help support local communities through hunters traveling to hunt in areas where the season is open when their local season might be closed.

Central flyway respondents seemed happy with the current set-up, but the majority would like to see the Yellowstone closure remain in effect, as having a safe roost for the birds is critical to keeping the birds in the area.

Thank you for taking these amendments to the current proposals into consideration.

#7

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Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 5:30:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:08
IP Address: 63.153.76.236

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Hayden Ladner
City/Town:	Boulder
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	haydenladner@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Lifelong waterfowler here. I know there will be alot of comments pushing the season back farther for the pacific side. As much as I agree with it I also really enjoy the opportunity we have in the early season here. I wouldn't want to push our opening day back farther, but maybe we go back to the split we used to have. We still have the early season and get a little bit later into the season than what we have now. I liked the season ending around Jan 20th it seemed to be just about the perfect time for late migrating birds. Another topic I would like to have discussed is a spring snow goose season. Every state around us in the pacific flyway has one I think we should to. We can still follow plug laws and the 20 bird limit and no callers like surrounding pacific flyway states. And I know freezeout draws a big crowd for the migration so maybe we keep that closed for the spring time for the birds to have a safe place and bird watchers to still get to enjoy them.

Which brings me to my last topic. Pacific flyway swans. The early freeze this year made for what I can expect to be very low numbers of harvest. If the pacific flyway was opened up to the entire zone instead of just a few counties I think that could have helped alot of people out this year. They are on the same migratory path usually going down through helena and dillon as they are in freezeout. Even if it means cutting the tags drawn down some to help out with the possibility a higher success rate having them open to the entire flyway. Thanks for reading, please if anything in this list look at the spring snows the most.

#8

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Time Spent: 00:03:27
IP Address: 98.127.160.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Reece Dolechek
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	reecedolechek@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Run the season to the last day of January. Also should include an early season like all other surrounding states. Should look into increasing the honker limit to eight.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 04, 2024 9:06:38 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 9:08:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:09
IP Address: 47.37.53.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kevin Hamer**
City/Town: **Hamilton**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kevinandboys23@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Split the season and extend it to February

#10

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:14:12 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 04, 2024 10:15:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 75.143.208.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **William BALLOWE**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **billinmt2@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The migratory bird season should run from the middle of October to the end of January.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 05, 2024 10:59:35 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 05, 2024 11:29:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:29:51
IP Address: 12.74.211.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brian Dunaetz
City/Town: Three Forks
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bdunaetz@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like to propose a change to regulations that many of us in the waterfowl community have been throwing around for a few years now.

The last few years we have had very warm and mild weather for most of waterfowl season so the bulk of migrating birds don't show up until the last week or two of season.

Many of us would like to see season start 2 to 4 weeks later each year and remain open for the same 2-4 weeks longer at the end of season.

This would allow for the same number of hunting days as the current regulations but give time for the cold weather to move in so we can target more migratory birds and shoot less of the "resident" birds each year.

Thank you for taking this into consideration and from the discussions I've had with hundreds of fellow waterfowl hunters this management plan would be welcomed by the majority of waterfowl hunters in Montana.

#12

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Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 174.234.18.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **MICHAEL CLINGAN**
City/Town: **Toston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **montanaoutdoorimagery@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'd also like to add to my comments to maintain current snow goose and swan season dates.

Also it would be beneficial to have a statewide spring snow goose conservation season, not just the central flyway. Understanding the importance of Freezeout Lake, I'd propose a Freezeout WMA hunting closure to protect other species of birds and allowing the snows a safe roost and rest area in which bird watchers can enjoy the spring migration.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 6:26:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:33
IP Address: 72.175.171.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeremy DeVries
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jdevries12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am adamantly opposed to opening the Yellowstone River sections to waterfowl hunting! Whoever thought up this idea, clearly has no clue what it will mean to the entire migration of ducks and Canada geese in this area! That area is a refuge! And as pressure increases (yearly) in this area, it may be the ONLY thing that keeps ducks and geese coming through this valley! Migrating waterfowl have used this path (and more importantly this safe place to sleep at night) for OVER 50 years! This is ingrained in the DNA of duck and geese. They come here, because they know they have a safe place to sleep and good feed in the fields surrounding it! This path has been taught for generations. Now add 30 jetboats a day running up and down that section of river? They will do exactly what the ducks and geese on the Bighorn do. Continuously move south! The Afterbay holds 10's of thousands of waterfowl each year. In 1 season, those numbers WILL double! Within 5 years, the entire migration will shift away from this area. This will do epic damage economically, but even more damage to the local dad who wants to hunt ducks and geese with his kids. This idea is an extremely short sided view held only by a few hunters! Keep the refuges, protect safe places for ducks and geese to sleep, and they will stick around. Open up this 87 mile section? And the entire migration WILL be altered for the worse.

#14

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Last Modified: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 8:17:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:32
IP Address: 35.150.87.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bob Farrell**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mtgreenheads@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am completely opposed to opening the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting. This area has provided sanctuary and hunting opportunities since 1958. The quality and opportunity for waterfowl hunting will be greatly diminished by this action, and ultimately cause great economic harm to communities such as Forsyth and Hysham.

#15

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Last Modified: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 8:21:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:33
IP Address: 35.150.87.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Danielle Hamon
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dhprairie@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the Yellowstone River closure as is! It has provided so much for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters since 1958. This proposed action will have permanent, negative impacts on our hunting traditions and rural economies.

#16

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Last Modified: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 9:56:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 98.127.75.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dylan Johnson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dylan.johnson42@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The Yellowstone Waterfowl Refuge has provided excellent Canada goose hunting for over 50 years!! It MUST STAY in place!

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 9:58:07 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 06, 2024 10:03:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:31
IP Address: 72.255.171.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Randy Southard
City/Town: Fort Benton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: teamsouthard@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I completely disagree with the proposed opening of the Yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting. This will completely change the quality of hunting for the worse along the Yellowstone corridor. That refuge is the reason the waterfowl hunting in Montana is the best anywhere, and I have hunted across the US. This will be a huge mistake that will change the migration and hunting quality. The birds must have a resting place with no harassment or they will leave.

#18

COMPLETE

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Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 10:57:43 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 11:45:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:47:25
IP Address: 198.190.231.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Timothy Booms
City/Town:	Oshkosh
State/Province:	WI
Email Address:	timbooms@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

First I recognize I as a Wisconsin resident, you may find my input less valuable, however as an engaged and passionate waterfowl hunter from Wisconsin who has traveled to and hunted around the Yellowstone River restriction area, I have insight with merit. My waterfowl experiences include throughout Wisconsin for both ducks and geese of all species, as well yearly travels to continental waterfowl destinations including Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, Montana as well Canadian travel to Manitoba and Saskatchewan provinces.

As a waterfowl hunter with 22 years of experience (age 45), I continue to see both growth and reduction in population densities and resulting population impacts based on policies that are enacted. With an observed understanding with personal recorded data to support, I see the value of having areas that provide relief for migrating species while they are at their most vulnerable from a health perspective, during their migrations. The continued restriction on the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer county line makes an immediate impact on the populations of migrating species who find refuge on it. At the same time, allowing such a refuge provides significant improvements in the quality of hunter opportunity around this refuge if they are not pressured both on land and on water. Providing hunter opportunity is important, however I would promote quality over quantity 10 out of 10 times. The economic value to maintain quality hunting opportunity in my opinion would outweigh more access opening the restricted area. Waterfowl are temperamental, you can pressure them where they feed, and the result is they will make a small relocation to find safe nourishment. If you pressure them both where they feed and where they roost (on water), they will leave making a larger change in location, aka, leave the Yellowstone River. This would result in less quality opportunities for all.

I strongly encourage the support of the continued restriction for waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer county line to ensure continued quality opportunities for generations to follow.

#19

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Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 12:09:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:58
IP Address: 67.44.224.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephen J Christian**
City/Town: **Colstrip**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mtduckhunter@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am vehemently against opening the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River between the Bighorn River & Hathaway. This is the first time I have ever heard of this suggestion! I believe, there was no mention of opening the River in last year's public comments on the 2023-24 waterfowl seasons.

I challenge the FWP to provide the detailed survey and public meeting details to prove the statement that:

"First, a restriction on waterfowl hunting was established in 1958 on an approximately 87-mile portion of the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer county line. Hunter surveys and public meetings indicated support for opening this stretch of river to waterfowl hunting during the season. The department is recommending elimination of this closure."

Where is the data? This stretch of Yellowstone River waterfowl hunting closure has provided safe haven for waterfowl (primarily Canada Geese) since 1958. It has created a thriving huntable Goose field hunting opportunity for many, if not most, waterfowlers.

Please do not remove this restriction!!

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 12:58:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 1:07:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:45
IP Address: 65.132.153.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	David L French
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	frenchyinmt@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Under NO circumstances am I in favor of opening the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River from the confluence of the Bighorn to the Custer-Rosebud county line. There is currently 500+ miles of huntable yellowstone river available. The waterfowl population (especially Canada Geese) in that area will be significantly reduced within the span on a single year! It will decimate the revenue generated by the hunters that currently flood those areas every fall/winter to hunt geese. The local businesses will suffer greatly. I have been hunting that area for 15 years, and have never once seen a hunter survey asking me my thoughts on the closure. I for one would like the closure to remain in effect.

#21

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Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 2:15:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:56
IP Address: 165.1.132.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Peter McCarthy
City/Town:	Clancy
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	macinmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I hunt geese frequently on fields in the area along the closed section of the Yellowstone River and can honestly say that I am very against this section of river being open to waterfowl hunting. As with many other reaches in Montana, heavy hunting pressure on the roost has been proven to push birds out of the area and would reduce hunting opportunities and income to the local communities by a significant amount. I travel to the Forsyth area 2-3 times a year to hunt waterfowl and spend close \$200-\$300 per day per person in the local communities. If hunting is allowed on the Yellowstone River and the birds move on because hunting pressure is too great on the roost it will have a large negative impact to these local communities. There are plenty of hunting opportunities for waterfowl without pressuring the birds on the water. If hunters are specifically interested in targeting waterfowl on the water there are many other high quality areas to hunt them nearby, specifically the Bighorn River and upstream/downstream areas on the Yellowstone. It is worth noting that I have a jet boat and gear for hunting waterfowl on the water but understand that not one solution fits all and that based on interests there are varying hunting opportunities. It is okay to leave areas closed to hunting on the river to improve and promote other opportunities.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 2:39:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 174.215.21.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Pat mccarthy
City/Town:	Winston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mhp189@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the closed portion of the yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting. Leave it as is. Plenty of field hunting in the area. Towns like Forsyth depend on waterfowl hunting dollars. If you hunt geese on the roost they leave.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 3:28:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 3:30:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 184.166.95.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	David L Shoopman
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lafeshoopman@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Dear Commissioners:

I am extremely against opening the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River between the Bighorn River & Hathaway.

I challenge the FWP to provide the detailed survey and public meeting details to prove the statement that:

“First, a restriction on waterfowl hunting was established in 1958 on an approximately 87-mile portion of the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer county line. Hunter surveys and public meetings indicated support for opening this stretch of river to waterfowl hunting during the season. The department is recommending elimination of this closure.”

Where is the data? This stretch of Yellowstone River waterfowl hunting closure has provided safe haven for waterfowl (primarily Canada Geese) since 1958. It has created a thriving huntable Goose field hunting opportunity for many, if not most, waterfowlers.

Hunting pressure in the River will push Canada Geese further South. Additionally, they may change their migration and roosting patterns. As a avid hunter and conservationist, I do believe the opening of this river corridor for hunting will have negative impacts on the migrating birds in Montana that we all enjoy.

Please do not pass this proposal.

David Shoopman

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 7:37:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 7:48:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:01
IP Address: 38.48.28.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	RP
City/Town:	West Yellowstone
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rcmpohle@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Rather than eliminate an 87 mile closure that has been in place for 60+ years, has any consideration been given to increasing the possession limit for dark geese in this corridor? The past season it was 5 dark geese, why not open it to 6-10 geese per hunter for the counties this closure runs through. Observe results and adjust in future years or is this proposal purely about access NOT the numbers of geese?

#25

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 8:36:34 PM
Time Spent: 11:38:48
IP Address: 72.255.171.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Elizabeth A Southard
City/Town: FORT BENTON
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bsscrapper@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am vehemently opposed to removing the refuge status on the Yellowstone River in regards to waterfowl hunting. It needs to stay as a refuge as allowing hunting will diminish the hunting quality for waterfowl.

#26

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 8:45:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:23
IP Address: 72.255.171.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Benjamin Southard
City/Town: Fort Benton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 115southard115@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I disagree the removal of the refuge on the Yellowstone River because it allows birds to flourish and utilize that water system that is essential to their survival. Removing this refuge would drive birds out of that area and ruin hunting on land around the refuge and destroy migration for these birds and where they prosper. Thank you. Once again, I disagree with the removal.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 8:59:57 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 9:11:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:51
IP Address: 35.151.218.147

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connor Langel
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	connor_langel@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am opposed to the opening of the waterfowl refuge on the Yellowstone River from the confluence of the Bighorn River to the Custer County line. This refuge was a huge success story in waterfowl conservation when it was established. It provides a safe haven for birds allowing them to stay longer throughout the region providing better hunting opportunity. Field access, although becoming more difficult is still very doable for the DYI hunter. Non residents come from all over to field hunt with no access upon arriving and end with several fields to hunt and limits upon limits of geese. The pressure on the river would push birds out of the area immensely. That is very easy to see along the Yellowstone just through Billings. Hunting geese on the river pushes them out of the area. Plain and simple. It can be done in moderation to keep them around but most hunters do not understand that concept. Birds will be shot off the roost and blown to the next state. Waterfowl hunting in this portion of the state is arguably some of the best in the United States. Removing a closure set in place years prior that has created the opportunity we have today would be detrimental to waterfowl hunting in the region.

I'm in favor of keeping the current season date structure. The split in zone 2 central flyways is a must and has provided the best mix of early to late season hunting.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 10:34:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 10:35:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 216.228.54.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Melissa Kasson
City/Town:	Sidney
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mhilgendorf12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am strongly against opening up the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting as I believe it will have negative impacts on the roosting habits and migratory patterns for Canadian geese.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 07, 2024 11:25:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 07, 2024 11:28:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 174.231.64.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bobby Wise
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Jetcrafty1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think it's a great idea to open up the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting below the conference of the bighorn. It would increase public access to an area that is heavily leased by outfitters and would help spread out the constant growing pressure on the bighorn and Yellowstone.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:14:51 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:21:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:24
IP Address: 63.153.7.87

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Clinton Caffrey
City/Town:	BOZEMAN
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cdcaffrey@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open up the closed section of the Yellowstone. My kids and I waterfowl hunt the fields in that area and this closure actually makes for better hunting for the entire waterfowl season and not just for short periods of new bird migration. I believe keeping this area closed provides more hunting opportunities/hunter days than opening it up to hunting would. My kids love goose hunting in this area, largely due to the large number of birds which helps keep kids interested and the good access to public and block management lands.

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:21:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:31:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:21
IP Address: 216.147.126.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tyrell Blake
City/Town: Fort Smith
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 3sportt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River Wildlife Refuge. It is an important sanctuary for waterfowl to escape hunting pressure and be able to roost without disturbance. Without this sanctuary, these birds would never get a break. Please leave this sanctuary in place for an already limited resource. Thank you.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:52:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:59:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:45
IP Address: 174.198.139.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Grovijahn
City/Town:	Worden
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jgrovijahn55@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Yellowstone River closure. I am in favor of keeping the Yellowstone closed to waterfowl hunting below the mouth of the Bighorn River. It gives the birds a safe resting spot, and in reality improves hunting by keeping more geese in the area. With the split season in Zone 2 the late season goose hunting has improved greatly. There are plenty of hunting opportunities in the fields between the Bighorn River and Rosebud county. Thank You, Jeff Grovijahn

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:50:10 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:12:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:41
IP Address: 72.175.171.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeremy DeVries
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jdevries12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'd like to see the posted results of these SURVEYS you speak of. I may be the largest waterfowl outfitter in the state of Montana. No one has asked my opinion. I don't know 1 single individual who has EVER been asked about the Yellowstone Waterfowl Refuge!! Not 1. Nor do I know of anyone who can even think of a PUBLIC COMMENT meeting? EVER? You're talking about destroying a major part of the waterfowl migration in this valley!! I havent seen a single meeting, a single biological survey, ZERO research on the impacts of opening up hunting in that area will do to waterfowl and their migration path? This impacts over 300K migrating waterfowl each year and you haven't provided a single piece of information to support it? Other than saying "a couple poeple think it's a good idea". This refuge is one of the VERY FEW wildlife mangement success stories that this state has.....and you're voting to destroy it? WOW. Such a terrible idea!!

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:23:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:25:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:24
IP Address: 186.65.91.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matthew Clawson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mclawson.bighorn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think it is a bad idea to open the Yellowstone River to hunting. It is an important sanctuary that keeps birds around all season. It is perfect the way it is. Do not change the regulations

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:33:22 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:41:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:30
IP Address: 216.147.124.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Welch
City/Town:	Custer
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeff@fishingowlfarm.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the hunting restriction downstream of the confluence of the Bighorn and maintain the refuge that exists. Birds need a place where they can rest free of hunting pressure and this section has been successful in creating some of the best hunting in the West. I don't understand why we would mess with that. I have heard very few hunters who are interested in changing it. Perhaps that is because this part of Montana remains a place where you can still knock on doors and get access to hunt waterfowl in nearby fields. Let's keep it that way.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:42:28 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:48:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:30
IP Address: 174.235.113.245

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gene Bach
City/Town:	Ennis
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sweatysocks2@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Leave the Yellowstone River CLOSED!!!! Only a complete dumbass would think about opening that section up and destroying what is arguably the best goose hunting anywhere. Who's stupid idea is this anyway? I've seen a lot of stupid shit in my life, but this would take the cake. LEAVE IT CLOSED!!!!!!!!!!

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:04:10 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:06:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 68.231.39.223

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dane Sorensen
City/Town:	Chandler
State/Province:	AZ
Email Address:	sorensendane2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please open the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting. This provides out of state opportunities and by your own measures is biologically justified.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:12:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:37:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:13
IP Address: 216.147.124.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Vermillion
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dan@sweetwatertravel.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am writing to comment on the Department's recommendation to lift the hunting restrictions on waterfowl hunting between the confluence of the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers to the Rosebud/Custer county line. This is a terrible idea.

I grew up in Billings and have been hunting ducks and geese down there since I turned 12. There is no other place in MT that offers this type of field hunting for ducks and geese in MT. All of us who hunt in MT understand that quality hunting is getting harder and harder to find for the average Montanan. This change will benefit those with jet boats. It will directly disadvantage those hunters who load their decoys up in the back of the truck, get up early and set up their spread, and then wait for one of Montana's great wildlife spectacles to begin.

All of us know that elk stay on private refuges where they are safe. But, unlike the elk refuges, these geese must leave to the fields for food every day. When they are done feeding, they move back to the river for the night where they can rest.

On those days, when the geese are in, the sky is literally filled with geese landing in fields from Custer to Rosebud. On most mornings, you can hear hunters getting to experience these huge flights of geese on either side of the river. Because these geese fly all day, hunters have incredible opportunity to harvest Canada geese.

Contrast that with our land on the upper Yellowstone just west of Reedpoint. There, hunters ambush the geese on the river, and the day's flight can be over in the first 15 minutes of the day. It is a completely different hunting experience, and it certainly does not fill the hotels of Hysham and Forsyth each weekend in December and January.

When I was on the Commission, this change was pushed by a few jet boat owners in Billings. I own several jet boats. However, most people do not. In my experience, there are a lot of good opportunities to hunt geese in the fields for the average Montana sportsmen. Opening this stretch of river will destroy the quality of that opportunity.

It is true that several good block management properties have been leased up by outfitters for Deer Hunting. However, in my experience, there are very few goose outfitters, and, as soon as the deer season ends, the farmers are thrilled to have you come harvest some geese before they hit the first winter wheat sprouts.

If you have not experienced this stretch of the Yellowstone when the geese are in, I would urge you to take that opportunity. It is really unique. And, this proposed change will irrevocably change this waterfowl convergence on the lower river, and it will destroy the best field hunting opportunity for the resident waterfowl hunters in Montana. It is not broken. In fact, it is one of the great success stories of Montana hunting that still resembles the Montana we grew up in. Please do not turn it into another stretch of river where the birds are hounded all day by guys with boats ripping up and down the river. We all know what happens when birds are hounded and have no safe place to rest. They fly somewhere else where they are protected, and that will be a good ways south of the Yellowstone where Montana hunters will not have the same opportunities they do today. Please don't do this. It is a huge mistake.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:22:36 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:51:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:29:06
IP Address: 172.59.153.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tyler Rhodes
City/Town:	Clearfield
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	tylerr324@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

In regards to the proposal to opening the stretch of the Yellowstone river in rosebud county to hunting. I'd like to express my concerns and why this should remain closed to hunting.

wildlife need a place rest to sustain a healthy population as well as hunting opportunities for all. Where I live several state and federal rest areas have been opened within the last 5 years to the public and as a hunter of 25 years have seen a dramatic change in just a few short years in migration patterns and hunter success rate since these areas have seen severe impact and hunting pressure. The increased hunting opportunity only lasted for a season or two and now it is just as barren as anywhere else and has negatively impacted surrounding areas that were already opened to hunting as well. I see the same happening on the Yellowstone stretch where the opportunity will diminish for many to enjoy waterfowl hunting in the area. I find myself more successful there traveling than I do at home and know the key ingredient there is a place for waterfowl to rest and continue their journey. We owe it to the waterfowl and future generations to have the same opportunity we do and not it for granted.

Thank you.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:53:24 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:54:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 209.141.117.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	greg gaddis
City/Town:	boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	gaddisgreg@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

please keep the Yellowstone River waterfowl closure in place.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 11:37:53 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 11:40:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:04
IP Address: 208.107.50.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John R Bradley
City/Town:	Bismarck
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	JROBERTBRADLEY@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am opposed to the opening of the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone for waterfowl hunting. As a former resident of Montana, and a non-resident waterfowl hunter of that area, I want to see that stretch of the Yellowstone serve as a sanctuary for waterfowl. There is ample public access in that area, even more if you are willing to knock on a few doors. The resource and the hunting experience will be negatively impacted if that stretch of river is opened up.

Thank you for considering my comments.

John Bradley

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 11:35:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 11:46:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:42
IP Address: 184.166.95.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Christine Shoopman
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	crshoopman@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Dear Commissioners:

I am completely against opening the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River between the Bighorn River & Hathaway.

I did not see any mention of opening the River in last year's public comments on the 2023-24 waterfowl seasons. If you feel differently, please provide the public with a detailed survey and public meeting details to prove it.

This stretch of Yellowstone River waterfowl hunting closure has provided safe haven for waterfowl (primarily Canada Geese) since 1958. It has created a thriving Goose field hunting opportunity for many, if not most, waterfowlers. Hunting pressure in the River will push Canada Geese further South. Quite possibly this may change their migration and roosting patterns all together.

Please do not pass this proposal.

Sincerely,

Christine Shoopman

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 1:49:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 1:58:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:01
IP Address: 174.231.93.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rusty Lee Coe
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mt107157@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I believe MT FWP should leave the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone river closed as it has been to waterfowl hunting. As the old adage says- if it ain't broke,don't try to fix it! Sounds to me there is fields to hunt nearby. You have to know the whole story. Not just jump in and say change is needed. You really want those birds to change their habits which would become a betterment to the

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 3:42:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 3:52:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:37
IP Address: 67.218.74.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeff Chadd**
City/Town: **Forsyth**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **alaskaguide125@outlook.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

You need to leave the sections of Yellowstone River that are currently closed alone. It is a refuge for the birds and they stay around longer for hunting. If you open it up the birds will for sure change their habits and flyway and will put more pressure on them. They will just leave here and not come back. Plus economic impact on the area will be affected. There is plenty of places to hunt without opening it up.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 5:00:31 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 5:29:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:19
IP Address: 71.15.214.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gibson Butler
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rgbutler14@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Hello,

Id like to express my opposition to opening the 87 mile Yellowstone River waterfowl refuge to hunting. This refuge plays a key part in the ducks and geese migration path, and is one of the biggest conservation success stories in history. Opening this stretch to hunting will not only disrupt the migration, but will decrease the the average hunt quality and hunter experience in the area. I hope you consider these comments in your decision.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 5:35:02 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 5:52:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:07
IP Address: 71.15.199.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nick Lawrentz
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nlawrentz@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like to first comment on the fact that I am very grateful for the current migratory bird regulations we have here in Montana. The long seasons, liberal bag limits and ease of public access make it one of the most enjoyable states to hunt waterfowl in (in my opinion). However, it has come to my attention that some changes are possibly in the works for the 2024-2025 season. The one that I feel very strongly about is the possibility of opening up the rosebud/custer section of the Yellowstone river... terrible idea. This has been a waterfowl sanctuary since 1958 and I could not come up with one good reason to open this stretch of river to hunting. Not only would it attract more out of state hunters (which we do not need whatsoever) but it would completely change and potentially ruin migration patterns for the state and the natural habits/patterns of these birds that use this area as a sanctuary. This is a very important refuge for eastern Montana that continues to provide ample opportunities for the local hunters who frequent the area hunting nearby fields and just as important for these wild migratory birds that need a sanctuary. Changing this now would be a devastating mistake and quite frankly I cannot believe it is even an option.. There is a reason the Canada goose and duck numbers have since made a huge jump since this sanctuary was created in 1958. Keep it that way. Please give this some serious thought before making any decisions. One particular saying comes to mind when I think of this scenario... "If it aint broke, don't fix it"

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 7:29:02 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 7:46:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:41
IP Address: 205.214.171.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cody Hermes
City/Town:	Brainerd
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	cody_hermes@yahoo.com.

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the 87 mile stretch of river in region 7.

Would you stay in your bedroom if someone shot at you everyday. The answer is you would not. You would go somewhere far far away and geese will do the exact thing they will leave Montana for other states. Someone from Montana fish, wildlife, parks was quoted saying fisherman and big game hunters are already present on the river meaning the geese are use to that. That's like someone driving by your house, happens to everyone but when the people start shooting at you while driving by the house you will move. My group of friends make 2 trips a year to Rosebud County we spend thousands of dollars each trip in the small communities in the 87 mile stretch. We buy food from Groceries, eat and drink at bars, rent Airbnbs and buy fuel from local gas stations all of that will end Abruptly if you open the river to hunting. I learned to not shoot birds off thier roosts when I was 10, I would hope the people making this decision are as smart as a 10 year old. Landowners will lose money as well! If thier is no geese the BMA's along the river will be useless, so instead of increasing public access you would actually be reducing it. When the geese leave for good all of the public access on river will be for nothing. There is a long list of rivers that hold very few birds compared to the Yellowstone and that is because of the ability to shoot birds off their roosts.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:05:14 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:16:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:28
IP Address: 216.16.22.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Adam Tupman
City/Town:	Cottonwood
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	birddog_adam@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Opening up the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River to public hunting, will effectively put an end to one of the last great spectacles in waterfowl hunting. There's no other place in this country like the Yellowstone River in the fall. People drive cross country, infusing TENS if not HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of dollars into local economies, to come experience the fall flight off the Yellowstone. Allowing public hunting on the river will quickly change these birds roosting / flight patterns, pushing them away, along with the hunters. Ducks / geese need 2 things. A safe spot to roost on water and fields to feed in. As long as the birds have safe water, they will stay in the area. Take that away, and it's over. There are plenty of opportunities for hunters to hunt along the river in fields. Don't allow public hunting on the river, save the towns that rely heavily on the money that's infused from waterfowl hunters every fall.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:41:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:46:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 174.198.144.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Josh Chilton
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	joshualynnchilton@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a decade long Billings resident who has hunted in that area for the past 10 years, I am extremely opposed to re-opening this stretch of river to waterfowl hunting. I firmly believe it would disrupt the migration pattern many geese and ducks have utilized for years. I'm afraid the result would be diminished number of birds and excessive hunting pressure much like many other areas in this state have become with regards to other species and hunting areas. Once again, I oppose this re-opening and strongly urge you to stop this attempt to open this stretch of river to hunting.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:44:39 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:50:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:42
IP Address: 216.182.253.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jesse LeNeve
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mymontanaadventure@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Hello FWP & fellow Montanans,

The proposal to open up the Yellowstone River corridor to waterfowl hunting at this time is not supported by myself . Wildlife need sanctuary, respite. I began goose hunting this area in 2008, I cherish the memories and with this corridor , will keep these birds in the area for years to come . Allowing hunters access to the currently closed river area is a mistake and cannot happen. Please keep the river area closed to waterfowl hunting.

With respect ,
Jesse LeNeve

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 8:44:05 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:02:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:44
IP Address: 68.206.14.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Parker Meek
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	parkermeek413@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The Yellowstone River closure has to be one of the most impressive waterfowl success stories in recent history. To go from 500 geese in the fifties, to the historic numbers sometimes seen now, is nothing short of incredible. It stands as model for the rest of the world, to show what can happen to a bleak resource, when steps are taken to improve habitat.

Recent waterfowl studies have shown that disturbance and pressure are the biggest contributing factors to bird migration, and nocturnal activity.

Birds are becoming un-huntable all across many regions of the US and Canada, all due to unnecessary disturbance and pressure.

Reopening the Yellowstone river would be the biggest, short sided, naive move that the state could make, If waterfowl's well-being is truly the priority.

Let us not make such a grave decision, all for an easier hunt. Hunting opportunities in the area are incredible, and can continue to stay that way, given that the birds have their time to be birds.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:24:01 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:28:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:05
IP Address: 66.113.47.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Travis Waldhauser
City/Town:	Worden
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	traviswaldhauser@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the stretch of the Yellowstone river from the Bighorn confluence to the rose Bud County line closed to waterfowl hunting,. Even though the bird numbers are up the stretch of river, gives them a safe place to rest in the evenings throughout the night. There plenty of opportunities to hunt. These birds in the fields along the stretch of the river. If the birds are allowed to be hunted on the river while they're roosting. There's a good possibility that the birds will just move out of the area and therefore less opportunities to hunt them in the fields. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:30:46 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:35:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:17
IP Address: 174.45.98.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cody Ristau
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	codyristau@live.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the Yellowstone River in the sanctuary zone. This provides a safe spot for the geese and ducks to roost. As one of the few safe places in the area this creates great field hunting for waterfowlers to enjoy. Opening this up would push the birds out creating less opportunity. Also in the pacific flyway please consider a split in the season and extending into January more. With warmer temps as of late in the fall and winter. Lots of migrating ducks have not shown up until after the season closes. Thank you.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:40:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:44:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 63.153.13.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Hollis
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hollisjlee@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The 87 mile stretch n the yellowstone that's been closed for sometime needs to have some regulation. It's going to be a real shock to the birds as well as eco system around it with all the hunters coming through to get there hand at some good hunting. Maybe having certain areas still closed for the birds but making it so they still have to move around. We don't want to decimate the population by just a free for all opening.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:51:09 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:54:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 50.52.80.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tom Anderson**
City/Town: **Kootenai**
State/Province: **ID**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Opposed to the opening of Yellowstone River to hunting Would rather see a couple days a week to test bird reactions careful about over reacting

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:47:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:00:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:31
IP Address: 67.207.33.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Richard Stoker
City/Town:	Glenwood
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	totaly_stoked@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'm writing on the proposal of opening the yellowstone river, I've been coming to your beautiful state for a few years now with 8 to 10 family and friends near Forsyth goose hunting. We travel 12 hours to have the experience of actually harvesting and watching lots of geese and look forward so much to the trip every year. Looking over some of the numbers mentioned in the article and seeing the number go from nothing to hundreds of thousands a add us a lot about how and why the population has grown and more importantly how the closed river keeps them there with a great opportunity for hunters to enjoy and harvest limits of geese. I would have to say that I'm not in favor of opening up this section of river to hunting. We love coming to Montana hunting waterfowl and hope this is something that doesn't happen, thanks for your time.

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 9:49:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:01:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:58
IP Address: 160.2.69.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeremy Nessel
City/Town:	Lewiston
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	jsnesset@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

In regards to the proposal to open hunting on stretches of the Yellowstone between the bighorn and rosebud. A group of approx 20 DU volunteers venture to Forsyth every year for a week to hunt geese, and ask permission to hunt on private land. The vast amount of geese that roost and stay on the Yellowstone provides an opportunity to persue a potential large concentration of geese every year. There are no guarantees to every hunt, but the opportunity draws us for that one week every year. As a veteran waterfowler, I remember in my younger days, seeing large amounts of waterfowl on refuges, private managed grounds, and closed areas and always wished they would open to hunting... not realizing that those roost areas provided birds a reason to stay in those areas, thus creating larger concentrations of birds in a general area, and improving outlying and residual hunting areas. If opened, hunting would be fantastic for a year or two, but you just watch... every state south of Montana will be happy you created a reason for birds to push further south instead of residing in a place they could rest. Please leave this closure in place.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:17:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:24:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:59
IP Address: 198.60.113.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Batton
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeff@greenstonegrowth.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am concerned with, and opposed to the idea of opening the waterfowl refuge that currently exists on the Yellowstone river, east of the confluence with the big horn. The number of birds in the entire region is positively impacted by the existing protection. By opening the refuge, the number of birds available for hunters in eastern Montana is likely to be negatively impacted. There are plenty of opportunities, including by asking neighbors for access to private land, that can be accessed to hunt birds that are moving back-and-forth from the river. Adding the pressure of boats and water based hunters to those birds will negatively impact hunting opportunities by pressuring birds to move more quickly downstream.

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:29:57 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 08, 2024 10:32:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 24.19.108.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jordan Gruber**
City/Town: **Bremerton**
State/Province: **WA**
Email Address: **j.s.gruber.mail@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Happy to see the Yellowstone River open to waterfowl hunters!

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 7:52:19 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 7:57:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:31
IP Address: 172.56.200.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chad Sylvestre**
City/Town: **Plentywood**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tacks41@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the Yellowstone closed to hunting. Shooting the roost always makes birds leave the area for a safer roost

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 8:28:47 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 8:46:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:47
IP Address: 135.134.2.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Erik Evensen
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	erik.p.evensen@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do not open the closed 87 mile section of Yellowstone River to hunting. It Provides a safe haven for migratory Canadas and ducks and creates an abundance of waterfowl for the state.

CF zone 2 Canada goose season should open later in October and go through January 31st with no 12 day split. The first couple weeks that begin late September and early October usually have minimal Canada goose migration and most hunters would agree going a little later in January would be ideal for zone 2 Canada goose hunting when a good amount of birds have arrived in the area.

Electronic callers should be allowed for the Montana CF spring snow goose season. If you're going to have this season you should open up all of the tools needed to bag the few birds that migrate through the central flyway. What little opportunity there is having electronic calls would aid in hunters pursuit of light geese in the CF in spring.

How much legal and bureaucratic hoops do we have to jump through to research to have a spring season for light geese in Montana's portion of the pacific flyway? It makes no logical sense why Alberta hunts the exact same Western Arctic breeding light geese that migrate through Montanas PF. Why are we not using their science!? The federal framework should be amended to allow light goose hunting beyond the March 10th cutoff. I am just one person but the logic for the closure on March 10th seems arbitrary at this point and knowing that hunters only account for about 2% of snow goose mortality on this continent, having a season for light grease in the PF should be an opportunity given to Montana constitutes.

I hope voices are heard and considered for this comment period.

Thank you.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:10:00 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:13:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 135.134.2.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Erik Evensen
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	erik.p.evensen@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

To circle back to my Montana PF spring light goose season comment, morality by snow goose hunters in the PF would most likely be well below 2%. 2% is commonly referenced mortality rate for MCP light geese populations. Thank you.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:07:14 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:14:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:46
IP Address: 63.153.31.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joseph Andersen
City/Town:	Laurel
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fordisblue@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

My comment concerns Canada goose hunting in the central flyway zone one and 2. The current season opens too early and closes too early. I understand the season closer in the middle but from my experiences opening the season 2 weeks later and closing it 2 weeks later would allow for better goose hunting overall in south central and eastern Montana . With our generally mild winters the numbers are much better at the end of season. Parts of Wyoming are open untill February 18th. Thank you. Joe

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:17:26 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:28:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:20
IP Address: 47.5.86.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Josh Steinmetz
City/Town:	East Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sprig999@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do not understand why the pacific flyway wouldn't have the same split being recommended as the central. Open for a week then shut down and then reopen. Allowing the season to run later into January when there are actually a decent number of birds around. I understand a lot of areas are iced up and there is no hunting to be had later in the year. Maybe create a zone for the Missouri River corridor. Been waterfowl hunting my entire life here in Montana and it's always the same thing. Season closes and we have the largest number of birds around that we've seen the entire year. Or just start the season a week later. I truly believe creating 2 zones would be a reasonable and highly agreed upon option

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:23:30 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:29:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:13
IP Address: 174.234.16.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Robbie Brinkerhoff
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	robbrink23@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would love the seasons to be opened later. There's not alot of resident birds to hunt in October. In February, the last couple seasons, there has been thousands of birds it seems. Also leave the no hunting in place below the bighorn confluence. There's a reason there is waterfowl to hunt there. Why change something that's working well??? Wyoming and Nebraska will be the only states that will have hunters benefitting from opening up the river to hunting waterfowl in that area.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:28:41 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 9:29:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:16
IP Address: 75.89.245.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Roman
City/Town: South haven
State/Province: MN
Email Address: roman.chapman2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do not open the closed stretch of the Yellowstone. Also try to reopen the private land within Indian reservations

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:08:50 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:13:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 216.147.123.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen Blankenship
City/Town:	Bilings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	quackhead71@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'd propose a later start in the CF both zones. Start a week later then 2 week split in zone 2 then close ducks on 1/21/25 and geese on 2/1/25 in zone 2. Close Zone 1 on 1/5/25. No bonus teal and keep regular limits.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:15:51 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:46:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:30
IP Address: 73.20.44.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Braden D Mitchell
City/Town: Ogden
State/Province: UT
Email Address: Bmitch5150@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Good Morning,

I just wanted to respectfully share my thoughts on the proposal to open the portion of the Yellowstone River to hunting. I would strongly oppose this opening. I am generally in favor of opening more areas to hunting, but in this case I believe it would be very detrimental to the goose hunting in the surrounding area. Providing waterfowl an area to rest and feel safe is a common practice throughout the U.S., and is currently considered good game management practice. Montana has done a great job of providing access through the Block Management Program. This allows hunters the ability to hunt in the surrounding areas without disturbing geese on the river. The negative economic impact on the surrounding area could be substantial if this change affects the goose hunting. I understand that surveys have been collected about opening the river. I am concerned that those answering the questions may have never hunted the area. It would be important to gather input from people that have hunted that specific area. I appreciate all you do, and I am grateful for the opportunity to give input regarding this proposal.

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:48:26 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:49:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:04
IP Address: 192.225.176.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Justin Barnard
City/Town:	Macks Inn
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	shaggyboarder@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Split season, PLEASE!!! Hunting in November is a waste when weather is not guaranteed. It's guaranteed in January and February.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 10:59:01 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:09:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 71.37.117.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Drew Mitchell
City/Town:	Ogden
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	drewmitchell248@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Regarding Goose sanctuary (resting areas) on the Yellowstone River.. I believe that removing these rest areas would have a serious negative impact on Geese and hunting . please "If its not broke... DON'T fix it !"

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:03:07 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:12:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:08
IP Address: 205.149.14.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alex Nouri
City/Town: Three Forks
State/Province: MT
Email Address: agnouri@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Keep restricted portion of Yellowstone River closed to hunting. I do not support this motion.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:17:15 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:18:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:46
IP Address: 108.147.197.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ian**
City/Town: **Whitewood**
State/Province: **SD**
Email Address: **williamsian921@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

No more split (splits are stupid) keep the season the same amount of days as well as adding those 9-12 days back from the split but run the season from November to February

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:25:03 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:29:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:39
IP Address: 107.77.196.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	scook81@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please open the season later as of the 2 week of October to allow it to run later into the pacific flyway. The birds are showing up later and later every year. Also allow for a spring snow goose hunt as Idaho Washington Wyoming Colorado both Dakotas California allow for it. It need to be open in the pacific flyway. As freezeout lake has the largest population in Montana. It is also open In both Alberta and Saskatchewan provinces. There is no reason we can't have one. The state could sell a separate license for this season and make more money.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:36:33 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:38:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:37
IP Address: 23.191.208.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dylan schober
City/Town: Bridger
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtduckhunter20k@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think opening the Yellowstone refuge will be a harmful to the hunting and overall migration patterns that occur,

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:50:28 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 11:52:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:17
IP Address: 24.2.96.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chase Mitchell**
City/Town: **Ogden**
State/Province: **UT**
Email Address: **chastonmitchell@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Good Morning,

I have some strong opinions regarding the recommended changes for the waterfowl season in 24/25. I just wanted to respectfully share my thoughts on the proposal to open the portion of the Yellowstone River to hunting. I would strongly oppose this opening. I am generally in favor of opening more areas to hunting, but in this case I believe it would be very detrimental to the goose hunting in the surrounding area. Providing waterfowl an area to rest and feel safe is a common practice throughout the U.S., and is currently considered good game management practice. Montana has done a great job of providing access through the Block Management Program. This allows hunters the ability to hunt in the surrounding areas without disturbing geese on the river. The negative economic impact on the surrounding area could be substantial if this change affects the goose hunting. I understand that surveys have been collected about opening the river. I am concerned that those answering the questions may have never hunted the area. It would be important to gather input from people that have hunted that specific area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Chase Mitchell

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 12:48:36 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 12:57:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:47
IP Address: 174.234.14.244

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **AJ McGarvey**
City/Town: **Sidney**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mcgerry18@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I absolutely agree with the proposed changes. Opening up that section of the Yellowstone increases opportunities for many hunters for better access and less hunter crowding on currently open sections of land and river access sites. Additionally, with the corner crossing questions, a lot of the public land that can hold migratory birds is not truly/ legally accessible currently, so I believe the more that can be opened to public use, the better. The season dates seem to line up closely with what I recall the Oregon dates to be and that seemed to work well for them, especially around the summer lake and Klamath basin areas.

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 1:19:37 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 1:25:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:30
IP Address: 184.166.181.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Keith**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I believe the Pacific flyway should also see a bonus teal season (not restricted between blue, green and/or cinnamon). I'd think a nine day short season prior to main opening for season would be a reasonable ask.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 3:57:21 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:06:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:33
IP Address: 67.128.105.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ashley Nelson
City/Town: Joliet
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nelson2001ashley@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Opening the central flyway zone 2 season earlier, on sept. 28th is not in the best interest of the sportsman or the birds. There are not enough local birds in the area to sustain hunting pressure in september and october. The majority of our birds come down in late december and early january. Ending the season January 14th would be in the middle of prime hunting opportunities. A more rational idea would be to begin the season in mid october, have a break in November (when local birds have moved out of the area and before the northern birds push down), and have our season end in late january/early feb. An early start to the season does no good when there is not a strong local population of waterfowl.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 3:59:25 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:12:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:19
IP Address: 67.128.105.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tyler Stearns
City/Town:	Joliet
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tylerstearns92@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The proposed season change makes zero sense. Moving the season up a week will not help bird numbers! Central Flyway zone 2 has a weak local population of waterfowl due to lack of habitat. We rely on migratory birds. Besides opening weekend the birds numbers are poor until we get our first push of birds in November. I am for the break but it needs to be placed in a way that will manage pressure. The current split is worthless and doesn't benefit Waterfowl hunters. The proposed split is worthless as well. It would make more sense to have a week long split in November or end of October. Our neighboring state Wyoming has splits that make sense. They currently have two splits that allow duck to go to the end of January and Dark and Light Geese until second week of February. Ending the season January 14th will be closing the season down when the birds are finally here.

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:17:48 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:37:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:32
IP Address: 137.83.96.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark D Sell
City/Town:	Oshkosh
State/Province:	NE
Email Address:	labs.doghouse2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not lift the closure of hunting on the Yellowstone River. Ducks and geese need a safe place to roost and rest during hunting season. The added pressure on waterfowl by opening the closure area I feel will cause birds to move out of the area. This will reduce chances for not only hunters, but also the enjoyment of wildlife enthusiasts. It will not only affect the migratory birds, but also the other species of wildlife that call the river home. I can speak of this from experience. For over forty plus years I have hunted just North of the North Platte river in Garden County, Nebraska. The North Platte River in Garden County is closed to all waterfowl hunting as a preserve. The result of this is no matter the weather conditions, river flowing or iced up, the river still holds birds. Please keep your closure in place, not just for hunters, not only for the birds, but for all who want to enjoy the winter wildlife in Montana.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:37:53 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 4:40:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:21
IP Address: 174.198.144.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Sprague
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: grizzsprague@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Leave the opening weekend in early October. I like to shoot teal for that month. Put a split in the season and end the second half last week of January.

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 5:48:03 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 5:53:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:59
IP Address: 72.175.38.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert sharp
City/Town: Kila
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rsharp650@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Start migratory season later in the year running through end of January.

Start a spring snow goose hunt for the Pacific flyway since the largest population of snow geese use that to return north. Not the central fly way. If you look at the states around us they all have a spring snow goose hunt for the pacific fly way!

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 5:52:41 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 6:10:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:35
IP Address: 73.131.216.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Colby Mitchell
City/Town: OGDEN
State/Province: UT
Email Address: Deadeyemitch@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I know to people that don't hunt that area you might ask yourself there are plenty of geese in the area, why do you need so many? Hunters that frequently hunt migratory birds understand that it takes a large population of resident birds and migratory birds to make for a successful hunt. Having a resting place for those birds is crucial to keeping that area one of the elite goose hunting destinations in the country. Me and my extended family have been hunting that area for many years. We spend about a week paying rent for lodging to the local farmers, buying groceries, gas and dining out. I'm afraid these changes may severely affect the winter economy in that area, not to mention license revenue. I feel my views are shared by many other that hunt this area. My request would that the survey would be resubmitted with a clearer explanation.

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 5:24:02 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 6:24:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:59:59
IP Address: 148.59.188.207

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kyle Barner
City/Town:	Gallatin Gateway
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bigskybirddog@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

FWP commissioners,

I am an avid waterfowler on the fields along the 87 mile closed section of Yellowstone River. This closure allows waterfowl a place to rest with no hunting pressure.

While access to the fields in this area has become more difficult over the last 30 yrs., eliminating this closure will undoubtedly greatly reduce geese numbers, while only providing additional access for a short period to those who own a \$40,000 jet boat!

If geese get shot off their roost, they ain't coming back.

The proposed change states the recommendation comes from "hunter surveys and public meetings"? Where? When? Who?

In the last 10+ yrs., I have not heard anything from anyone about this proposed change including the last 2 years.

I filled out the waterfowl survey in 2022, which asked about the split season preference, there were no questions about eliminating this river closure.

I am typically a big proponent of more hunter opportunity. On the surface this recommendation may seem like it would do that, but in my opinion it will REDUCE hunter opportunity.

I strongly disagree with removal of the 87 mile Yellowstone river waterfowl hunting closure.

Respectfully

Kyle Barner- 406-595-6242

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 09, 2024 8:28:21 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 09, 2024 8:57:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:42
IP Address: 140.186.155.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Coby Bullington
City/Town: Williston
State/Province: ND
Email Address: bull32nd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Is there any better reasoning besides there is support and some people/committees feel like the closed portion of the Yellowstone should be opened? I'd would believe that there are also people that would disagree with opening the closed portion of the Yellowstone. It would be like opening a large wintering refuge for the birds to hunters. Ultimately moving birds out of state most likely and taking away more opportunities than opening the portion of the river would provide throughout a full season.

Thank you!

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:34:24 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:40:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:02
IP Address: 174.234.14.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nick Hammond
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	hammondnickj@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

DO NOT OPEN UP THE SECTION OF THE YELLOWSTONE TO HUNTING. This is a bad idea and will ruin the quality of waterfowl hunting in the area. Birds use that area for roosting/rest.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:25:37 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:40:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:19
IP Address: 98.97.8.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Butler
City/Town: SPRINGBROOK
State/Province: WI
Email Address: butlerrobert61@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I was a 40 year MT resident who recently relocated to Wisconsin. I would like to comment on the proposal to open the Yellowstone River waterfowl closure.

The closed area and it's success represents one of the greatest conservation stories in the history of MTFWP. It is the envy of neighboring states. I fear that opening this closure will negatively impact hunting opportunity in SE MT and very likely have many detrimental unforeseen consequences. Many have speculated that this potential change will push these birds beyond state boundaries. It could also impact migration patterns and hunting all the way up the Big Horn River. Please note that if this adopted, the only "refuge" left for waterfowl in SE MT will be the afterbay on the Big Horn.

Speculation by FWP staff about disease and population levels are just that- Speculation. This is absolutely not broken- Please don't try to "fix" it. Don't compromise the greatest waterfowl concentration in the State.

Thanks for your consideration

Sincerely,
Bob Butler.

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:59:33 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:16:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:44
IP Address: 63.153.28.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Pluth
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dan@animalcontrolsolutionsmt.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The Yellowstone river goose closure regulations should not be changed. The area acts as a roost with protected status from hunting pressure and removing this protection would lesson opportunities for migratory waterfowl. Claims of land leaseing for wealthy hunters can be compared to open river to wealthy jet boat owners. There should be better ways for widespread hunter opportunity that wont pressure the migrating waterfowl to fly over the state and give chances of good hunting to none.

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:04:29 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:18:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:47
IP Address: 96.19.115.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mond Warren
City/Town:	Nampa
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	warrenhome@att.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Lifting the waterfowl closure on the Yellowstone River will limit hunting opportunity and tourism and revenue for local communities. Whole I am not a Resident, I travel to Montana with a group of 20 hunters to enjoy this area and the experience. The closure allows opportunity that would not be there ifopened up. We spend thousands at local lodging, grocery stores, in fuel, and we organize a thank you dinner with landowners at a local restaurant which opens for us, and would otherwise be closed. The owner has said our business is much needed to help them get through the month of January. This is all due to the closure and opportunity it provides for Sportsmen. If the consideration of opening this is to provide opportunity, it will have the opposite effect, not only to sportsmen, but the small communities. Sportsmen who would support this opening do not understand the impact it will cause. Thank you for your consideration of comments.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:32:54 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:39:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:38
IP Address: 72.36.14.213

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tori Robinson**
City/Town: **Forsyth**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **torilrobinson1998@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'm commenting on behalf of the possibly of 87 Miles being opened on the Yellowstone River for migratory bird hunting. I am a ducks unlimited member for montana as well as a goose hunter specifically and I strongly believe this should be prohibited. It's not fair to shoot on both land and water. So many birds will be wasted from hunters not retrieving them off the water as well. The idea is not good and population will decline in goose numbers!

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:41:18 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 10:46:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:30
IP Address: 72.36.14.213

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jolene nichols
City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jolenenichols77@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am commenting on behalf of opening the yellowstone river to more migratory goose hunting I feel this is a terrible idea I own a local wildgame processing shop and have already seen the decline in numbers due to other factors in weather and regulations .so I feel opening more access on the river to hunt geese is only going to hurt the population worse and we will see the negative effects of this in just a few years.

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 1:10:53 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 1:12:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 172.56.201.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stef Christian
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	stefanie.christian@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I strongly appose opening the Yellowstone river corridor to on the river waterfowl hunting.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 1:57:42 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 2:12:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:12
IP Address: 174.215.23.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lindsay**
City/Town: **Forsyth**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rosell816@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Migratory birds will already be negatively impacted by the outlandishly invasive windmills going up around here. If you continue to rid of "safe spots" for these birds on the Yellowstone, you might as well kiss hunting them in this area goodbye. Many businesses in the area rely on the hunting of them- if you open the river up for hunting, that would totally diminish the "good hunting" that comes from the geese wanting to be here.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 6:15:49 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 6:18:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 108.59.122.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Faycosh
City/Town:	Miles City
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jfsheep58@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Leave the Yellowstone River closed from the Big Horn River to Custer County line. It is a good buffer zone for waterfowl.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 6:13:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:02:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:49:19
IP Address: 216.129.237.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Douglas Kim Bing**
City/Town: **Gallatin Gateway**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dougbing@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I wish to express my strong opposition to the lifting of the Yellowstone river area closure to waterfowl hunting . This area is known as one of the highest concentrations for an extended period of time of Canadian Geese in the country. The universal accepted reason is that these Geese are not being hunted upon the water of the Yellowstone river and therefore they are afforded SAFE roosting. Hunting these birds on their roost over water will result in a substantial reduction of bird numbers for a substantial shorter period of time that these birds remain in Montana and are available to hunters. What this means is a substantial lowering of hunter opportunity and it quality.

A very small minority of hunters with acces to the river and boats will ruin one of the known finest hunting opportunits for Cnadian Geese in the lower 48.

Do not remove this closure for waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:02:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:17:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:41
IP Address: 174.198.145.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Joe Winfield
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mopowerjoe@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Hello.

I'm writing you in regards to the pacific flyway season dates. I understand that the season is set to 107 days maximum. I'd like to see the season extend to the end of January, with either the season starting later or with a slit or splits. With winter weather seeming to come later, a lot of great waterfowl hunting can be had with the season ending January 31st.

Thank you for your time, Joe W

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:36:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:39:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:07
IP Address: 73.131.216.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Holt Mitchell
City/Town: south ogden
State/Province: UT
Email Address: mitchellho24@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

My extended family has been coming up there for years, spending thousands of dollars on the local economy. This area is know for one of the elite goose hunting destinations for the country. My opinion would be to keep the river as a resting area to prevent the disruption of the migratory pattern of the geese.

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:50:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:56:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:47
IP Address: 71.202.66.213

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open up waterfowl hunting along the Yellowstone River. The area has been used as a refuge and closed zone for a long time, and altering that sanctuary will change the duck and goose hunting in the area permanently. Please rethink this.

Thanks

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 7:33:07 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:02:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:15
IP Address: 72.36.15.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Phil Steinberger
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	prsteinberger@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

South Eastern Montana has limited resources to entice reoccurring visitors year after year. The communities of Forsyth and Hysham have this window of opportunity because of the pryor study of the Yellowstone River by the likes of John Henry Smith and his conservation efforts. These leaders proved what can be achieved by closing the Yellowstone River access during this limited period of time. Records have proven the recovery and sustainability goose usage. As a business owner in the Forsyth area with approximately 200 guests that waterfowl hunt not any of my clients want the Yellowstone River opened to boat traffic in my poling during this time period. The downward economic impact in my hometown would be another lost window of opportunity. I personally have had clients use every business in Forsyth from the hospital to the parts stores to the food services. We need this positive economic impact. If hunting property was not available you might have a legitimate reason to look into your proposed agenda, but this is not the case. Between Hysham and Rosebud I know of about 25 accessible farmers and ranchers who allow access for goose hunting. Please consider leaving the regulations as they have been for the last 60+ years. I am for leaving the Yellowstone River closed. Sincerely Phil Steinberger 406-351-3383

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:26:15 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:35:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:43
IP Address: 159.118.200.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rick Price
City/Town:	Star
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	rickandemilyprice@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I've recently read about the potential opening of an 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River for the 2024-2025 waterfowl season. As an avid goose hunter and Ducks Unlimited member, I feel that this could harm the goose hunting in Montana. Removing the roosting patterns of the waterfowl could change the flyway pattern of migrating waterfowl that have been established by the closure of this stretch of the Yellowstone for over 50 years. I love the hunting opportunities that Montana provides and am lucky enough to make a weekly trip every year to Forsythe in January to hunt geese. Please consider this potential change carefully and not expeditiously. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important topic.

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:41:54 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:48:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:40
IP Address: 47.25.244.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Don Blue
City/Town:	Manzanita
State/Province:	OR
Email Address:	email4blue@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I recommend no change to the current waterfowl closure of the Yellowstone River.

Having traveled to the Rosebud area for the past 6 years for a group Goose hunt, I can say that the restriction on waterfowl hunting along the river has been a success for waterfowl, the community and sportsmen. It provides a unique experience and benefits all.

If the department decides to open up the stretch to waterfowl hunting, I would recommend it being opened on some form of limited or alternating/split schedule to reduce the pressure.

You do not want to open it up and take a long term step backwards for short term gains.

Thank you

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:48:22 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:58:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:32
IP Address: 184.166.164.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Steven Peterman
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	peterman.steven@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do NOT support the changes in reopening the Yellowstone River east of the Bighorn confluence to waterfowl hunting. This has the potential to change migration patterns, roosting locations, and a safe place for waterfowl. Please don't open the river.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:44:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 10, 2024 9:11:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:16
IP Address: 104.172.118.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kurt Stearns
City/Town:	Joliet
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kurt.stearns@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The Waterfowl season should open the 1st Saturday in October to allow sufficient time for Migration to Southern MT. I am 100% against opening the season in September as the number of birds is low, and is mostly locally raised Waterfowl and after opening week most are gone, I'd also like the 1 week break happen the last week of October to allow new birds to move into the state as the resident and early migratory Birds leave, and keep the season open into late January as other states boarding Montana do, this will increase opportunities for hunting during the prime peak of the Migration. Opening the close zone of the Yellowstone River will put undue pressure on the Waterfowl and not allow them the opportunity to Roost undisturbed and will cause them to leave the area and continue their Southern Migration and impact the quality of hunting for all residents of Montana!!

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 7:33:51 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 7:37:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 174.230.192.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tanner Price
City/Town:	Boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	tannerprice703@gmail.co

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am commenting in opposition of opening the stretches of the Yellowstone river for goose hunting. I think this is a horrible idea. This will drastically change the migration, hunting opportunities and the roosting opportunities for the birds. I am not in favor of this change.

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 7:56:03 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:00:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 172.56.200.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	William Poindexter
City/Town:	Boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	billypdxunltd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose opening the current restricted 100+ mile stretch of the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting. Thank you.

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:48:57 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:54:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:11
IP Address: 174.215.17.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Russell hood
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rhood@sweetpeamt.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I feel the season shot end on the latest date possible and start whatever date that puts it at counting back the 107 days. I would not be opposed to an early goose season. The biggest problem I have is with the spring snow goose hunting. It should be allowed. If freezeout is the issue than only allow it on private land. Don't allow it on the refuge so the bird watchers aren't affected. Every state and providence around us has a season. I don't understand the reasoning for this.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:25:28 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:47:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:37
IP Address: 174.45.249.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: W. Taylor Bickerstaff
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tbickerstaff0@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The closure of 87 miles of floodplain to waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone River downstream from the Bighorn confluence has been successful in improving waterfowl numbers in this area. Re-opening this floodplain to waterfowl hunting will have detrimental effects to the numbers of birds in the area and will negatively impact hunting opportunities in the fields near the river. Initially, a few hunters might benefit from expanded hunting access, but with time the population gains that have been achieved in this area will be reversed as migration patterns will shift to new sanctuaries. This will be a net loss for waterfowl and hunters in that region and is a bad idea.

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 2:02:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 2:22:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:11
IP Address: 64.255.194.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Barry Crose
City/Town: Caldwell
State/Province: ID
Email Address: barrycrose@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am writing in opposition to the removal of the Yellowstone River restriction to waterfowl hunting. I have hunted the area around Forsyth MT for over 15 years and find that the restriction allows birds a safe roost while allowing good field hunting in the surrounding areas adjacent to the river. I believe that open hunting on the river would dramatically change the dynamics of waterfowl hunting in the region and would reduce income for residence of the region as good waterfowling would no longer exist. It is this restriction that allows the birds to hold over in this area and not continue south on their migration. Please consider leaving the restriction in place for good economic reasons along with the welfare for the mirgratory birds providing a safe haven.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 3:49:12 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 3:53:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:43
IP Address: 63.157.210.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Roy Strong
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rstrong@montanabones.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please leave the current stretch of the Yellowstone River that is closed to hunting, remain closed to hunting. As a long time, waterfowl hunter in this area, it makes no sense to make changes. Goose hunting in the adjacent fields is good and access is good. Opening the river the privileged with jet boats is not helpful to the comon hunter.

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 7:53:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:03:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:47
IP Address: 174.45.65.23

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Trent Gahl**
City/Town: **Belgrade**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **trentgahl_85@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I have 2 comments to make.

1- I am for opening the Yellowstone River. Based on biologist recommendations and concerns for disease spread in high density areas it would be beneficial to open the river to help with dispersment. I would ask for a 5 year re-evaluation amd study of bird numbers. If a significant drop of 10% per year is noted based on historical averages a motion is made to close the river again.

Second it would be nice to maximize the allotted amount of federal days for a season. With increasing days, also breaking the season in both the CF and PF. Have an early season for the youth hunt and 2wks, then close for 2-3 wks and add those weeks to the end of the season. This would allow for hunting u til the end of January.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Blessings,
Trent Gahl

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:03:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:16:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:57
IP Address: 72.36.6.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gary VanHaele
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gary.vanhaele@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I Believe that the proposed rule change of opening the Yellowstone river for migratory birds is a terrible idea the Yellowstone River has been closed since 1958 and this has gave the migratory birds a sanctuary to rest while migrating to their winter feeding grounds opening this river does not provide any more hunting opportunities to hunters along the 87 mile stretch of Yellowstone river that is currently closed there is abundant places to hunt migratory birds any landowner will let you go hunting there is a lot of block management area along that Corredor and there is also fish wildlife and parks property along that Corredor opening the 87 mile stretch of Yellowstone river will severely disrupt the migratory routes of all of the wildlife involved I am personally against opening this river having lived in Hysham Montana for 63 years I've personally know that this will ruin the migration of all the species that are listed on this proposal please do not pass this bad regulation because it will ultimately ruin the migration and the hunting opportunities along the Yellowstone river Corredor

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:32:04 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:36:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:17
IP Address: 47.45.194.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Perreault
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kevinchrisp@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I have hunted waterfowl in Custer and Treasure county for 35 years. I am strongly opposed to FWP considering opening up the Yellowstone River to allow waterfowl hunting. I feel that the hunting pressure this will create will force all waterfowl to continue south. Bad for hunters and lost revenue for FWP. Common sense needs to be considered here.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:43:41 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:48:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:05
IP Address: 72.174.144.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Gipson
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gibones1918@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The opening of the Yellowstone will be the beginning of the end of a great waterfowl resource I fear. If it ain't broke then don't fix it.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:28:33 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:30:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 65.219.130.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Beckett Johnson
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jaybeckettjohnson@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the restricted area on the Yellowstone River closed to hunting. This is a special area to bring new hunters to have success and see lots of action in the fields.

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:54:07 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:59:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:05
IP Address: 216.47.49.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	William Shoutis
City/Town:	Philipsburg
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wshoutis@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please consider pausing waterfowl for two weeks during rifle season in order to keep it open to the end of January. Changing climate is keeping birds up north for so long that our season closes before a lot of birds migrate through the area. Either start it later or pause it during rifle. I don't know anyone that seriously waterfowl hunts the first week of October.

Also, please do not open the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone that is the sanctuary for late season birds.

Thanks

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:19:26 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:24:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:48
IP Address: 76.22.214.189

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mitch Barkett
City/Town: Paducah
State/Province: KY
Email Address: mbarkett@bellsouth.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Make a refuge for the birds in the area so they can rest but open adjacent areas to hunters. That's how it works well in other waterfowl areas.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:47:23 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:58:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:04
IP Address: 174.45.43.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dave Hagen
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hagen.davej@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

It saddens me to see that FWP is recommending opening of the 87-mile segment of the Yellowstone River currently closed to waterfowl without offering ANY biological rationale to support their stance. In the absence of a public, science-based rationale, I oppose this proposed change.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:06:04 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:11:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:06
IP Address: 50.252.131.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Derrick Robert Sander
City/Town: South Jordan, UT, USA
State/Province: UT
Email Address: Derrick@ABMechanicalcontractors.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

On the waterfowl data i would say 1...very unacceptable. If you open it to boat travel and hunting most of the geese will leave. May not be bad if they do leave. It will put more geese in the down migration system.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:05:01 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:17:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:17
IP Address: 174.234.19.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gary Kirpach
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 1mtfiredog@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please leave the closure on the Yellowstone River as it currently is. I've been hunting in the Treasure and Rosebud county area since the late 1980's. There is a reason this area has become an outstanding late season waterfowl hunting area. By opening the river back up the waterfowl will lose their important water roosting areas and will move further south and out of the state. I'm disappointed - the first I heard of this proposal was a recent article in Outdoor Life.

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 08, 2024 12:49:26 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:49:45 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 69.145.53.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dane Williams
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	danewilliams00@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a hunter who supports access to public lands in Montana, I can see how FWP might see opening the Yellowstone River refuge up to hunting as a win for public lands. Yet, there are many negative aspects to this happening and not many good ones. First, this refuge has been a huge conservation success story with the goose numbers doing well in this area and hunters having success, why would you want to end something that is working well? Second, in terms of access around the Yellowstone River, there are plenty of BMA areas that we have access to which having the river as a refuge increases the quality of those hunting opportunities. Third, most of the birds in this valley roost (sleep) on the river and feed in the fields. Hunting birds where they roost will cause birds to leave the area entirely instead of hunting birds in the fields where they will go back to the river and find different fields to feed in, effectively allowing both hunters to be able to hunt, and the birds being able to go back to somewhere safe. Fourth, opening the river to hunting will encourage hunters to take boats out onto the Yellowstone in dangerous conditions late into the season with ice flows and strong currents into ice dams. This would put a strain on the local EMS services and potentially put more lives at risk. Lastly, the long term effect of disbanding a refuge will ultimately result in a decrease in hunter success which will decrease hunter attraction to the area which will negatively impact the local economies that rely on hunters to frequent their businesses in the winter months. I hope that this input, along with many other public land hunters who share my same feeling, will influence FWP to change their mind and not open the Yellowstone River refuge.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:10:19 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:20:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:47
IP Address: 66.135.71.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nick Venturini
City/Town:	kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	duk_nut@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think splitting the season in the pacific flyway at the end as has been done in the seasons past would give more hunting opportunities with an extra weekend. With the climate changing birds are still plentiful into the middle of January.

Thank you

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:54:05 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:58:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:36
IP Address: 216.21.162.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matthew Page
City/Town:	Farmington
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	page89@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the restricted area on the Yellowstone River. I have travelled to this part of Montana to hunt for several years, and public hunting in the area is not a problem and is fantastic! Opening this stretch will have a negative impact on the birds and will do long-term harm to the public land hunting experience.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 3:47:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:12:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:44
IP Address: 161.7.39.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ken Jansa
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kjansa2011@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Me and my waterfowl hunting buddies have advocated for Zone 1 and Zone 2 in the central flyway to have similar season dates for quite some time now, at least for dark geese. This past season is a prime example of why! We had such a mild winter that the big Canadians did not migrate down from Canada until the last week of our goose season. Years ago, we used to have a split season like zone 2 has, but it was taken away for some reason. Please consider giving zone 1 season ending dates for dark geese the same as for zone 2. Thank You!

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:01:30 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:14:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:20
IP Address: 104.28.116.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Richard Rutherford
City/Town:	Boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	rickarutherford@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am opposed to reopening the stretch of river between the confluence with the Bighorn River and the Rosebud-Custer county line. I travel to Montana to hunt annually. In my opinion this will negatively affect the birds ability to find a safe sanctuary in this area. It was closed for good reason in 1958 and the birds have done well since. Why would you ever change that? There are more than ample opportunities to hunt migratory birds in Montana without this change. The birds need a safe haven. Thank you!

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:12:21 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:22:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:22
IP Address: 64.147.131.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Archer
City/Town: Draper
State/Province: UT
Email Address: james.archer20@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I have enjoyed hunting the Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana for years. It has been a quality experience and I have gladly supported the local economy with my purchases. I believe opening the river for waterfowl hunting will drastically impact the migration patterns of the birds and negatively impact what has become annual pilgrimage. Please don't let a short-term perspective undo 66 years of smart wildlife management.

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:49:18 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:56:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: 69.145.62.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connor Maas
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	connormaas@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would love to see the 87 mile portion of the Yellowstone remain closed. I have hunted geese in this area for many years now, and believe the hunting is only so spectacular there because of the closure

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 5:51:23 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 5:53:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 174.234.14.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cary Jones
City/Town: Joliet
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please open waterfowl season later and keep it open later in the year.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:26:26 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:32:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 174.215.23.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mike Colpo
City/Town:	big timber
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lzj@mtintouch.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like to support of the elimination of the YRC. The closure was put in place in 1959 due to low canadian goose numbers and now has around 350000 geese using the 87 mile stretch. As goose populations have exploded and damage to winter wheat crops it makes sense to eliminate the closure. We have seen a sizable increase in waterfowl hunters since 2020 this would help to provide more public access and spread waterfowl hunters off the Bighorn as it gets crowded. It's closure on an economic standpoint would help those towns businesses at a time time when tourism and general season has ended.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:10:21 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:15:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:47
IP Address: 209.206.229.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matt Venturini
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	matthew.thomas.venturini@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The split season for waterfowl season should be reenacted to allow for an extra weekend of hunting. Most waterfowl hunters are unable to take advantage of last couple of days of season when it ends in middle of the week. During last year's waterfowl season many migratory birds were just starting to arrive in flathead valley due to mild winter. Unfortunately, season closed at a time when peak migration was happening which limited opportunities for waterfowl hunters.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:16:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:11
IP Address: 192.161.71.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeff Moore
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jeff@jeffmooreimages.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please keep the Yellowstone River closed for hunting in its existing place. Doesn't make sense to chase the birds out. It's like having a refuge here in Montana without officially having one. Hunters will benefit more by leaving it alone. Don't change something if it's not broke. Since '58! Thank you.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:22:43 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:23:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:10
IP Address: 67.44.224.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kathy Christian
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtdulady@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Dear FWP Commissioners,

I am opposed to the opening of the 87-mile stretch of closed Yellowstone River to on-water duck and goose hunting.

The Treasure-Rosebud county area is a great place for waterfowlers to hunt on private and public land.

This stretch of river has been instrumental in the increase of the Hi-Line population of Canada geese.

It has provided an economic boom for local businesses.

It is vital for both wild geese, hunters, and local businesses.

Please keep this stretch of Yellowstone River closed to on the water duck and goose hunting.

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:21:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:24:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 166.3.132.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Eric Archer
City/Town: Belt
State/Province: MT
Email Address: earcher1001@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Removing the closure on the Yellowstone River is a very bad idea. It will concentrate birds more in areas not accessible to many hunters and limit hunter success. Presently, many hunters come to this area because of the geese available, and this change would have very negative impacts on this opportunity.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 6:14:40 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 6:16:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:18
IP Address: 108.174.124.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Phillip Matteson
City/Town: Corvallis
State/Province: MT
Email Address: philmatteson@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please split the Pacific waterfowl season. Open for 7-14 days, then close for a 2-3 weeks. Add that time to the end of season.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:03:16 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:12:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:09
IP Address: 216.147.123.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joe Copeland**
City/Town: **Columbus**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **seastarqh@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am highly in favor of opening the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone Closure to allow waterfowl hunting.

The data shows without a doubt that the closure was a success and has done what it was created to do, and now the data and Biologists support opening this stretch for the good of all waterfowlers.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, other laws, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's policy permit hunting on a national wildlife refuge when it is compatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established and acquired.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:20:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:29:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:07
IP Address: 166.7.82.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matt Voigt
City/Town:	Great Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	matthewovoigt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am AGAINST the lifting of the waterfowl hunting restriction / closure on the 87 mile portion of the Yellowstone River. The closure area provides critical roosting areas for the Hi-Line population of Canada geese and allowing hunting along the river is likely to disrupt their use of the area and potentially push them out of the area during open waterfowl season to more secure waters in Wyoming or on the lower Missouri River. Outstanding field hunting opportunities abound in that area as a result of having a secure roosting area on the Yellowstone River. Lifting this closure will have impacts to the distribution of geese and hunters and will likely decrease the number of hunters travelling to that area to enjoy the excellent field hunting opportunities that exist because of this closure. This will have impacts to the economies of the small towns surrounding the area. In almost all cases, I am for less restrictive hunting measures, particularly on public lands and waters but I feel this closure has provided the necessary safety and security to both recover and expand the Hi-Line population of Canada geese and provide consistent hunting opportunity in surrounding fields, particularly during the later part of the season when most smaller bodies of water in the area have froze. Please consider leaving the closure in place for the future of these outstanding hunting opportunities.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:09:09 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:35:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:02
IP Address: 216.166.172.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bill Buckley
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bill@billbuckleyphotography.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Your seemingly foregone decision to open up the Yellowstone after 65 years of refuge status is not just a horrible idea that will severely negatively impact the quality of what is a premier goose-hunting destination, the fact that you never, in ANY good faith, solicited public comment like you would any regulation change to big game hunting by sending out public notices via your Public Notices website page or FWP Daily Bulletin, but instead simply randomly sent out 1,000 questionnaires to Montana residents (NOT 1,000 hunters) clearly shows you want this to slip under the radar with as few waterfowl hunters knowing about it as possible. For a policy change of this magnitude not to see the light of day is shameful. To further allot only 10 minutes in the April Zoom meeting to discuss this change and another waterfowl regulation change reeks of something fishy. The survey sent out to the 1,000 recipients should be copied and posted on-line, for interested hunters to see how it was worded and for more affected hunters to have the opportunity to comment. If FWP wants the public to view how it conducts business as transparent, it needs to try a lot harder. Otherwise, skeptical sportsmen and women like myself will only come away from all of this with a foul taste in our mouths. This is shameful. Worse, it pushes through an either or proposition regarding refuge status rather than exploring a compromise that would offer duck hunters the ability to hunt the river until, say, mid November when the goose migration typically starts arriving. Not too many years ago FWP proposed this (actually, I think the proposal included all of November) AND made the proposal truly open to public comment. As that proposal never went into effect, I can only presume the general feedback was overwhelmingly negative. And now you're going to railroad this all-or-nothing change. Wow, can't say the new way FWP conducts business inspires much confidence. Sincerely and disappointedly, Bill Buckley (who has enjoyed excellent eastern MT goose hunting for nearly 30 years).

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:57:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:25:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:14
IP Address: 199.155.96.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cole Stumpf
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cole24291@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am writing in opposition to the proposed opening of the 87 miles of Yellowstone River located in Treasure and Rosebud counties. Communities along this stretch of river are economically benefited by the late season goose hunter who travel in from out of state to hunt this area. Opening this section of river to hunting will undoubtedly lead to the premature migration of birds out of the area due to increased boat traffic and disturbance of roost sites throughout the waterfowl season and especially after the big game general season end. The data shows that this closure of the river has increased the number of birds that winter in the areas, which in turn increases hunting opportunities for everyone. As I see it if a conservation practice is successful in increasing populations and harvest opportunities there is no logical reason to undo that practice. Thank you.

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:13:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:20:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:06
IP Address: 168.103.244.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Steve Michaels
City/Town:	cody
State/Province:	WY
Email Address:	smichaels@centurylink.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am sure that if you lift the 87 mile Yellowstone River migratory waterfowl hunting closure the hunters from Casper, Wy to Nebraska along the Platte River will thank you mightily. And you better purchase some steel boxer briefs.

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:22:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:23:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:06
IP Address: 72.174.136.78

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tom Gagnon
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tgagnonmt86@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds undoubtedly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities overall. Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area and on the other miles and miles of accessible Yellowstone River that is open to waterfowl hunting. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please vote to keep the refuge in region 7 closed so that we can continue to experience the stellar hunting opportunities that we currently do.

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:41:51 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:47:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 76.75.6.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad Sylvestre
City/Town:	Medicine Lake
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tacks41@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Hello,

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds clearly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities for all waterfowl hunters. Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please vote to keep the refuge in region 7 closed.

Thank You

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:08:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:11:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:34
IP Address: 108.147.32.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Karlie Goodheart
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	karlie_rae@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose opening the Yellowstone River to on water goose hunting.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:08:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:11:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:39
IP Address: 174.218.164.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Faith
City/Town:	Grudel
State/Province:	MT

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please leave the Yellowstone river closed to on the water goose hunting. Leave it as is.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:12:11 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:14:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:11
IP Address: 174.218.171.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Seth Gudgel
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sethgudgel74@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose opening the Yellowstone River for on water goose hunting.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:13:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:15:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 174.234.15.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Koczur
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please leave the Yellowstone river hunting as is.
I am against opening up the closed section to water hunting for geese.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:08:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:24:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:45
IP Address: 166.137.115.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Allen Fulton**
City/Town: **Colstrip**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **allenfulton17@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'm opposed to opening the Yellowstone River up to waterfowl hunting in Rosebud and Treasure Counties. I have lived in Rosebud County all my life. I have hunted birds and have been around family and friends who have hunted birds in Rosebud and Treasure Counties. I thought it was normal that no one hunted the river. We always waited for the 1,000's of geese to leave the river and go to the many fields in the area. It seemed like the geese were endless. Then in recent years, I hunted out of the county. We hunted the Missouri River. The duck hunting seemed ok, but the geese were non existent. There were fields everywhere and plenty of river, but hardly any geese. I could only contribute the lack of geese to a no "safe zone" for the geese to roost. Granted it was fun to hunt the river, but I hardly saw anyone hunting. In the Rosebud County area, there are plenty of fields and geese to hunt. People come from all over the state to take advantage of our great hunting opportunity. I would hate to see myself, friends and complete strangers loose out on the Goose hunting in our area.

Respectfully,
Allen Fulton

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:27:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:28:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:12
IP Address: 108.145.130.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Garrick D Goodheart
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: garocki@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose opening the yellowstone river for on water waterfowl hunting

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:36:48 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 14, 2024 6:41:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:00
IP Address: 174.231.66.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ryan McKinney
City/Town:	COLSTRIP
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Ryjmckinney@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose opening the Yellowstone river to hunting of migratory birds.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:15:46 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:19:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:57
IP Address: 63.153.14.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rich Bradley
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rich9861@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Open the Yellowstone river below mouth of Bighorn river. The closure is not necessary and only helps private land owners.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:17:15 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:20:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:49
IP Address: 174.234.20.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Monte Geer
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do not open the Yellowstone river to water goose hunting between the bighorn and Hathaway.
Please leave every thing as is
It's great the way it is.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 15, 2024 8:56:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:02:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:25
IP Address: 174.234.14.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cealie Brinkerhoff
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brumwellcm@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do not open the Yellowstone waterfowl closed area, that is a big reason why there are birds down there and they stick around. People start hunting the river and a lot of those birds will leave for good. Also, I think the waterfowl season should stay open longer into February.

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:08:52 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:13:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:49
IP Address: 63.153.107.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Scott Schissler
City/Town: Great falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: schissler32@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I would like to know where the meeting was in which the discussion and proposal of opening up the water fowl refuge on the Yellowstone river? I am opposed to this proposal

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:55:17 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 16, 2024 10:01:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:46
IP Address: 47.45.133.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bill Weatherwax
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bill.weatherwax@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am commenting on the proposal to open up the waterfowl refuge on the Yellowstone river. I believe it should stay as it is so the waterfowl have someplace to roost without being pressured. It is the only place along the Yellowstone that waterfowl have a refuge. I see no benefit in changing the way it is now. Hunters can already hunt above it, and below it on the river. Also, as we all know, the high watermark access rule is a very gray area. I think it would cause more problems than it is worth. Let's just keep it as a waterfowl refuge. Thank you

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 16, 2024 9:36:51 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 16, 2024 10:10:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:12
IP Address: 67.218.74.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gina & Bill Asay
City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gbasay@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The FWP proposed opening of the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River between the Bighorn River and Hathaway for water fowl hunting is a proposal we adamantly oppose for a number of reasons.

First, since 1958 this closure has supported a haven for waterfowl. The waterfowl are field hunted extremely hard in this area and the river is their only sanctuary to find a resting spot free from sunup to sundown field hunting. Not only will opening the river deprive the waterfowl of rest but it will disturb the bald eagles habitat as well.

Second, because this stretch of the Yellowstone has been closed to waterfowl hunting since 1958 it has created some of the best field hunting of Canada Geese in the country. Business's in the area thrive because of the hunting opportunities. Opening the river for hunting will destroy the resting area for the geese disrupting the balance that has created the great hunting and harm these areas economically.

Third, the Yellowstone River is generally unnavigable in December and January. This invites conflicts between hunters and landowners from trespassing. Disturbing livestock and domestic pets of those who live and farm and ranch along the river. Dead and injured geese will end up in the river and on landowners property. It promotes trespassing.

Fourth, the shell casings and litter that will be left along the rivers edge will spoil the landscape and be washed into the river. People walking these banks will cause erosion and harm this beautiful scenic river.

To open the Yellowstone River in this now protected 87 mile stretch would be a travesty for the river, wildlife and landowners and is absolutely unnecessary. There are thousands of acres of state, federal and private land now available for field hunting of waterfowl.

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 17, 2024 7:34:23 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 17, 2024 8:29:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:54:45
IP Address: 38.156.213.80

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dan Espeland**
City/Town: **Douglas**
State/Province: **WY**
Email Address: **espelanddan@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Yellowstone River migratory bird sanctuary: I have hunted the Hysham area for over 50 years, and have seen the increase in in the goose populations. I also own 176 acres with 1.5 miles of river frontage between Hysham and Forsyth, where large numbers of geese roost. I understand the logic of opening the river to more hunting, but would recommend that the restriction be lifted on the first of December, each year; through the remainder of the season. The majority of migrating birds will have moved through, and the deer season will be over. The deer hunters and fisherman do not bother the birds much, as long as they are not shot off the roosting areas.

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 17, 2024 1:13:56 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 17, 2024 2:07:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:53:08
IP Address: 66.113.59.224

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brad kembel
City/Town:	Worden
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	creativekembel@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

To whom it may concern

As a avid waterfowl hunter I feel it is a bad idea to open the yellowstone river safe zone to hunting. I mainly hunt geese from billings east to miles city. Over the years I have seen time and time again that the goose hunting is better from the mouth of the big horn river east. I strongly feel that this is the case due to the fact the these birds feel safer in that stretch east . When we hunt from billings to the mouth of the big horn the increased hunting pressure on the river decreases our hunting abilities in fields. Once the boat traffic starts up the birds are scared off the river and usually don't return until dark that day giving hunters a one shot opportunity to limit out for the day. When we hunt from the mouth of the big horn river east we notice much less boating activity subsequently giving us more opportunities to limit out on these days. We watch birds come off the river in the morning return to the river late morning come back off the river early afternoon and return to the river just before dark. During these times field hunting is very successful over just having one shot in the morning when all the birds are cleared off the river in one push. In my opinion opening that stretch of river will ruin waterfowl hunting in Eastern montana due to the fact that these birds loose resting zone or safe zone. It has been to my understanding that over the years the goose numbers have increased considerably and are compromising there nesting and summer habitat to the north. Why would montana fwp even consider doing something to reduce hunting opportunities that in the end will only hurt a species that numbers are exploding throughout this hunting zone . Please consider my thoughts in your plans to open this stretch of river.

Thank you

Brad kembel

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 17, 2024 2:18:38 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 17, 2024 2:28:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:08
IP Address: 174.45.78.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim Johnston
City/Town:	Billings, MT
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trj59088@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am against the opening of migratory waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone River downstream from the Big Horn River the heavy boat traffic and shore hunters will push the birds to move on and not stay in the area. as such when the river freezes over and they leave, This will essentially eliminate the hunting in the hysham area. Thanks for considering my opiion.

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:07:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 17, 2024 5:54:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:31
IP Address: 69.144.238.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Neal Cote
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mrpikemt1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

An advisors group of seasoned waterfowl hunters needs to be established to inform the commission of beneficial changes to the seasons. Using phone surveys of random holders of waterfowl licenses does not give the commission accurate data to make changes to seasons etc. but takes the opinions of hunters that only hunt a small amount of the season and do not have the knowledge base of hunting the entire season. It should also be noted that hunters that only hunt small bodies of water until that water freezes do not represent a larger percentage of hunters that utilize both water and field locations and are much more knowledgeable of bird movements and biological responses that both local populations and true migratory populations exhibit when faced with weather and hunting pressure.

Waterfowl seasons need to start at least 3 weeks later in the Pacific Flyway. Conditions in Western Montana during the late September opening are usually not conducive to harvest due to only residential birds being available. By opening it this early, local birds are pushed to a limited amount of safe roost locations and completely eliminate their movements to limited public water bodies. In the areas where I have hunted over the last 30 plus years, opportunities on public land are nonexistent after the opening day and birds do not return to these areas until forced by weather and changing seasonal conditions later in the season. Also, pressure on these limited bodies of water conditions these populations to become nocturnal and then are completely un huntable.

Also, the late season break that was eliminated should be reinstated, and there actually should be others as well to allow the birds breaks from hunting pressure. These breaks get the birds to return to bodies of water where pressure pushes them off of, and breaks nocturnal feeding patterns, thus allowing for more hunting opportunities when the season opens after the break.

A better start date would be the second or third Saturday in October with the youth season opening the previous weekend. This would coincide with pheasant season opening. It would also provide the season to be open when the first pushes of actual migratory populations of snow geese and swans. A good time for a 5 day closure would be the week before Thanksgiving. The second split would be Mon through Friday the second week of January.

By setting this schedule, opportunities would be created during peak migration periods and allow for the season to be extended to the end of January while staying within the USFWS 108 day guidelines. Also look to end the season on a Sunday instead of mid week. This allows youths to hunt the last weekend of the season without interference with their school attendance.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:48:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:50:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 174.231.65.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Curtis Droogsma
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cddroogsma@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds undoubtedly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities overall. Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area and on the other miles and miles of accessible Yellowstone River that is open to waterfowl hunting. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please vote to keep the refuge in region 7 closed so that we can continue to experience the stellar hunting opportunities that we currently do.

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:40:52 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:45:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:41
IP Address: 72.175.216.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matthew Young
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	beaver_145@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do not agree with the opening up of the region 7 section of river that is currently closed. I feel that this will have significant impacts on waterfowl populations in the area and will take away a safe place for them to roost as they migrate.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:10:05 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:26:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:15
IP Address: 24.51.51.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rosebud Count Commissioners
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rcc@rosebudcountymt.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Rosebud County Commissioners strongly oppose opening the Yellowstone River up to waterfowl hunting from the Bighorn River to the Rosebud County/ Custer County line. If hunters are able to float the river and hunt, it will decrease the number of birds and create problems for landowners along the river. Hunters will trespass on private land and be shooting towards house and livestock. Hunters can get access to private land by developing relationships with landowners. The birds need a place to escape pressure and the river is an excellent way to do it. Rosebud County landowners along the river oppose this idea and feel it is not broken, so please do not try to fix it. Rosebud County Commissioners have strongly supported MT FWP in the past and ask that you oppose this idea for our continued support.

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:26:47 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:30:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 67.44.224.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Daryl Risser
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

No. Don't do it. Leave goose hunting the way it is on the Yellowstone River

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:55:31 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:14:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:19:07
IP Address: 24.112.251.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Christian
City/Town:	Zelienople
State/Province:	PA
Email Address:	mchristian2@zoominternet.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The Region 7 restrictions on Waterfowl hunting ON Yellowstone River should remain in place. 1) The water can be very swift and dangerous. 2) The pools that exist are critical resting areas for migratory birds and these pools would be the primary hunting spots along the river. 3) Over a short time, ducks & geese would be forced to change their migratory paths to other watered resting areas and ultimately lower the concentration of game availability in this Class A region for waterfowl hunting. This would cause an economic downward ripple effect for the impacted local communities due to loss of waterfowl resting habitat. 4) As many of us were taught at a young age, "If it already works well, don't fix it!"

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:44:32 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:51:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:42
IP Address: 72.174.238.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jake Schwaller
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	montana@backcountryhunters.org

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Chair Robinson, Vice Chair Tabor, Commissioners:

On behalf of the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, we submit the following comments on the proposed 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations.

Our members and supporters value our fair-chase hunting heritage and the wild public lands and waters habitat needed to support it.

Regarding the proposal to lift a ban on waterfowl hunting on an 87-mile stretch of the lower Yellowstone River, from the mouth of the Bighorn River to the Custer/Rosebud County line, Montana BHA understands and sympathizes with both sides of this issue.

In July, at the very beginning of this process, we had heard nothing but support for the proposal and we added this to our scoping comments: "we support expanding waterfowl opportunities within the framework of the existing federally controlled seasons in whatever areas of Montana that the shared public resource can sustain. The area between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers to the Rosebud-Custer County seems like it now fits that description. Let's open it."

Recently, however, as the idea has gained more attention, we're now hearing that the ban on hunting this section of river provides sanctuary for the birds, and once hunters start shooting at them the fear is that they might not remain in the area. When hunting in the area is good, we certainly understand why sportsmen and women wouldn't want to see things change.

We are empathetic to this position, and ask that the Commission carefully consider these concerns and continue to discuss with local biologists.

On the other hand, we also ask that the Commission weigh the opportunity for the public to hunt our public water.

We've heard from many public hunters who would love to hunt our public wildlife on our public water, and they argue there's no biological reason why they shouldn't be able to do that.

Relatedly, there's a lot more at play in terms of duck and geese numbers when you consider improvements to water quality, wildlife management, and habitat since 1958 when this closure was implemented. For example, the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972, Clean Air Act in 1970 and Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1964. A nationwide ban on non-toxic shot for waterfowl was passed in 1991. And there have been great changes to land-use in the area now as well, with no shortage of ag lands for birds to feast on.

Additionally, as you know, FWP surveyed hunters on this and of the 123 who responded, 79 percent said it would be acceptable or very acceptable to reopen this stretch of water to waterfowl hunting; comparatively, only 9 percent found this proposal to be unacceptable or very unacceptable (the remaining 12 percent were neutral). So there's clearly a hunter contingent who wants to see this opened back up as well.

Montana BHA sympathizes with the access and opportunity arguments from both sides of this issue, and our board lacks agreement on the best action. For that reason, we are not advocating for the hunting closure or the reopening, but do want to stress the importance of gathering good biological and social data, specifically through mandatory reporting and careful monitoring, should this stretch of river be reopened.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for your careful consideration.

-Jake Schwaller, Billings, MT
Volunteer Eastern Montana Conservation Leader
The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:42:23 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:45:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 72.36.6.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Rickett
City/Town: Hysham
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hyshamhardware@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds undoubtedly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities overall. Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area and on the other miles and miles of accessible Yellowstone River that is open to waterfowl hunting. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please vote to keep the refuge in region 7 closed so that we can continue to experience the stellar hunting opportunities that we currently do. This will also have a detrimental affect on our small communities revenue that we rely on for that particular time of the year.

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:19:32 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:27:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:19
IP Address: 47.5.100.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ron Hoagland
City/Town:	Big Timber
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Ron.hoagland10@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am an avid waterfowl hunter living in Sweetgrass county which is in the western edge of the central flyway. The current season is not allowing hunters an opportunity at a majority of the migratory birds. About the time you end our season we get hundreds to thousands of birds.

Dark geese at an all time high in numbers.

I propose a one week season starting the first of October and then closing.

End our seasons on Jan 31and count back from there allowing us our 107 days as allowed by the USFWS.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:15:10 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:37:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:52
IP Address: 72.36.17.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Darrell L. Grogan
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sdgrog@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a goose hunter, I am writing to oppose the elimination of the closure on Yellowstone River for hunting in Region 7, Rosebud and Treasure Counties.

"Region 7: Treasure & Rosebud counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars."

Even without hunting on the river, sportsmen are able to get access for hunting throughout the area and quite often can limit out. Because of the "safe zone" on the river, geese are able to go to the river over night along the open areas that have not iced over, then travel back out for feeding each day.

To open this area would not lead to reduction in overall goose population nor greatly enhance access, rather it would only encourage the geese to head south quicker.

From the stand point of a local banker, I would also recommended leaving the river hunting closure in place at it creates an ideal hunting environment that brings hunters from other areas of the state as well as from other states to enjoy first class hunting opportunities. They fosters an economic boost to our area for business that provide services the sportsmen need. That includes service stations, sporting goods stores, hotels, and restaurants.

Again, we see the removal of this closer as a negative for both sportsmen and local businesses.

Darrell L. Grogan
President
First State Bank of Forsyth

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:47:59 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:56:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:00
IP Address: 35.150.86.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tate Rhoads
City/Town:	Bighorn
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tate.rhoads4@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am commenting on the fact that you guys are trying to open up the water fowl refuge from Bighorn MT to Rosebud MT. As someone the has a family farm we pride ourselves with allowing people to come hunt waterfowl on our property without the jet boats blazing up and down the river. That section of the river works as a safe place for ducks and geese and keeps the waterfowl plentiful in the area. I think it's silly to open it up to jet boats. We already have a problem with people driving up and hunting big game on our river bottom without permission. And for you guys to hold the meeting talking about what you're going to do with OUR section of the Yellowstone River in Kalispell MT is absurd. 9 hours away from where the section of the river is located just proves you guys don't care about the actual land owners on the river.

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:37:27 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:53:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:39
IP Address: 184.166.246.102

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

The opening of the Yellowstone river where it is now closed down stream from the Big Horn river seems reasonable to me. When this regulation was enacted the population of waterfowl particularly geese was much less. If the argument is waterfowl need a roost than the hunting on the Big Horn would be poor as it is not closed. Having hunted the Big Horn now for 40 some years this is just not the case. It would be my observation that those opposed to the opening of the Yellowstone have leases and or access to private land and do not want their hunting interrupted. All should have access. Whether that be the drift boat hunter, jet boat hunter or field hunter.

F Bruce Posey
2715 Riveroaks Drive
Billings, Mt

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:32:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:54:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:32
IP Address: 72.255.191.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sweet Grass Wildlife Working Group
City/Town:	BIG TIMBER
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sweetgrasscd@macdnet.org

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Sweet Grass Wildlife Working Group is a collaborative group of landowners, sportsman and outfitters that was formed in 2020. We submit the changes for the 2024 -2025 Waterfowl seasons for zone 2 of the central flyway.

Facts: Zone 2 is in the high plains mallard management area giving the whole central flyway which allows 97 days of authorized duck season by USFWS. At current season dates we use 97 days for ducks including youth and falconry seasons. Zone 2 is currently using the 107 days authorized by USFWS for dark geese.

Due to the past few waterfowl seasons in zone 2 we have seen later migrations and combined with season dates we have experienced lower hunter opportunity. We have also experienced an increase in waterfowl hunters in Montana residents and an influx of nonresident waterfowl hunters “chasing migration” causing overcrowding when peak numbers are in area. It is a matter of fact and stated “waterfowl population numbers can’t be affected by legal hunting and legal limits”.

Over the past several seasons we have seen weather patterns change making seasons later and that has affected the waterfowl migrations in the southern portions of Montana affecting zone 2 waterfowl hunters using the outside dates USFWS allows gives hunters better opportunity to harvest waterfowl and hunting opportunity in the future. By moving seasons back and the potential closure of the YRC it also provides economic benefits for the town of Hardin and those towns in the 87 mile stretch of the YRC when tourism is very low besides giving more access and opportunity to waterfowl hunters.

Proposals and support: We support the elimination of Yellowstone River waterfowl closure that was originated for the purpose of Canada goose resting place due to low population numbers in the 1959. In modern times we now have an explosion of Canadian goose population (350,000 using the YRC) numbers which brings into question of justification exclusion area, also will alleviate hunting pressure in zone 2 and open more public access and opportunity.

USFWS outside dates for ducks and geese authorized by USFWS/guidance to state:

Ducks outside dates that the state can work in are Sept. 23rd to 31st Jan. Geese outside dates that the state can work in are Sept 23rd to 15th Feb. Falconry Ducks outside dates Sept. 1st – Jan. 31st

Current season dates zone 2, 2023-2024 Ducks: youth season Sept 23rd – 24th only licensed youth ages 15 and under Falconry: Sept. 20th – Oct. 8th split season Oct 21st – Jan. 16th Regular duck season: Sept 30th -Oct. 8th split season Oct 21st – Jan 16th 97 days authorized by USFWS

Dark Geese Sept 23rd -24th youth season only licensed youth ages 15 and under Sept 30th to Oct 8th split season Oct 21st – Jan 24th 107 days authorized by USFWS Falconry Sept. 20 -Oct. 8th Oct. 21st-Jan 16th

New proposed dates to Commission from MTFWP for 2024-2025 season: zone 2 Ducks: Sept 28th – Oct. 6th split season Oct. 19th- Jan. 14th Dark geese: Sept 28th – Oct. 6th split season Oct. 19th – Jan. 22

Youth Ducks/ Geese Sept. 21st – 22nd Falconry Ducks: Sept 18th- Oct 6th split season Oct 19th – Jan. 14th New proposal zone 2

proposed season change from Sweetgrass Working Group for the 2024 -2025 season within the outside dates set by USFWS.

Ducks: Sept. 28th – Oct. 6th split season Nov. 2nd – Jan 29th Dark geese: Sept 28th – Oct. 6th split season Nov 2nd – Feb. 7th Ducks/ Geese: Youth Sept. 21st-22nd Falconry Ducks: Sept. 18th – Oct 6th split season Nov 2nd – Jan 29th

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:40:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:45:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:06
IP Address: 154.27.110.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dustin Farrar
City/Town:	Three Forks
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Dfarrar338@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think it is great that the Yellowstone is being considered for opening for hunting. It's long overdue. Especially now that most land access is locked up in much of that area. The science says the recovery effort was a success, now its time to open it back up. The only people opposing it are those that have private land access in that area.

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:47:49 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:53:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:37
IP Address: 69.77.240.189

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John Mayclin
City/Town:	Mount Vernon
State/Province:	SD
Email Address:	johnmayclin66@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Have hunted the River Valley since 2005 and I strongly oppose opening the Yellowstone River to on water goose hunting. This will seriously affect hunters and local businesses. Hell No to this. Thank you.

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:34:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 1:36:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:54
IP Address: 40.133.238.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ryan Taylor
City/Town:	Bismarck
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	rtaylor@ducks.org

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Ducks Unlimited appreciates the regular and consistent efforts made by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, and MFWP biologists and staff, to set migratory bird hunting regulations, seasons and bag limits guided by science and the framework of federal partners. On behalf of more than 8,000 Montana members of Ducks Unlimited who are passionate about waterfowling, conserving wetlands and grassland habitat, and the benefits of time spent outdoors, DU thanks MFWP for your work and the opportunity to comment publicly from time to time.

In regards to your agenda item for 2024/2025 migratory bird regulations, Ducks Unlimited is writing today to let commissioners know DU has a NEUTRAL stance as an organization on the proposals presented. DU staff has visited with members, partners and others and concedes there is both support and opposition to the closure elimination along the Yellowstone River that is detailed on the agenda item cover sheet. While DU's primary mission is the conservation and restoration of wetlands and associated habitats, our membership is very appreciative of efforts to expand access and hunting opportunities along the Yellowstone, especially for the next generation of waterfowlers. Similarly, members are also careful and concerned about sudden changes to the hunting landscape. While remaining neutral as an organization on this issue that is not fully within our habitat mission, DU trusts the Commission to consider the available science and the public comments in forwarding the best policy for waterfowl and waterfowlers. If DU can ever help MFWP in communicating possible regulatory changes to waterfowl enthusiasts across the state, we are ready and willing.

Since 1937, Ducks Unlimited has conserved and restored more than 15 million acres of the most critical habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife across the continent. Ducks Unlimited is proud to work in Montana, a state with critically important wetlands habitat, and to count more than 8,000 Montanans in its membership helping accomplish the DU habitat mission. Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems on the planet. They are invaluable not only to waterfowl and wildlife, but are integral for water storage and filtration, carbon sequestration, and resilient cattle grazing and forage production. We are proud to partner with Montana FWP in our habitat efforts and we are privileged to provide opportunities for voluntary, incentive based conservation practices with Montana farmers, ranchers, and private landowners.

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 21, 2024 3:41:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:05:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:58
IP Address: 97.121.212.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Arthur Rosander
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: earlinenjack@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Regarding the removal of the restriction of waterfowl hunting on the 87 mile of Yellowstone River. I am a Rosebud County resident and having been hunting around this section of Yellowstone River since 1981. The closure should remain in effect to provide a safe haven for the waterfowl. That restriction has enhanced our hunting since 1958 and should be kept and enforced for this section of Yellowstone. Thank you and don't hesitate to contact me if you need.

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 22, 2024 2:48:20 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 22, 2024 2:49:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:29
IP Address: 174.45.154.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John Moorhouse
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pandjmoor@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposal to lift the current closure to waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone in Region 7. This closure has been working well to hold geese in the area for 50 years or more. This has provided hunting opportunities in the Treasure/Rosebud area that far surpasses any of the other areas along the other 600 miles of river. I believe that opening the river will result in geese leaving the area earlier in the season as well as those birds that remain leaving the river to feeding areas in fields before sunrise and returning late, reducing decoying opportunities mornings and evenings.

As an owner of over a mile of riverfront in this area I am also concerned about increased trespass on our property by hunters accessing by boat. Also, we own well over 1000 agricultural acres in this area that are used by geese. We annually receive many offers to lease land for goose hunting. We do not take advantage of this increased income for various reasons, but many area landowners do.

FWP staff that I have spoken to in Helena have been unable to offer a reason why this proposal has come forward other than a vague "well It's come up off and on over the years". I am concerned about the lack of outreach to both the hunting public and landowners about this issue. FWP staff believes there was significant outreach because the "migratory bird biennial season setting dates" was a topic that was available for public comment. This is normally a very low public interest issue and there was no highlighting of this issue. FWP did send a one-question survey to 1000 waterfowl hunters that asked if they would be for or against lifting the closure. I was informed that the response to this survey was pro-lifting of the closure. I suspect that pretty much any question sent to hunters in MT that begins with a proposal to "lift existing hunting restrictions" would get a positive response from the majority of responders, especially those that are not familiar with the issue .

I am a landowner on the subject stretch of the river, a waterfowl hunter, the Vice Chairman of the Yellowstone River Conservation Council, a member of the Lower Yellowstone River Development Advisory Council and the first I heard of this proposal was this week via a grandson who lives in Idaho. I don't believe you have received adequate input from affected public to make an informed decision on this issue.

I urge the Commission to leave the existing closure alone. I am available and happy to discuss this issue with any of you. Call me at 406-861-9312.

Thanks for your attention,
John Moorhouse

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:23:36 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:35:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:53
IP Address: 47.45.179.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Haley Klarich
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: haley.klarich@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I wanted to share a few of my observations on the Yellowstone River waterfowl closure. We hunt and scout the surrounding area 4-5 days a week. Generally, we don't see a massive difference in the number of birds that roost on the river west of Bighorn (out of the closure), compared to within the closure. One important thing to consider is the significant amount of river miles between public access points. Specifically, between Amelia and Rosebud West (36 river miles). Waterfowl hunters rarely go more than 5 miles from the nearest ramp, generally because half the travel is in the dark, before or after shooting light. It's hard to imagine hunting pressure along this stretch having a negative impact on bird habits and overall numbers, when large chunks of the current closure will rarely be accessed by hunters. The closure should be opened, and FWP should work to provide hunters and anglers more public access along that stretch of the river.

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, March 23, 2024 1:45:26 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, March 23, 2024 1:49:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:19
IP Address: 69.145.132.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	George Liknes
City/Town:	Lincoln
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	george.liknes@gmail.com.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed change to the commission rule that restricts waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone River between the Bighorn-Yellowstone River confluence and the Rosebud-Custer County line. While I agree there is no biological basis for the regulation and it would increase hunter access on river proper, in my judgement, hunter success in the Yellowstone River Valley would suffer and that impact was not considered as part of this proposal. Protection of roosting areas on the Yellowstone keep Canada Geese in the area and the nearby Wildlife Management Areas, Block Management Areas, and cultivated school trust lands already provide large areas for hunter access for pass shooting and field hunting. Removing the restriction with a resulting increase in hunting pressure in roosting areas will redistribute the waterfowl within the reach and likely increase geese migration further south into Wyoming and reduce waterfowl available to Montana hunters. My experience with waterfowl closures at Freezeout Wildlife Management Area and on the Missouri River in Cascade County positively impact hunting opportunities and hunter success in nearby areas by providing security for roosting areas that keeps waterfowl in the area.

Examination of Figure 3 in the Hunting Season Change Supporting Information shows that even with the restriction in place, there are still large reaches of the Yellowstone and Bighorn rivers available for waterfowl hunting below the high-water mark. Additionally, the Hunting Season Change Supporting Information on the Commission's website for this issue describes the "main pulse of migrating geese reach the area the second or third week of November and the river becomes inaccessible because of ice shelves around the first or second week in December and last year ice shelves formed in mid-November". This relatively short window of hunter opportunity on the river does not represent a good tradeoff for the existing hunting opportunities available from early November till the end of the season. It's also likely that some hunters will push their luck at icy boat ramps or on the river resulting in mishaps or accidents that will create a public safety issue for law enforcement and search and rescue staff.

Finally, Wildlife Biologist Steven J Atwood's 2013 master thesis recommended "Engaging Inside landowners and other key stakeholders such as sportsmen, in the decision making process regarding the direction of the YRC (Yellowstone River waterfowl hunting closure) policy will be essential in minimizing conflict". I'm perplexed why there was not attempts made by MFWP staff to engage inside landowners, especially Block Management Cooperators and many of the current hunters who access the area, in this process.

Thank you for your consideration and please retain the closure.

Sincerely,

George Liknes

PO Box 1001

216 Seventh Ave

Lincoln MT 59639

Email: George.liknes@gmail.com

Phone: 406.453.1917

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, March 24, 2024 7:53:16 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, March 24, 2024 8:08:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:37
IP Address: 216.129.244.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ken Jansa
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kjansa2011@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I have been talking to my fellow waterfowlers who hunt the Yellowstone corridor as described in the proposed regulations and I have come to believe that opening the Yellowstone could have negative impacts, both to the quality of hunting and to the economics of the affected communities.

By opening the river to non-stop hunting pressure, this could impact the number of birds willing to stick around for the season after being shot at while going to feed and then when coming back to roost. This unending hunting pressure will drive birds out of the area and thus, after the word gets out that there are no birds in the area, that local businesses would not see the tourism activity related to waterfowl hunting i.e. food, gas and motel expenditures.

Where I live, in Glasgow, pressured birds have Fort Peck Reservoir or the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to seek refuge from daily hunting pressure during the season. The Yellowstone corridor has no alternative water resources for these birds to seek sanctuary like we have in the Fort Peck Region.

I hope the Commissioners take a good hard look at this decision. From what I understand there were really no public meetings regarding re-opening the Yellowstone, in the affected communities for the locals to be able to provide input. Thank you for your time!
Ken

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:46:49 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:59:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:11
IP Address: 174.198.146.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Virginia Koczur
City/Town: Colstrip
State/Province: MT
Email Address: thetrailsend@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do not want to see the Yellowstone River opened up to goose hunting. It has been fine the way it is for many decades so please do not change it.

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:55:50 AM
Last Modified: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:20:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:41
IP Address: 67.218.74.160

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Troy Sams**
City/Town: **Forsyth**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **twoutfitters2@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I believe the opening of the Yellow Stone River restricted areas is going to have a major negative impact on Montana waterfowl hunting. This is why!

- shooting birds off roost is absolutely the biggest mistake in waterfowl hunting ruining a area for further hunts off the river on land
- lost birds in river (nonrecovered) is going to promote shooting more birds to gain limit
- promote trespassing on private land bordering river when guys are running down birds wounded that flew and landed on private.
- excessive shell casing left in river polluting and trashing up river
- there is ample block management and public ground as well as private land owners allowing waterfowl hunting up and down river now. Leave the roost/resting area alone
- promoting hazardous boat travel that time of year on river
- the negative financial impact on the economy for the communities once the birds are shot off river first time and realize there is no resting/safe zone.
- bird numbers will fall due to stress. Proven fact this will not enhance our beautiful resource that is flourishing now under current policy.

My question stands yet to be answered or replied to from FWP. WHERE WAS THE SURVEY OFFERED OR ADVISED TO THE TAX PAYING LANDOWNERS THAT LIVE HERE? WHEN WAS SURVEY OFFERED TO US LANDOWNERS THAT DO SUPPORT HUNTING ON OUR LANDS FOR THESE BIRDS AND OPENED UP OUR LANDS TO BLOCK MANAGEMENT? WHAT WE DONT WANT OFFERED IS HUNTING BIRDS ON THE RIVER TO DISTURB WHERE THEY CAN REST!

Please read this carefully and take note

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:50:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, March 25, 2024 8:02:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:01
IP Address: 75.203.151.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chris Dalley
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cdalley11@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Opening the section of the Yellowstone river in region 7 is a terrible idea. What has been created with that closure, is a refuge, a safe place those birds can go to every day and not be harrassed. It keeps geese and ducks there much longer than they would normally stay, creating opportunity over 100 miles of the Yellowstone river. I use 100 as a low end estimate because the closure has a positive impact as far a goose can fly in either direction of the closure itself. I do not know who is pushing this idea, my feeling is it's a loud minority. Anyone who understands goose hunting, understands that this is a bad idea for the birds, the vast majority of waterfowl hunters in the area, the river, the landowners, and the rest of the animals that call that river bottom home. I beg you to understand how negative this is going to be for overall waterfowl hunting in region 7.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:58:10 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:29:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:30:53
IP Address: 150.131.68.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connor Stahly
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	connorstahly@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I hope this email finds you well. As an avid Hunter and outdoor enthusiast, I am writing to request your consideration in lifting the closure of Migratory Bird Season on the Yellowstone River within Region 7. By allowing waterfowl hunting in the specified stretch of the Yellowstone River, we can provide additional opportunities for responsible hunters while ensuring the conservation of bird populations. This change aligns with the department's recommendation to eliminate the closure.

Thank you,
Connor Stahly

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:20:48 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:44:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:23:26
IP Address: 208.75.140.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Donald Michael Jones**
City/Town: **Manhattan**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **don@jonespaintinginc.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I'm opposed to the lifting of the restriction on hunting waterfowl on the Yellowstone River. This is one of the top waterfowl hunting areas in the US. The reason the birds stay there is because they are not harassed on their roost. This will greatly reduce the numbers of birds in that area and simply cause them to leave the area due to the increased pressure. If the goal is to harvest more birds work on getting more landowners too allow hunting. All seasoned waterfowl hunter knows that you "don't shoot the roost" if you want to maximize your opportunities to hunt those birds. Huge mistake to lift this closure. Hunters spend a lot of money in those small towns that time of year and if the birds are pushed south due to hunting pressure on the river people will not come to hunt them. In my opinion this will destroy one of the best goose hunting destinations in the lower 48.

Thank you,
Don Jones

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 4:58:26 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:00:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:30
IP Address: 174.45.68.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ryan Yarnell
City/Town:	Manhattan
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tex@voormi.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open of the Yellowstone refuge for hunting. This would be very bad waterfowl in Montana and Wyoming for sure!

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 4:23:33 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:04:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:40:30
IP Address: 108.147.173.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Alex Langbell
City/Town:	Bridger
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	alexlangbell@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do not understand why the waterfowl season starts and closes so early here in Montana. I have been hunting waterfowl for over 40 years. I have been in the waterfowl hunting industry for 25 years. I do not have a degree in wildlife biology but I do have experience and first hand knowledge of what is actually taking place in the last several decades of waterfowl migrations in the west and Midwest logging thousands of ours in the field. In the last 10 years the migration has been delayed due to the warmer winters we are now getting. Our majority of birds don't arrive until December with the true migration beginning in mid-November. Currently Montana waterfowl hunters miss out on a several weeks of great hunting in January. Also by opening up the season so early you are encouraging the killing of the few local ducks and geese that breed here or in southern Canada. They are young and vulnerable, only months of being alive. Flyways are constantly changing due to drought conditions in the west, hunting pressure and farming practices. This completely affects the migration and needs to be taken into account.

I suggest talking to other biologists from other nearby states and revisiting this topic take in account the changing flyways and changing climate. There are numerous states in the Central and Pacific Flyways that allow their seasons to end at the end of January and even some that go into February.

Thank you ~ Alex Langbell

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:08:01 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:09:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:44
IP Address: 104.28.48.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Taylor Smith
City/Town:	Belt
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	smithtaylor7205@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a hunter who supports access to public lands in Montana, I can see how FWP might see opening the Yellowstone River refuge up to hunting as a win for public lands. Yet, there are many negative aspects to this happening and not many good ones. First, this refuge has been a huge conservation success story with the goose numbers doing well in this area and hunters having success, why would you want to end something that is working well? Second, in terms of access around the Yellowstone River, there are plenty of BMA areas that we have access to which having the river as a refuge increases the quality of those hunting opportunities. Third, most of the birds in this valley roost (sleep) on the river and feed in the fields. Hunting birds where they roost will cause birds to leave the area entirely instead of hunting birds in the fields where they will go back to the river and find different fields to feed in, effectively allowing both hunters to be able to hunt, and the birds being able to go back to somewhere safe. Fourth, opening the river to hunting will encourage hunters to take boats out onto the Yellowstone in dangerous conditions late into the season with ice flows and strong currents into ice dams. This would put a strain on the local EMS services and potentially put more lives at risk. Lastly, the long term effect of disbanding a refuge will ultimately result in a decrease in hunter success which will decrease hunter attraction to the area which will negatively impact the local economies that rely on hunters to frequent their businesses in the winter months. I hope that this input, along with many other public land hunters that share my same feeling, will influence FWP to change their mind and not open the Yellowstone River refuge.

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:19:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:21:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 172.221.79.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ashley Coulthard
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: ashleytcoulthard@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds undoubtedly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities overall.

Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area and on the other miles and miles of accessible Yellowstone River that is open to waterfowl hunting. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please keep the refuge in region 7 closed so that we can continue to experience the stellar hunting opportunities that we currently do.

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:26:33 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:35:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:03
IP Address: 66.62.151.29

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Kosinski
City/Town:	Orofino
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	mkosi333@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I support the continuation of the Yellowstone River migratory bird closure in Region 7.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:37:07 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:39:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:38
IP Address: 35.150.87.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bob Farrell
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtgreenheads@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Greetings-

I wanted to express my strong opposition to lifting the Yellowstone River waterfowl hunting closure. This has been a success story for 66 years, and migratory birds, generations of hunters and local communities have benefited. It appears to many of us this was done with minimal input from those of us that actually utilize the area.

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:47:22 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:02:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:10
IP Address: 69.163.92.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Colter Duneman
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	colterduneman@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I support the proposed motion of lifting the closure on the Yellowstone River within Region 7 as a long stretch of river has been closed to waterfowl hunting limiting the opportunities available for public land waterfowl hunting.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:45:01 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:09:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:00
IP Address: 174.198.143.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tate hamblett
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	hamblettwaterfowl@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I think it would be absolutely foolish and a very uneducated decision to open 87 miles of the Yellowstone river that is currently protected and has been since mid 1900's. I would love to hear the reasoning to why this is even a topic of interest? Beyond the fall numbers of birds that migrate through for a temporary time of year, it also provides nesting grounds in the spring. Once the river is opened up to hunting, then the deer and turkeys along the river will feel even more threatened. I'm an avid waterfowl hunter and think opening that section of the river will be detrimental and cause animosity throughout Montana. Montana is still a hidden gem on waterfowl hunting compared to the rest of the states, so why not keep it that way?

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:36:13 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:49:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:58
IP Address: 172.56.200.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Steele
City/Town: Manhattan
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bobsteele79@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please consider keeping the Yellowstone closed to waterfowl hunting. As an avid waterfowl hunter who hunts both public and private I understand the ever increasing difficulty to find good quality hunting grounds. I know this area has definitely seen this change as well but I believe allowing hunting on the river would drastically change and potentially devastate the quality of hunting in this area. Waterfowl needs safe resting grounds, if these do not exist the birds will simple stop using the area. I've have seen many examples of this on smaller scales particularly in the gallatin valley where I live. It the same thing as hunting access decreases hunter resort to hunting resting areas and roosts. Once these area see pressure birds leave, not only for the season but for years to come. I've have seen popular roost become hunting spots and the birds simply do not come back to these resting area ultimately finding new areas leaving what was good field hunting void of waterfowl. Please consider keeping this refuge which has allowed area populations and hunting oppertunities to flourish the same as it has been for many years to remain un hunted in the future so upcoming hunters will have the same amazing opportunities it presents now many years into the future. Thanks Bob

#192

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 5:38:25 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 5:44:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:06
IP Address: 173.84.10.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nick Johnson
City/Town:	New Richmond
State/Province:	WI
Email Address:	njohnson2367@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I do not think the waterfowl hunting closure on the Yellowstone River should be lifted. It provides sanctuary for the geese that area and produces an exceptionally large stretch of fantastic goose hunting. There is ample public hunting opportunities along the river in Block management and other public lands. I think as long as there are good public opportunities is the agricultural land the borders the river it would be detrimental to open it to hunting. I have enjoyed many trips goose hunting in your state along the Yellowstone on the public fields and it is a gem of honker hunting in this country. I would hate to see anything take away from that. Just keep up the great work with block management and other public hunting in the fields please and thank you!

#193

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 8:48:38 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 8:50:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 174.218.164.57

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Carter Klatt
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	carterklatt23@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am in opposition to opening the Yellowstone River refuge in region 7 to waterfowl hunting. For 50+ years that area has been a success story for wintering populations of migratory waterfowl and the hunting has been equally spectacular. Providing a safe area for migrating birds undoubtedly increases the chances that they stay throughout the season and provides more hunting opportunities overall. Throughout the wintering months, that section of river receives almost no boat traffic and as a result, the amount of birds to hunt have increased exponentially. Plenty of other public and private opportunity exists in the surrounding area and on the other miles and miles of accessible Yellowstone River that is open to waterfowl hunting. Opening this refuge to waterfowl hunting will have a detrimental impact on the quality of waterfowl hunting and likely drastically reduce the amount of birds that winter here due to increased pressure. Please vote to keep the refuge in region 7 closed so that we can continue to experience the stellar hunting opportunities that we currently do.

#194

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:42:29 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:44:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 192.136.158.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Anthony rodas
City/Town: Milbank
State/Province: SD
Email Address: roads44@me.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please leave the yellow stone reservation the way it has been sense it's start. I love hunting geese in Montana every year and would hate to see there migration pattern disrupted weather I hunt there or not.

#195

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:25:52 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:43:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:21
IP Address: 72.36.11.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dennis Kolb
City/Town: Hysham
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wdkolb@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a landowner along the Yellowstone river and a Block Management cooperater we are against opening the stretch of river in Treasure county. We feel opening the river will disrupt the safe haven in our area for migrating geese and will negatively affect the hunting in our area.

#196

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 1:07:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 1:23:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:24
IP Address: 100.21.138.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sean Clancy
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	sclancy27@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

This comment pertains to the "Edits to Statewide Closures on Page 59 of 2023 Migratory Bird Regulations", specific to lifting the hunting closure on the Yellowstone River from the confluence of the Bighorn River to Custer Bridge.

This proposal makes sense for several social and biological reasons:

1. The area from Hysham to Custer has become extremely limited access for waterfowl hunting. Outfitting and leasing has removed a large portion of private access and there are very limited public opportunities. I have hunted this area for 15 years via family friends or knocking on doors. All my previous access areas have become outfitted or leased. The ability to hunt the river provides opportunity to waterfowl hunt for average MT hunters not willing (or able) to pay thousands of \$\$\$ for a lease.
2. Access to hunt the river, I believe, will result in better hunting for the majority of parties by keeping birds moving all day instead of tens of thousands of birds holding on areas of the river during the day.
3. Mallard ducks and Canada geese compromise the vast majority of species that utilize the river in this area. Both species are near, or at, historic highs as far as populations. In fact, Canada geese populations are high enough to damage summer range in Northern areas. Potential increased harvest will not affect the future of either species and could be a benefit to the landscape in the case of Canada geese.
4. The birds will continue to use this section of the Yellowstone river as overwinter habitat. The nearby Bighorn river sees heavy waterfowl hunting pressure on almost all sections of the river, yet, huge flocks of Canada geese and mallards use the river during those same times. There is no reason to suggest that birds will leave this area due to hunting pressure on the river.

For these reasons I am in favor of the regulation change stated above.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your service to the sportsmen and wildlife of the state.

#197

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 2:33:04 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:09:03 PM
Time Spent: 01:35:58
IP Address: 199.168.111.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Evan Guenther
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	evanguenther@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am from Glasgow and I am an avid waterfowl hunter. I would like to see part of zone 1 get the zone 2 waterfowl season dates. From Glasgow to Fort Peck and east along the Missouri River we typically have ducks and geese here through the entire winter because the river typically stays free of ice. I would like to have the split season like in zone 2 in this area. Typically the waterfowl do not start to migrate into this area till later in the season. I would like to see the season closed for twelve days in October so our duck season would not close till mid January and the goose season close till the end of January. Zone 1 could maybe include Powder River, Carter, Fallon, Wibaux, Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, Daniels, and Sheridan Countys and put all the rest of the county's that are currently in zone 1 into zone 2. Another option is to just include McCone and Valley county in to zone 2. I know that Medicine Lake needs to stay open because it freezes up early in the fall. Same goes for Bowdoin. That is why putting McCone and Valley County's in zone 2 would be the best option. I remember when the central fly way was split in to 2 zones and I have commented since then about getting Valley and

McCone county's put into the zone 2 but have not had any success. It is time for a split season for other parts of the central flyway so we have more hunting opportunities when we actually have birds around to hunt.

#198

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:12:47 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:41:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:28
IP Address: 65.117.164.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Joe
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Josephhalm_180@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As an avid waterfowl hunter and bird admirer, I believe that it would be a huge mistake to end the waterfowl refuge down stream from the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers. This refuge provides a valuable safe haven for waterfowl. In a state with limited waterfowl habitat, these birds do not have many options for rest on their migration. Any habitat that is available is pressured by hunters. I think that the potential risk of opening this area, that has proved successful in improving waterfowl numbers, does not outweigh opportunities it offers for hunters.

I believe the best change that could be made to the waterfowl regulations would be to extend the season due to the mild/late winters that the Zone 1 & 2 have experienced in recent years. These late winters have delayed migration which does not allow hunters to have a chance at the majority of birds migrating.

I appreciate the consideration and trust that this feedback will be useful in the decisions that are made. I look forward to improving the hunter experience and the waterfowl population.

#199

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:12:33 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:15:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 72.174.30.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stan VanSickle
City/Town:	GREAT FALLS
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	smvansickle@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Comment on removing the Yellowstone River hunting closure:

I am very much against this change to the waterfowl hunting regulations. I also think that FWP has provided misleading information in the supporting documents to the commission and the public. In the thesis, Atwood found that “77% of landowners within the closure area did not favor its removal”

The Thesis can be viewed [HERE](#) and contains valuable insights for the commission on this decision.

<https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/27132/The%20Yellowstone%20River%20Waterfowl%20Hunting%20Closure%20in%20Eastern%20Montana%20-%20Evaluation%20of%20Private%20Landowner%20Attitudes.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Quoting Atwood- “Engaging Inside landowners and other key stakeholders, such as sportsmen, in the decision-making process regarding the direction of the Yellowstone River Closure policy will be essential in minimizing conflict.” As you are likely aware this did not occur.

#200

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:35:44 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:57:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:32
IP Address: 174.234.16.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Rivard
City/Town:	Shepherd
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Mjrivard85@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

DO NOT OPEN 87 mile stretch of the yellowstone river for waterfowl hunting on the river. This is the waterfowl gem of Montana. It will mess it up. I have witnessed the FWP buy land and within a year you cannot find one living thing on it. My family has 3 very large places in block management and have witnessed personally the "If I don't shoot it someone else will!" attitude as they procede to shoot everything. Give our wildlife some sort respite from constant bombardment. There is almost nowhere in this region that you cannot knock on a door and get a field for the day. If you pass this it will change. Landowners will lock it down to spite FWP. Save our hunters from themselves. Keep the sanctuary that creates the best waterfowl hunting in the state.

#201

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:14:48 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:03:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:49:09
IP Address: 216.147.124.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ruth Baue - Treasure County Commissioner
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	baue@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to water fowl hunting in Treasure and Rosebud Counties. I serve as a Treasure County Commissioner and also on the Lower Yellowstone Committee. I am also a landowner and life long resident in Treasure County with farm land located on the Yellowstone River. I have spoken with hunters every year during the season and have not heard any of them request to hunt the river. It would be utter chaos to monitor this activity as well as provide access to private land via the river. The hunting on the islands during deer season is bad enough and this would just exacerbate the problem. Regulation and enforcement would be non-existent. Also, this would have a huge negative economic impact to our community. I have read through your surveys and see no comment requesting this change. I also haven't had a request or visit from the department as to the landowner perspective on the impact of this change. We have hunters that visit this area from all over the United States for the opportunity to hunt waterfowl under the current regulations and they are pleased and enthusiastically planning their next hunting trip. The fact that this regulation has been in effect since 1958 and hunting numbers as well as bird numbers have increased would seem that it is a good and effective regulation. There is no need to change it now.

Please do not eliminate this closure. It is short sighted to make the change and I do not feel due diligence has been done on the part of the commission in even considering the change. To my knowledge, there were no public meetings in our area to even discuss this issue. Listen to those who live and work in the area.

#202

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:15:00 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7:30:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:54
IP Address: 216.147.124.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alison Baue
City/Town: Hysham
State/Province: MT
Email Address: contact@hyshammt.org

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to waterfowl hunting in Treasure and Rosebud Counties. I serve as the Hysham Chamber of Commerce President and also on the Visit Southeast Montana Tourism Board. I am also a business owner and life long resident in Treasure County with an AirBnB located on the Yellowstone River. I have spoken with hunters every year during the season and have not heard any of them request to hunt the river. I also have visitors and guests at my AirBnB that come from across the country to specifically hunt this area since there is no hunting on the river. Also, this would have a huge negative economic impact on our community, as hunters bring significant money to our community each year. I have read through your surveys and see no comment requesting this change and I have had no hunter tell me that they wish they could hunt the river. I also haven't had a request or visit from the department as to the community perspective on the impact of this change. We have hunters that visit this area from all over the United States for the opportunity to hunt waterfowl under the current regulations and they are pleased and enthusiastically planning their next hunting trip. The fact that this regulation has been in effect since 1958 and hunting numbers as well as bird numbers have increased would seem that it is a good and effective regulation. There is no need to change it now. I also do not understand how this rule could even be considered to change without a study being done if this will affect the migration and roosting pattern of these birds.

Please do not eliminate this closure. It is short sighted to make the change and I do not feel due diligence has been done on the part of the commission in even considering the change. To my knowledge, there were no public meetings in our area to even discuss this issue. Listen to those who live and work in the area.

#203

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 3:37:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:13:36 PM
Time Spent: 05:35:56
IP Address: 97.117.111.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Terrion
City/Town: Salt Lake City
State/Province: UT
Email Address: dterrion@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please don't remove the waterfowl hunting closure on the Yellowstone River. My father and I travel from Utah every December because the goose hunting in this area is excellent. Across North America, the areas that provide the best waterfowl hunting and that consistently hold birds, have areas within them where the birds can rest without hunting pressure- I've hunted such areas in Utah, Canada, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. If you take these areas of refuge away, the birds change their migration patterns and the excellent hunting goes away. This will affect much more than the hunting, and the hunters in the area. It will impact the communities that have built businesses around the influx of hunters that visit. And it will affect the farmers that benefit from block management, hunting leases, and trespass fees.

On this topic, Aldo Leopold wrote that conservation is a state of harmony between men and the land. Later in that same essay he wrote that the outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is the complexity of the land organism. This ecosystem is so incredibly complex, and the communities that people have built around it are equally as complex. My hope is that the decision makers at Montana FWP can acknowledge the complexity of this ecosystem, acknowledge how impressive productive it currently is, and leave well enough alone.

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:51:52 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:02:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:05
IP Address: 216.16.62.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Caleb Ranschau
City/Town: CANTON
State/Province: SD
Email Address: cr.turf@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a hunter who supports access to public lands in Montana, I can see how FWP might see opening the Yellowstone River refuge up to hunting as a win for public lands. Yet, there are many negative aspects to this happening and not many good ones. First, this refuge has been a huge conservation success story with the goose numbers doing well in this area and hunters having success, why would you want to end something that is working well? Second, in terms of access around the Yellowstone River, there are plenty of BMA areas that we have access to which having the river as a refuge increases the quality of those hunting opportunities. Third, most of the birds in this valley roost (sleep) on the river and feed in the fields. Hunting birds where they roost will cause birds to leave the area entirely instead of hunting birds in the fields where they will go back to the river and find different fields to feed in, effectively allowing both hunters to be able to hunt, and the birds being able to go back to somewhere safe. Fourth, opening the river to hunting will encourage hunters to take boats out onto the Yellowstone in dangerous conditions late into the season with ice flows and strong currents into ice dams. This would put a strain on the local EMS services and potentially put more lives at risk. Lastly, the long term effect of disbanding a refuge will ultimately result in a decrease in hunter success which will decrease hunter attraction to the area which will negatively impact the local economies that rely on hunters to frequent their businesses in the winter months. I hope that this input, along with many other public land hunters that share my same feeling, will influence FWP to change their mind and not open the Yellowstone River refuge.

#205

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:49:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:10:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:42
IP Address: 174.234.15.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Konigsfeld
City/Town: Ballantine
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mackkonigsfeld@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

As a waterfowl guide on the big horn and yellowstone river for the last 10 years, please do not open the Yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting below big horn confluence to rosebud County line. As a passionate waterfowler this refuge has created some of the the best waterfowl hunting opportunity anyone could ever ask for. The adverse consequences of opening this stretch of river to hunting will far out weigh the benefits. There are simply no benefits. These birds have to have a safe roost otherwise their migration may change and they will continue south to big horn's afterbay reservoir where there is simply not enough physical space to hold 325,000 birds. This yellowstone river refuge is a crucial part of this flyway! Migratory birds do not tollerate boat and hunting pressure before and their roost. Wyoming is who is going to benefit from this refuge re opening. The closure of this body of water in 1958 is truly one of the greatest success stories of wildlife management. An estimated 350 geese used the river system and now numbers are estimated at over 325,000. This abundance of birds gives field hunters such an amazing opportunity. The local economies benefit from the field hunting in this area. As an avid waterfowl hunter who has traveled the country hunting migratory birds, the field hunting near this refuge is some of the best in the country. Why would we want to change that? The argument that people deserve to reap the rewards of this closure and that its time to let people hunt the water just holds no validity. They get to hunt abundant numbers of birds in fields!! How are people going to benefit when bird numbers inhabiting the area dramatically decreases? My livelihood depends on the health of this flyway and as a person who lives and breathes with the motions of migratory birds, this will greatly diminish montanan's waterfowl heritage and opportunities.

#206

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:01:28 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:16:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:41
IP Address: 184.166.188.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jim
City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trophyram@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Opening the Yellowstone River for that stretch is a horrible idea. The eastern part of the state has some of the best goose hunting in the entire state and possibly all surrounding states. A ton of money is dumped into the local economy from non residents and residents alike. Restaurants, bars, motels, farmers...etc. By allowing hunting along the river, the geese would not only be stressed enough to not land in the river at night to rest, but would probably just continue their journey south into Wyoming and Colorado in search of a better location. Montana (\$) and Montanan's lose once again due to FWP's short sited thinking. Another problem will be the local farmers now having trespass issues with hunters accessing their private property auguring high water marks and sloughs. The FWP and local law enforcement will have their hands full with unruly hunters thinking they know the law, and farmers ready to fill their boats full of holes. Leave what works alone and think before acting.

#207

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:38:32 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:52:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:03
IP Address: 97.117.111.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Terrion
City/Town: Salt Lake City
State/Province: UT
Email Address: jandk@xmission.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I have been an avid waterfowl hunter for over 50 years. I have hunted all over the country and in Canada. The field goose hunting along the closed section of the Yellowstone River is world class. My son and I travel from Utah every winter to hunt it because it is so good. Over the years we have become friends with many of the local people in the communities that we visit. We are very happy to help boost the economy in the area, and we are equally as happy to be connected to the wonderful people that we have gotten to know.

Sadly, if the river is opened to hunting-like I have seen happen in other places over the years, the geese will change their migration pattern after 2-3 years. The hunters like us that travel to the area for this migration will follow the birds elsewhere, to Wyoming or Nebraska or wherever they move to, and the communities that benefit from us will suffer. Please don't open the river to hunting.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:41:48 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:44:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:13
IP Address: 72.36.15.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tina Sams
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ttsams_821@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do NOT open the river

#209

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:11:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:22:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:16
IP Address: 67.218.74.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	charles blevins
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	clblevins2@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

This comment relates to opening the section of the Yellowstone River closed to on river waterfowl hunting in Treasure and Rosebud Counties.

I am firmly against the opening proposal. I feel the waterfowl need a protected area to rest on open water.

Opening up this area to unrestricted hunting from boats running up and down the river during daylight forces the birds to fly and shortly they will learn to bypass the rest area because of hunting pressure and boat noise,

I also think boater safety is an issue since the river has many low water areas and three diversion dams. Boaters from out of the area and out of state may be unaware of these obstacles and hazards

#210

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:23:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:23:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:03
IP Address: 67.218.74.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **charles blevins**
City/Town: **Forsyth**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **clblevins2@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

This comment relates to opening the section of the Yellowstone River closed to on river waterfowl hunting in Treasure and Rosebud Counties.

I am firmly against the opening proposal. I feel the waterfowl need a protected area to rest on open water.

Opening up this area to unrestricted hunting from boats running up and down the river during daylight forces the birds to fly and shortly they will learn to bypass the rest area because of hunting pressure and boat noise,

I also think boater safety is an issue since the river has many low water areas and three diversion dams. Boaters from out of the area and out of state may be unaware of these obstacles and hazards

#211

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:23:14 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:24:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 174.198.141.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shelley Rickett
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	shelleyrickett@live.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am against opening the Yellowstone river in Treasure and Rosebud counties to waterfowl hunting.

#212

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:28:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:31:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 174.198.141.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Rickett
City/Town: Hardin
State/Province: MT
Email Address: drickett.eyeonconstruction@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am against opening the Yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting in Rosebud and Treasure counties.

#213

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:03:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:35:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:32
IP Address: 165.225.59.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Judd Moorhouse
City/Town: Woodbury
State/Province: MN
Email Address: juddmoorhouse@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am a legacy landowner of Region 7 Yellowstone River property (both river bottom and upland agriculture). Many generations of my family and I have lived, observed and hunted this area for over 50 years. The current waterfowl management strategy along this stretch of the Yellowstone has been extremely effective, with significantly larger flocks staging and holding in these areas. When compared to the populations and behavior of waterfowl in this area to other, similar areas across Montana, North Dakota, Idaho and Colorado, there is a dramatic difference. There does not appear to be a valid basis for the proposal to lift the restriction for hunting waterfowl within the historic high water mark on the Yellowstone in this region and I would like to see the scientific assessment of the effects it would have. I can personally attest to the behavior of the birds observed on the river during the fall/winter months where they are able to recover and replenish partway through their seasonal migration. Active hunting and harassment of the flock on the river will most certainly impact the health of the waterfowl. In addition, I'm certain that it would affect the behaviors of the flocks such that the quality of hunting opportunities within the feeding areas around the river would also be significantly reduced. This type of change of what I would consider to be a successful application of governmental management should be made with much more input from both scientific and local communities. I strongly object to this proposal and urge the commission to cancel these plans until a more thorough and transparent assessment of both environmental and community impact has been completed.

Sincerely,
Judd Moorhouse

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:29:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:35:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:57
IP Address: 174.234.16.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jesse Nile
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nile.jesse@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

There is absolutely no need to open up the yellowstone River to direct hunting for water fowl. Without a place to rest, the water fowl will leave the area. This system isn't broken and to change it, when it's worked so well, is short sighted.

Reconsider opening up that stretch of river to direct hunting.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:44:43 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:47:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 67.218.74.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Carroll Kaup
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lkaup@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Do not open the Yellowstone River between Big Horn River and Rosebud/Custer County line to waterfowl hunting.

#216

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:56:21 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:09:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:02
IP Address: 72.36.14.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **mathew bauer, sr**
City/Town: **FORSYTH**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **maji@rangeweb.net**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I vehemently oppose any changes to the 87 mile sanctuary covering the counties of Treasure and Rosebud on the Yellowstone River. This would cause a hunting and business disruption beyond belief. Prior to this closure in 1958 there was no such thing as goose or duck hunting in this area. I have been an active goose hunter for over 40 years and prior to this closure the only geese I saw were the ones that we raised on the farm.

#217

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:17:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:19:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:29
IP Address: 72.36.6.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Denise Maurer
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	singndance90@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am against opening the Yellowstone River to waterfowl hunting in Rosebud and Treasure counties.

#218

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:19:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:20:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 72.36.6.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Maurer
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kmaurer08@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am against opening the Yellowstone river to hunting in Rosebud and Treasure counties.

#219

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:43:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:48:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:26
IP Address: 108.147.32.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Isaac Johnson
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: labcustomworks@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Formally giving comment to protect the current safety we provide to migratory birds on the Yellowstone river in rosebud County. Allowing hunters to harass resting waterfowl on the river will not only hurt already stressed birds mid migration but damage hunting opportunities in surrounding areas.

Thank you for your time.

#220

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:06:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:48:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:09
IP Address: 72.36.11.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bob Fjelstad
City/Town:	Hysham
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fjelstad@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Please do not open the Yellowstone river in Treasure and Rosebud counties to hunting waterfowl. We have a good mix of land owners guides and farmers in the block management program that allow access to hunt geese in their fields. This combination makes better hunting for more people. Boats running up and down the river will make the geese move out of our area. Our local businesses benefit from hunters coming to our area for 3 & 4 day field hunts. Right now everything is great with the key thing to this. The land owners!!! Hunters trespassing on their land to retrieve their waterfowl will cause a big problem. Please don't try to fix something that's not broken.

#221

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:12:05 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:07:35 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 184.166.66.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Lukas/Montana Wildlife Federation
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeff@mtwf.org

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

MWF supports ending the closure of waterfowl hunting on the Yellowstone River from the Big Horn confluence to the Rosebud County line. This closure outlived its purpose. When it was created, the goose population in that area was under 600. Now, conservative estimates put the goose population there at over 300,000. Reopening this stretch of river will create a big opportunity for folks to hunt in an area that had become a de-facto wildlife refuge. We support ending this closure because it will open up a large, productive area for waterfowl hunting opportunities, plus it will improve wildlife managers' ability to keep goose populations from getting to numbers so high that they drastically increase crop damage in their migratory corridor. While adjacent field hunters may see geese shift their strategies as they go from water to grain and back, this opening will get geese moving more frequently and put more pressure on them in an area where population control is needed. We urge the Commission to end this closure and re-open waterfowl hunting opportunities on this 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone.

MWF also supports the regulation changes for cranes, as well. The numbers bear out that these are sensible and conservative changes that reflect what folks and biologists are seeing on the ground.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#222

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:15:22 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:17:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 174.234.31.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Lowe
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lowegreg21@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Say NO to opening the Yellowstone River near Hysham to hunting!

#223

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:07:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:54:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:42
IP Address: 67.218.74.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nancy Nile
City/Town: Forsyth
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nnile1@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I ADAMANTLY OPPOSE the elimination of the restrictions on waterfowl hunting on the approximately 87 mile portion of the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers to the Rosebud-Custer county line. The surveys that were done were poorly conducted and to my knowledge, out of the 2023 Survey Monkey survey that was sent to only Montana Waterfowl Stamp owners there were only 123 responses with 97 in favor of the elimination. This was a statewide survey, not just eastern Montana. That does not strike me as a representative survey of an 87 mile portion of the Yellowstone River in eastern Montana. Were any landowners, business owners or outfitters in this radius contacted? As a landowner of approximately 1.5 miles of Yellowstone River frontage for 42 years, I do not know of any local landowners that were contacted. Hunting access is already permissible on land on both sides of the Yellowstone River through either block management, outfitting or permission from landowners. The restrictions on the river were put in place in 1958 (?) to replenish the lack of waterfowl on this stretch of river. Dependent on the year and weather, geese are plentiful or close to non-existent. I believe it is backassward to remove a restriction that has brought the return of geese to our area when there is plenty of hunting available on surrounding land. You have to be a bit of a fool to try to put a boat in the Yellowstone during the open season for waterfowl anyway. The river is low and prone to ice jams and other obstacles, etc. This is a pristine area of a river that has protections for the benefit of wildlife, fish and people. Allowing hunting on the water opens it up to causing more traffic and pressure on the river which is not environmentally sound for wildlife or humans. Shooting from the river will not only disrupt the waterfowl, but the bald eagles, hawks and other wildlife that take sanctuary at the river. It will cause more pressure on the geese during hunting season and close off an area which they use as a refuge. Without a refuge, the geese will once again leave this area. I believe that lifting the restrictions that were made and helped to build up a fairly stable population should be left in place. My steadfast opinion is that by lifting the restrictions would be like penning up wildlife in a corral with no refuge and allowing hunters to hunt them there. PLEASE DO NOT LIFT THESE RESTRICTIONS!! We love our geese and want them to keep coming back. Thank you.

#224

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:03:22 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:05:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:55
IP Address: 67.218.74.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bill Asay
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gbasay@rangeweb.net

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I am opposed to opening the 87 miles of Yellowstone River for migratory bird hunting.

#225

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:52:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:59:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:04
IP Address: 65.140.147.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Romer
City/Town:	Great falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Kevinromer@reagan.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

Just read you are considering opening a large section of the Yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting. This is a great idea, especially since it seems to be such a large magnet for geese. Canada geese are doing exceptionally well. Having hunted and kept track of my success over the last few years, I passed on geese because I didn't have enough freezer space for more than 5 or 6 yet if the limit allowed, I could shoot many limes what is currently legal.

As for local landowners, get over yourselves. Legal access is everywhere else, you can deal with it.

As for outfitters, pushing birds can be a good thing when conditions are stale. Besides, public access creates opportunities for those that do not have a boat load of money. We need more waterfowl hunters and cost is the biggest detractor in hunter recruitment.

More waterfowlers equals more money for bird conservation.

#226

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:36:22 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:54:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:56
IP Address: 67.218.74.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kim Nile
City/Town:	Forsyth
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nileenterprises@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

I oppose lifting the restriction on waterfowl hunting on the 87 mile Yellowstone River portion if Rosebud and Treasure county. Dont eliminate a restriction that has been good for the waterfowl, river health and other wildlife. I was born abd raised on a farm on the banks of the Yellowstone here and have farmed my own place right here on the Yellowstone. Some years we have quite a few geese, some years they are scarce. There is plenty of hunting on this stretch with Blick management, permission from landowners, and outfitters. Hunters around here know if you chase them off the fields where they eat they take refuge on the river. If they don't have a place of refuge they will leave and we will just need this again. Not hunting on the river is better for the waterfowl, wildlife, birds and to maintain the beautiful environment there currently is. It's not common sense to eliminate this closure that is beneficial for the whole environment for those few who want to float a boat and shoot. What weren't any local landowners asked about this change? Why is FWP willing to change a healthy environment for the sake of a few. Besides, why would anyone be on the river that time of year with the low water, ice and obstacles. Leave the river healthy. They can get their birds on land. We like our geese on the years they are here.

#227

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 29, 2024 7:36:24 AM
Last Modified: Friday, March 29, 2024 7:39:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 72.174.226.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **DAVE SALYS**
City/Town: **BALLANTINE**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Regulations

PLEASE OPEN THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER UP TO ALL WATERFOWL HUNTING. THE CLOSED AREA FROM BIG HORN AND DOWNSTREAM HAS NEVER MADE ANY SENSE. THERE ARE VERY FEW AREAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE THE SCUM OUTFITTERS HAVE IT ALL LEASED.
