

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:50 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Burrows Amendment on Non Resident Dog Training

Thanks for the heads up, sir! I will pass this along.

Respectfully,

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:48 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>; Clerget, Sarah <sclerget@mt.gov>; Kujala, Quentin <qkujala@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Burrows Amendment on Non Resident Dog Training

Erik,

After a further look into the issue, I am requesting to withdraw my amendment on non resident dog training.

Thanks,
Jeff

On Mon, Feb 12, 2024, 3:29 PM FWP Commissioner Region 2 <[commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org](#)> wrote:

Erik,

Please see the attached amendment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 11:21 AM
To: Wickman, Erik
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Burrows Invoice
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png

Thanks you sir.

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 7:04 AM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

I have attached the voucher, sir.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, January 27, 2024 3:38 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Burrows Invoice

Erik,

I received the invoice for 279.65, do you have details on the invoice? I need to reimburse the county for mileage and was just wondering if you could provide a breakdown of the invoice.

Thanks,

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

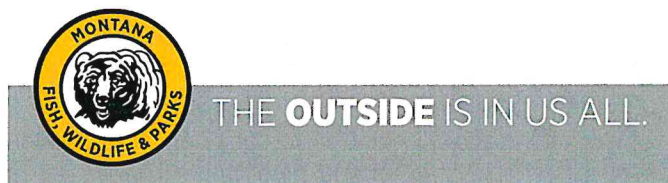
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:22 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Burrows out of Country

Copy that. Thank you, sir!

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 11:19 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Burrows out of Country

Erik,

Just an FYI, I will be out of the country Feb 3-11 and for the most part will not be responsive via phone or email.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwf.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Stacey
Subject: Re: CLOSE WMU 313

Stacey,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

Region 2

On Dec 15, 2023, at 3:46 AM, Stacey <s.snider771@gmail.com> wrote:

Please close WWU 313 and stop the killing of the Yellowstone Wolves.

Enough already!!!

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Matt Cuzzocreo
Subject: Re: Comment Submission - Draft Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and EIS

Mr Cuzzocreo,

Thank you for the information. To hit the three points in the beginning of your email:

The combination of 1) a questionable population estimate, 2) a failure to be responsive to diverse perspectives on the values of wolves, and 3) a lack of scientific evidence for drastic wolf population reduction raises many questions and erodes trust in the state's decision making and its goals and objectives for wildlife management.

- 1) there are comments on both sides of the IPOM estimation for wolf populations. Some believe it too low, some too high. It is the best information we have and I believe it to be the best estimate we have.
- 2) I believe the commission is working to be responsive to diverse perspectives, but am not speaking on behalf of the commission. I am willing to work with diverse groups for the responsible management of the wildlife we all cherish.
- 3) I continue to use the best available science to inform my decisions on wolf management and also weigh the values, custom and culture of Montanans on these important decisions.

Thanks,
Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Dec 19, 2023, at 3:18 PM, Matt Cuzzocreo <mcuzzocreo@greateryellowstone.org> wrote:

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks-

Please accept these comments on the Draft Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and EIS on behalf of Bear Creek Council, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, National Parks Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Park County Environmental Council, and our more than 23,000 members and supporters across Montana. Thank you for providing an opportunity for the public to offer input on the way wolves will be managed in the state. The State of Montana has a key role to play in

managing this species on behalf of the American people now and into the future, and we appreciate the opportunity to help shape that future for wolves.

Sincerely,
Matthew Cuzzocreo

<image001.png>

Matt Cuzzocreo | *Senior Wildlife Conservation Associate* | *he/him/his (What's this?)* [bottomline.org]
Greater Yellowstone Coalition | GreaterYellowstone.org [greateryellowstone.org] | 307.335.5331

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[twitter.com]

<image004.png>

[instagram.com]

<DraftMTWolfPlan_GroupComments.pdf>

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:16 PM
To: editor wolftracker.com
Subject: Re: comments on EIS/wolf management

Dr Varley,

Sorry for the delay is responding. Thanks for the information.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Dec 19, 2023, at 4:08 PM, editor wolftracker.com [wolftracker.com] <editor@wolftracker.com> wrote:

<image001.png>

December 18, 2023

Montana FWP,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2023 Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Science, policy and public perception pertaining to wolf management have advanced significantly over the years prompting new and different management methods and goals. We appreciate the state's intent to evaluate and revise its approach.

Founded in 1983, Bear Creek Council (BCC) is a local, all-volunteer, grassroots organization working to conserve and protect the integrity of the environment and community at the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park. We have had a strong and continuous presence in wolf management decisions since wolf reintroduction ~30 years ago. We advocate for management that encourages and celebrates wild wolves. Wolves should be valued as native wildlife that are inextricably linked to the health of the wild ecosystem and the prosperity of Montana's economy. The EIS and resulting management plan need to reflect this fact.

In this context, we urge the state to demonstrate stewardship befitting of a valued, native wildlife species. In the perception of people from around the world, wolf management in

our state hinges on choices the state now endeavors to make. Whether the views of these “outsiders” are a consideration or not, satisfying Montana residents for whom conservation of wildlife is held in trust is obligatory.

Previous draft management plans for other species, like grizzly bears, were noticeably different in their tone in describing perils to the species and its various challenges and opportunities. This document strikes a decidedly more pessimistic tone treating wolves as mostly a problem while failing to fully articulate the tremendous value wolves have brought to the state, while failing to acknowledge the greatest challenge wolf conservation faces, which is that management has been hijacked by politicians professing misinformed ideologies while serving special interests. Until this fact is acknowledged and excoriated there is no credible foundation for transparent and science-based management. We have witnessed a notable decline in conservation standards applied to wolves since 2021, eroding public trust and expectations for a balanced management process.

The remainder of our comments describe specific concerns about the plan’s adherence to actual scientific underpinnings and ethical management practices.

1. The number, 450, for wolves seems largely arbitrary and indefensible as any kind of goal. It is ill-defined and not supported by rationale. Due to multiple factors and compounding errors, iPOM severely overestimates Montana’s wolf population. It is likely there are around 450 wolves in the state (Crabtree et al 2023), not 1100 suggested in the 2023 Wolf Plan (Figure 2, p. 26). We urge the state to not have a numeric goal for wolves and focus instead on qualitative conservation measures that ensure a healthy, robust wolf population throughout occupiable habitat.
2. On population estimation, the iPOM model as currently parameterized is inadequate. Based on multiple untested assumptions, it compounds errors to arrive at unreliable estimates. The inputs, parameters, and assumptions need to be tested vigorously before the model can be used with confidence.
3. We need a new and earnest assessment of attitudes toward wolves among ALL people in Montana. A legitimate survey by an independent entity should be initiated as part of this process. The DEIS relies on past reports that demonstrate in some cases little more than, “among people that don’t like wolves, there is little tolerance for wolves.” This bias in favor of some stakeholders skews management at the expense of other legitimate stakeholders.
4. The economic section is woefully outdated and inaccurate, missing nearly the entirety of the value of wolves to bringing visitors to much of our state, not just the Yellowstone corridor where it is demonstrably ‘big business.’ Wolves may not be valued this way in every community, but certainly wolves are a significant reason why most visitors visit where they visit (i.e., national parks and wilderness areas). Apply the most recent scientific economic data on wolf tourism, over \$82 million of sustainable annual income for Montana’s economy (U. of Montana ITRR & RRC Assoc., 2022)
5. The need for a better balance in implementing the intended legislative mandate. Reducing the population has been achieved, now the department has to define the sustainability goal, also intended by the legislature. New permitting and harvest strategies should be considered to address low hunter success while providing sustainability for the wolf population.

Our overarching expectation for wolf management does occur in DEIS:

“The preferred alternative would allow for implementation of varying wolf management strategies that address different local population objectives. For example, an area with ungulate population concerns may benefit from liberal wolf harvest regulations while an

area that values ecotourism may benefit from conservative wolf harvest strategies. As a result, local benefits may differ across the state" (DEIS, p. 30).

Sport hunting can be a significant and important part of population management for wolves, BCC does not refute that and has hunters within its membership. However, current wolf mortality across the state does not reflect this goal. The department's approach to the legislative mandate could be improved by balancing its focus on 'reduce' with its focus on 'sustainable'. The population has been reduced since the legislative mandate, as suggested by several lines of evidence (population modeling, increased effort with lower harvest, etc.). The work of the department now is to define, measure, and ensure sustainability. While difficult for all to agree on the goals of what is 'sustainable,' consider these parameters:

Montana has far more elk and elk harvest now than it did when the wolves were reintroduced three decades ago, with many elk hunting districts over objective. Similarly, wolves account for less than one tenth of one percent of confirmed livestock losses, which does not constitute a problem for the state's livestock industry. For ranchers that experience loss, there are far more efficient and effective measures directed to the local situation, rather than a blanket directive to kill more wolves everywhere. The statistics of hunter harvest should be considered—in the effort to reduce, the hunting experience has been degraded. With an abysmal success rate, sportspersons with a genuine interest in a rewarding experience face very long odds.

With other game species, the agency implements alternative harvest strategies designed to improve hunter experience and success. For prize species such as bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, limited draw hunting units are implemented to permit only a few hunters for a given area. Why are wolves not prized? Employing a limited draw system for specific units will both protect wolf packs in those areas from over-harvest and improve the likelihood that hunters who draw in a lottery system will have a better experience. While much of the state could remain in the regional quota system, a half dozen units should be established in the most remote areas of public land like wildernesses and adjacent to the two national parks (i.e., WMUs 110 and 313). These areas could serve both as refuges that guard against population decline, protect crucial research studies on wolves, and at the same time, serve as hunt units with increased chances for individual hunter success.

If the state acknowledges the value of wolves to non-consumptive stakeholders in this way, it could generate significant amounts of much-needed revenue through additional wolf tags purchased in the application process for a limited-draw wolf license. This approach could potentially raise hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to accomplish the broad conservation mission of the agency, including mitigation measures, while balancing the values of a diverse array of stakeholders in wolf management.

In summary, Bear Creek Council is a local organization that advocates for preservation of wildlife populations in south-central Montana and the communities that depend on them. The often-appalling treatment of wolves, guided by cultural bias and misinformation, is an egregious case of mismanagement that can now be corrected with a new and revised approach to wolf management.

The current process needs to establish a balance of public interests among many cultures and industries, with an emphasis on the importance and value of wolves to many people in the state. Considering new science and a fresh managerial intent, we are optimistic that the current process will result in an approach that restores long-term sustainability and prosperity for both the people and wolves sharing the Montana landscape.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Varley, PhD

President, Bear Creek Council

PO Box 448 Gardiner Montana 59030

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfw.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 2:25 PM
To: mdstirrup@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Emailing: FWP Upland Bird Comment

Thanks Maureen.

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Tue, Jan 30, 2024 at 1:04 PM <mdstirrup@gmail.com> wrote:

Please see my attached comment.

Maureen Davey
51 LE Peterson Rd.
Columbus, Montana 59019

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:25 AM
To: Michael Bias
Subject: Re: FOAM Supports Swan Lake Lake Trout Management Action

Thanks Mike.

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 5:24 PM Michael Bias <mike@foam-mt.org> wrote:

Dear Director and Commissioners,

On behalf of the board of directors and over 1,000 professionally-licensed guide and outfitter members of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM), I am writing to support the Fish and Wildlife Commission's (Commission) approval of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) planned management action to remove lake trout to benefit bull trout and kokanee salmon at Swan Lake. While FOAM supports the management and control of lake trout in the Swan Lake drainage system, we have concerns regarding bycatch and urge a complete MEPA compliance and thorough analysis of specific techniques and timing of removal efforts prior to the implementation of the full management action in 2025.

Non-native lake trout represent a substantial threat to the Swan Lake bull trout population. From 2009 to 2016, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and other state, federal, and NGO partners conducted an eight-year experimental lake trout removal project to examine if gillnetting efforts can reduce lake trout abundance to improve bull trout and kokanee salmon populations. Results from this study demonstrated that gillnetting increased mortality of age 3 and age 4 lake trout as well as adult lake trout on known spawning areas although incidental bycatch of other species during the study was relatively low.

Since 2016, Swan Lake bull trout and kokanee abundances have declined while lake trout has increased considerably. Bull trout redd counts in 2023 revealed the lowest number on record. Additional lake trout population assessment and modeling since 2016 has shown that increased gillnetting effort to remove lake trout could positively influence bull trout abundance. FWP intends to increase lake trout monitoring in 2024 before implementing a full management action in 2025. Management action includes substantially increased gillnetting efforts to remove multiple cohorts of lake trout with concurrent monitoring of bull trout and kokanee to ensure negative impacts to bull trout abundance is minimized and to improve kokanee abundance. FWP will determine specific techniques and timing of removal efforts of this management action following MEPA compliance.

FOAM has always supported the conservation and protection of our wild cold-water fisheries while promoting and supporting the outfitting and guiding communities that are strong economic drivers throughout our state. In this light, we support the Commission approving FWP's planned management action to remove lake trout to benefit bull trout and kokanee salmon at Swan Lake.

(letter attached)

Respectfully,

mike

--

Michael A. Bias, Ph.D.
Executive Director
406-925-2276 (cell)



Wickman, Erik

From: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:25 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: supplemental game damage hunt - HD240

Thanks for the quick response!

Randy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#) [aka.ms]

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:10:33 PM
To: Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: supplemental game damage hunt - HD240

Thanks for the heads up, I support the damage hunt.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
[P.O. Box 200701](#)
[Helena, MT 59620-0701](#)
Ph: [\(406\) 438-1148](#)
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Jan 17, 2024, at 5:26 PM, Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov> wrote:

Commissioner Burrows,

Please find attached, for your awareness, a proposal for a supplemental game damage hunt for elk on the Smith property near Darby. We're aiming to provide a little relief from a herd of elk concentrated on their property and impacting livestock feeding.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Randy

Randy Arnold | *Regional Supervisor*
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 542-5504 | Cell: (406) 552-8708

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<image004.png>

[\[youtube.com\]](#)

<image005.png>

[\[twitter.com\]](#)

<HD240SupplementalDamageHunt_KeithSmith_new.docx>

Wickman, Erik

From: deborah slicer <deborahslicer031@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:11 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re:

I really appreciate your letting me know this, Jeff, and forward to my neighbors. Deborah

On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 9:24 AM FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Deborah,

Please see below explanation in regards to the nine mile watershed for hound hunting. The nine mile watershed will not be open for hound hunting.

I wanted to reach out to bring to your attention a misunderstanding I'm hearing about from the public regarding our current black bear proposal for the February 16th FWP Commission meeting. We have been hearing from members of the public that seem to be under the impression we are proposing to open the Ninemile valley, northwest of Missoula, to hound hunting of black bears. The Ninemile watershed is currently closed to hound hunting and would stay closed to hound hunting under the new proposal. The proposal would actually expand the area that is closed to hound hunting by closing all of Missoula County as well as a small portion of Ravalli County. See maps below showing the new proposed closure in orange vs. the current closed area in blue on the second map. I think the confusion was generated in the proposal because we crossed out the language "~~that includes the Ninemile watershed north of I-90~~". But note that we replaced this with language that closes hound hunting in that portion of BMU 200 in Missoula County which encompasses a larger area including the Ninemile.

The reason we are proposing to expand the closure is to better align the closed area to the latest grizzly bear occupancy map, which shows expanded 'occupied' grizzly habitat into Missoula and Ravalli counties.

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 3:48 PM deborah slicer <deborahslicer031@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear, Jeff Burrows,

I'm writing to ask that you vote NO to extending the spring black bear hunting season (actually, there should be no spring bear hunting at all).

And the hound hunting proposal expressly excludes the 9 Mile watershed, which has been my home for 13 years, from grizzly protections so that hunters can pursue black bears with hounds and train hounds in spring. No rationale is given, as far as I can see, for excluding 9 Mile, where there are certainly grizzlies. 9 Mile is simply, clumsily struck out of the regulations by some mysterious hand.

We've seen the bears, photographed the bears, even Jamie Jonkel, who is located at the FWP headquarters in Missoula, has confirmed with me personally, and at our community center meetings, that there are grizzlies here. Hound harassment should not be permitted in 9 Mile. And many 9 Mile residents, including my family, are upset about this proposal. I'm sure you'll hear from them.

Deborah Slicer, PhD

Professor Emerita U Montana

406 626-5537

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:03 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: 12/13 hotel receipt

I got the receipt....no worries. Sig block is fine, thanks!

~Erik Wickman
Commission Coordinator



Sent from my iPhone

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:02:08 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: 12/13 hotel receipt

Erik,

I did not, sorry. Also, please let me know how the signature block looks. It looks like I have issues with the signature block depending on whether I send from phone or from online gmail.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Jan 9, 2024, at 11:02 AM, Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning, Jeff,

Wondering if you got a receipt for the hotel stay for the December commission meeting. Normally they send it to me, but they didn't this time...

Do you have it?

Thanks!

~E

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Rene Hersey
Subject: Re: Asking all Commissioners to agree to close WMU 313

Rene,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 15, 2023, at 11:30 AM, Rene Hersey <renehersey@me.com> wrote:

Hello MTFWP Commissioners,

We know that the official quota you set for killing wolves in WMU 313 is within 25% of being accomplished.

Please move forward with an order to close WMU 313 which is within your commission's ability to do at this time.

As we all know, more wolves could be killed that exceed the 6 wolf quota if you do not act swiftly. Since 98% of wolves killed in WMU 313 are also Yellowstone wolf family members, it is of particular urgency that no more wolves from WMU 313 be killed. The Yellowstone wolves who live near to the north entrance/boundary of YNP are decensitized to the presence of humans, they are not on guard when they cross over the invisible boundaries and they are unaware that the machine held in a hunters hands is not a camera.

I hope you will follow your own rules and do the right thing today at the meeting.

Very sincerely,
Rene Hersey

Wickman, Erik

From: Steve Cummings <slash@mail.centric.net>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 11:15 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Black Bears in Nine Mile watershed

Thank you for your reply. Have a pleasant weekend. Steve Cummings

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

From: "FWP Commissioner Region 2"
Sent: 1/25/2024 9:26:07 AM
To: "Steve Cummings"
Subject: Re: Black Bears in Nine Mile watershed

Steve,

The nine mile watershed will not be opened up, please see below explanation:

I wanted to reach out to bring to your attention a misunderstanding I'm hearing about from the public regarding our current black bear proposal for the February 16th FWP Commission meeting. We have been hearing from members of the public that seem to be under the impression we are proposing to open the Ninemile valley, northwest of Missoula, to hound hunting of black bears. The Ninemile watershed is currently closed to hound hunting and would stay closed to hound hunting under the new proposal. The proposal would actually expand the area that is closed to hound hunting by closing all of Missoula County as well as a small portion of Ravalli County. See maps below showing the new proposed closure in orange vs. the current closed area in blue on the second map. I think the confusion was generated in the proposal because we crossed out the language "~~that includes the Ninemile watershed north of I-90~~". But note that we replaced this with language that closes hound hunting in that portion of BMU 200 in Missoula County which encompasses a larger area including the Ninemile.

The reason we are proposing to expand the closure is to better align the closed area to the latest grizzly bear occupancy map, which shows expanded 'occupied' grizzly habitat into Missoula and Ravalli counties.

Thanks,

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 4:44 PM Steve Cummings <slash@mail.centric.net> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Burrows,

I am very much opposed to hunting black bears with hounds, and hound training in the Nine Mile watershed. This is a sensitive grizzly recovery habitat. I live in the Nine Mile, and have seen and even photographed grizzlies in my back yard. (We adjoin USFS land.) Please opposed this proposal!

Thank you, Steve Cummings

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Trish King
Subject: Re: Please close Region 3 to wolf hunting

Ms King,

I will consider all the information at the meeting today.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Tue, Jan 30, 2024 at 1:01 PM Trish King <wolf16625@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Jeff Burrows,

Please close the hunting of wolves in Region 3. Entire packs or almost all are being taken out. This is very dangerous for the integrity of any remaining members. I'm really concerned about what you are allowing to happen to our wolves. I've mentioned it before, and I will say again, I don't believe you have as many wolves on the ground as you have estimated. Please change your method of counting wolves. Do not allow wolf hunting in unit 313, or unit 110 by our National Parks. I tried to comment at your last emergency meeting concerning the closure of unit 313 after 5 yellowstone wolves had been killed, but you decided to go for the 6th one which was again a Yellowstone National Park wolf. A travesty indeed.

Our public lands should not have vile traps and snares set on them. Public safety should come first and yet you continue to cater to trappers and outfitters instead of listening to non-consumptive members who also would like to enjoy recreation besides killing and torturing our wildlife.

Our only hope is that federal protection steps in because states certainly don't seem to value our wildlife. Trophy hunting does not put food on the table. Fur is outdated and there is no need to kill wolves or wildlife that are not causing any problems. Livestock producers can use non lethal methods to deal with predation. We all know that a very small percentage of livestock is actually even taken by wolves.

Please I urge you to close Region 3 and let 12 wolves live.

Thank you,

Trish king

2130 9th St W #162

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 10:12 AM
To: Trish King
Subject: Re: Please close WMU 313

Ms King,

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 9:33 AM Trish King <wolf16625@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Commissioner Jeff Burrows,

I was not able to speak at last Friday's meeting. Please I urge you to close WMU 313. Why do you insist on killing Yellowstone National Park wolves in the first place? There are no known packs there and no livestock depredation has happened. I dread the upcoming trapping and snaring season. Why should tortuous traps and snares be placed on public lands where we recreate? These devices are not only extremely dangerous to indiscriminate unintended victims, there is no signage to indicate where they are set, which is a horror story waiting to happen for hikers and their fur companions. Public safety should be first and foremost.

If we can not get these vile torture devices banned, then these areas should be closed with large signs stating exactly what is taking place on our public lands, and see how that goes over.

I live in Region 1, and I think WMU 110 bordering Glacier National Park should be closed to wolf hunting as well as WMU 313 bordering Yellowstone National Park. What happened to the buffer zones around the parks? There should not be any hunting allowed near a National Park, and especially trophy hunting.

Again, we need a wolf advisory committee, another method to count wolves besides IPOM, and bring back the Wolf stamp as a way for the non-consumptive to help funding.

Wolves belong on the landscape alive and thriving. I know more citizens want wolves in Montana than not so stop only catering to outfitters and ranchers. Wolves rarely predate on livestock from recent accounts I've read so why this outdated persecution? Bounties paid to kill wolves in the 21st century are archaic.

Please protect our keystone wolves for future generations. We need to learn to coexist with our large carnivores instead of eradicating them.

Please close WMU 313.

Thank you,

Trish King

2130 9th ST W #162

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Wickman, Erik

From: Jess Wagner <jess_wagner2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 10:06 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Proposed Black Bear Changes

Jeff,

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and especially for responding. It's always assuring to at least know my comments are being seen. I really appreciate it! Have a good day.

Jess

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:35 AM
To: Jess Wagner <jess_wagner2@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Proposed Black Bear Changes

Jess,

Great information, thanks for sending to me.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Tue, Jan 23, 2024 at 9:51 AM Jess Wagner <jess_wagner2@hotmail.com> wrote:
Commissioner Burrows,

First of all, I would like to thank you for standing up for mule deer during the last commission meeting. I hope we will start to see an uptick in mule deer numbers with restricted doe hunting.

Although I am not in your region, the proposed statewide black bear changes will have an effect on me, so I hope you will take the time to read my comments. I am writing to you as I am concerned about some of the proposed spring black bear changes here in region 4. I am also including some documents (Region 4's recommendations and Black Bear Mortality Patterns in BMU's 411, 420, 520, and 580) that you might find valuable in guiding your decision on whether or not to support the proposed changes. The data in the documents makes a compelling case for leaving the spring bear hunting in region 4 as is. The experts who are on the ground here in region 4 recommend against expanding the spring season closure to June 15th, as female harvest is already near the established sustainable threshold. The region also recommends retaining the mandatory inspection of harvested bears.

The attached "Black Bear Mortality Patterns" document states that "Current harvest rates in the Snowies, Little Belts and Crazy Mountains are not sustainable. Even in The Beartooths, where a female harvest quota is in place, we have documented a declining population. Increased harvest, especially female harvest, will accelerate these declines. Black bears in the island mountain ranges of central Montana have one of the lowest reproductive rates of any large mammal in North America. Consequently, these populations are susceptible to over harvest and recovery from over harvest takes many years. For example, the bear population in BMU 520 was significantly over harvested in the mid-1980s and took 15 years to recover using very restrictive female harvest sub-quotas."

I will also add some of my own observations. Every spring, I put out 20+ trail cameras on National Forest lands in the island ranges in central Montana. I can tell you, based on the evidence on my trail cameras, that bear activity increases significantly in June. In fact, I get more pictures/videos of bears in June than I do the rest of the months combined. June is the breeding season when bears are moving around more and are much more visible to hunters. I have no doubt that allowing hunting until June 15th will have a significant impact on the bear harvest in region 4.

We just introduced hound hunting a few years ago and have already seen an increase in harvest as a result of that added opportunity. It is only going to gain in popularity. I feel that increasing the season length is too soon and we need more time to see the full extent to which hound hunting is going to impact spring bear harvest. It also doesn't make sense to increase harvest while getting rid of the mandatory inspection of harvested bears. Increasing harvest means that data collection would be even more important than ever. I have spoken with region 4 staff, and they have expressed that mandatory check-in is not a burden for the staff. We have already seen ballot initiatives that have led to bear hunting bans in other states. This is likely to happen here in Montana eventually. Although it may seem unlikely at this time, we have already had recent initiatives to ban trapping right here in Montana. Having reliable data to justify having a spring season will be really important in the event that a bear hunting ban initiative is ever introduced.

I would urge you not to support the proposed changes. If the proposed changes are likely to be approved, please consider making an amendment to put a quota in place for the BMU's in region 4. The quota could be based on the average yearly spring harvest over the last 10 or more years. I feel it is important to go back at least 10 years since the attached document states that the current harvest levels are not sustainable. I would also recommend amending the proposal to retain the mandatory inspection of harvested bears. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Jess Wagner
Lewistown, MT
406-939-3458

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Trish Marie
Subject: Re: Protect Yellowstone Wolves!

Ms Marie,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 15, 2023, at 10:37 AM, Trish Marie <trishmarie.astrology@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioners Tabor, Burrows, Brooke, Walsh, Cebull, Robinson and Lane,

Greetings! I write today to ask you to please CLOSE WMU 313 and protect Yellowstone wolves! ...so far, 5 have been killed in this WMU. I was in Yellowstone in June, there specifically because of wolves. I spent approximately \$2000, and I'm only one tourist! I stayed in Gardiner, a Montana town. Those 5 wolves are the ones I went there to see--ALIVE, I might add.

Please close this WMU and protect the Park's wolves.

Most sincerely yours,
Trish Marie
7042 East Maple Ave,
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-333-4910

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 11:59 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Quorum met

I did. I will re-send...

Sorry!

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Quorum met

Erik,

Did you send link for zoom meeting today? I have not seen it yet.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 7, 2024, at 6:43 PM, Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Wickman, Erik
Subject: Re: Region 3 - Wolf Harvest Review
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png;
image001.png; image003.png; image004.png; image002.png; image005.png

Erik,

Monday - 11:00, 3:00

Tuesday - 3:00

Jeff

On Fri, Jan 26, 2024, 9:31 AM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning, commissioners,

Wildlife Division has informed me that we are at 73% of harvest in Region 3 (with WMU 313 already closed). 1 more wolf take will trigger the Commission review for emergent closure of wolf hunting in all the rest of Region 3.

I am asking for your availability for a Zoom-only special meeting for the purposes of review, much like we did when WMU 313 reached 75% harvest back in December. Please advise if you have availability for Monday or Tuesday of this coming week and please provide the times you are available. I will coordinate the meeting accordingly until we have a quorum. Chair Robinson will be unavailable for this special meeting. Mr. Vice Chair, please advise if you are available to chair the meeting.

Thank you, in advance, for your time and responses.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 8:12 PM
To: Gail Brewer
Subject: Re: Region 3 quota meeting

Gail,

I will try and respond to your points below:

This was the first meeting I have been able to participate in to review adjusting the quota. The purpose of the review is to ask the department and specifically the biologist in the region if there is a biological need to adjust the quota. As you know the commission was told today that there was not a biological or scientific reason to adjust the region 3 quota from the quota that was set during the season setting quota which had lots of public comment.

I can assure you that I read and consider all public comments when I make decisions, including opposition to proposals. You may disagree with some of the commissions decisions, but I think this commission does a good job of listening to comments and asking the department tough questions.

I agree we can coexist with wolves, but I think they must be managed, including lethal management. I am not sure what is meant in your statement "When we kill to manage anything human or other animals, we continue to go down the path of killing and more killing and nothing is solved." I hope this is not saying that humans are "managed" through killing, unless you are referring to abortion of babies, which is way outside of the bounds of the FWP commission.

Montana is fortunate to have an abundance of wilderness that I believe will be here for our grandchildren. I could be wrong, but I do not believe most of the wolves being taken are taken out of the wilderness. I will continue to try and make decisions based on what is best for our wildlife holistically.

Thanks again for your comments.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Jan 30, 2024, at 4:58 PM, Gail Brewer <brewerg@peak.org> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Burrows,

I am writing again to you to tell you of my disappointment of today's meeting. Once again different voices were not given the time to speak. Wolf killing will continue in this region and

others. Commissioner Lane asked if there had been an uptick in the number of wolves killed in this region and the answer was no. I beg to differ. From the time the season started in September to December 31st 20 wolves were killed in this region, not counting WMU 313. From January 1st to today 21 have been taken. To me that is an uptick in animals killed. Also 3 of those wolves taken in January were collared and that is troubling for several reasons. A few weeks ago it was denied by MFWP that no wolverines were trapped incidentally when it appeared in front of the environmental quality committee. Proof demonstrated that indeed 5 had been trapped, 3 of which died, and yet MFWP wants to sue to keep wolverines off the ESL. The transparency is murky at best. I will continue to distrust MFWP until they can give all stakeholders in public land a voice. Other animals have an advisory group made up of different voices. My question is why not wolves? Why is the only method for wolf management to kill wolves? Hunting for food is fine with me, but hunting to kill for sport, to help trappers, hunters, the big agriculture and livestock communities, and politicians is wrong. Ranchers, farmers, and ethical hunters can and do coexist with wolves. I have yet to hear one reason why wolves must be killed to manage them. When we kill to manage anything human or other animals, we continue to go down the path of killing and more killing and nothing is solved. I hope that I or my grandchildren never have to live in a world where there are no wild places, only those controlled by those who do so for greed and sport.

I continue to hope that all can find common ground in these issues. Thank you for letting me voice my concerns.

Sincerely,
Gail Brewer

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Arnold, Randy
Subject: Re: Rennaker SGDH
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png

Thanks Randy, appreciate the heads up and I support the damage hunt.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Wed, Jan 24, 2024 at 11:27 AM Arnold, Randy <rarnold@mt.gov> wrote:

Commissioner Burrows,

Please find attached for your review and awareness a proposed supplemental game damage hunt on the Rennaker property in HD270. Dwain Rennaker has historically allowed access but elk simply weren't present for much of the regular hunting season. With the change in weather, a herd of approximately 200 elk are now camped on pastures important to his cattle operation. This approach should provide some hunters to dispersed elk until February 15th.

Thanks!

Randy

Randy Arnold | *Regional Supervisor*

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 542-5504 | Cell: (406) 552-8708



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:14 PM
To: Denise Boggs
Subject: Re: Shattered Minds: Trauma Scarring the Lives of Bears | by Gosia Bryja, PhD | Jan, 2024 | Medium

I will agree that moving bears, especially grizzlies is sensitive.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 7, 2024, at 6:35 PM, Denise Boggs <deniseboggs@hushmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for your response. Although the article does specifically mention black bears, it also mentions grizzlies (brown bears). The gist is when you constantly trap, use drugs, haze, relocate, etc. it is harmful to animals, bears in particular. I have numerous friends who are bear biologists and live among bears with no problems. The "problem" is always human.

FWP plans to translocate grizzlies. This has already been done in Canada with disastrous results. Most of these bears die. Dr. Barry Gilbert who was also mentioned in the article I sent, lives in Canada and works with grizzlies. He was appalled when he found out FWP was planning to do this.

Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them. They are alive poems."

~Joy Harjo

On Feb 7, 2024, at 4:04 PM, FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Ms Boggs,

I am not a wildlife biologist and will never claim to be an expert in wildlife biology, I do consider and rely heavily on expert opinions. Thanks for the article, it does reference bears in general and then specifically black bears in studies.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 6, 2024, at 6:17 PM, Denise Boggs
<deniseboggs@hushmail.com> wrote:

I may be wrong, but I don't think any of you are wildlife biologists, or experts in bear behavior. This is what is always missing when policies are made that affect bears and amuse humans. I hope you will read this article. I know Gianforte wouldn't care - would support killing every last grizzly in the state, esp. if he was the one doing the killing. But as an alleged "civil" society, it is far past time people recognize more than "dumb" animals.

<https://gbryja.medium.com/shattered-minds-trauma-scarring-the-lives-of-bears-324e66e59672> [gbryja.medium.com]

Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them, listen to them. They are alive poems."

~Joy Harjo

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfw.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Mary Shabbott
Subject: Re: WMU313

Ms Shabbott,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 14, 2023, at 5:29 PM, Mary Shabbott <mshabbott@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Commissioner Burrows,
Please close 313. Stop anymore Yellowstone wolves from being slaughtered.
Regards,
Mary Shabbott

Wickman, Erik

From: Kari I Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 5:52 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Wolf Harvest Quotas in Region 1

Thank you for your prompt response.

On Feb 7, 2024, at 4:09 PM, FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Dr Gunderson,

I believe the meeting is being scheduled for Friday at 2:00.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 7, 2024, at 4:06 PM, Kari I Gunderson <cnd2543@blackfoot.net> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Burrows,

I am a 3rd generation Montanan who has lived in Region 1 for 46 years.

I am writing to you regarding your requirement to schedule a meeting that follows the regulation that the FW Commission set to meet and review "with potential for rapid in-season adjustments" when a region, such as Region 1, is within 25% of quota. That time has come. Region 1 has an unusually high quota, exceeding what was initially a lower quota until R1 Commissioner Tabor introduced an amendment to increase the wolf harvest quota that was approved by the FW Commission. According to MDFWP Montana Wolf Harvest, 103 wolves have been harvested in R1, with a quota of 131 (<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34fbb4c9509e45959f6291965388c34> [experience.arcgis.com]). This does not include wolf deaths that have gone unreported, and/or illegally taken. Montana is rapidly reaching the 258 wolves taken in 2022/2023. Why haven't you scheduled a public meeting to review the quota in R1? If the FW Commission approved this requirement, why aren't you following it?

According to a University of MT survey (funded by MDFWP) It is apparent that you are ignoring the majority of Montanans who support a sustainable population of wolves on the landscape. The quotas that you have set are unsustainable, using questionable, outdated iPOM modeling (Crabtree, Koch, & Lele, 2023).

On January 12, 2023 a University of Montana survey found that wolf tolerance is growing for most Montanans. "In 2023, three-quarters of the general population group were tolerant or very tolerant of wolves. That's a big jump from 2017 when half the general population indicated they were tolerant. In the first survey in 2012, 41% indicated they were tolerant" (<https://missoulacurrent.com/survey-wolf-tolerance> [missoulacurrent.com]).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kari Gunderson, PhD

Swan Valley, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Josh Shandera
Subject: Re: Wolf management

Thanks Josh

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 16, 2023, at 6:48 AM, Josh Shandera <joshshandera2647@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear commissioners,

I'm writing to express my concern and disappointment in the way Montana continues to manage, or rather mismanage, their wolf populations. As a wildlife photographer and traveler, I have spent a great deal of time and money in the state of Montana and wolves are one of the primary reasons I visit. Ignoring the financial benefits that wolves bring to your state through tourism dollars is simply wrong and unfortunate. But more importantly, ignoring the ecological benefits that wolves bring to an ecosystem, of which we are a part of, is something that shouldn't be overlooked. As a keystone species, wolves regulate and maintain ecosystems in the way that they're meant to be. Without them, the negative impacts are felt at every level.

Unless wolves receive the federal protections that they deserve, I would urge Montana Fish and Wildlife to take a few things into consideration.

-Please adopt a more sound and scientific method for counting or estimating current wolf populations. The current methods are outdated and don't utilize the best available science when determining how to sustainably and ethically manage our wildlife. Relying on hunting communities to estimate the population numbers is a flawed and simply inaccurate way of determining those numbers.

-Traps and snares are dangerous, unethical, and often come with unintended consequences. These unethical methods, which also cannot be considered fair chase in any way, have no place in the wildlife management of any species.

-Hunting wolves leads to major pack instability. This is made evident when you look at the changes within the Yellowstone National Park packs after they've been disrupted because of the loss of pack members. Eliminating wolves from a pack through hunting can also lead to a higher incidence of livestock depredation. Hunting wolves does not decrease the likelihood of livestock being taken, as you would lead people to believe.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this email. I know that you're not in an easy position of developing management plans to appease both the hunting and the non-consumptive communities. In short, please just consider the value that wolves bring to the state and the ecosystem and understand that they really do have a place on the landscape.

Thank you,
Josh Shandera

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfw.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Ross Jolliffe
Subject: Re: Wolf quota

Mr Jolliffe,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 14, 2023, at 11:55 PM, Ross Jolliffe <r.o.jolliffe@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioners

WOLF QUOTA

I will keep this short as you may have a busy day ahead and I wish you wisdom and courage in your choices today.

Please bear in mind as you consider how many wolves to kill that each killing harms tourism. My family has, with sadness, abandoned plans for a visit to Yellowstone, and the great state of Montana, because we had hoped to see unmolested wolves in their natural habitat.

Observation is rendered less likely now as fear of people increases as wolves are killed, the killing just seems wrong when considering human v wolf impact on the US environment, and we don't want to appear support killing charismatic megafauna by travelling to the US us.

Please consider our own ancient wildlife mistakes here in the wildlife-impooverished UK GB ; our last wolf was killed by hunters in the seventeenth century and likely with the same justifications that are still made in America.

On the bright side, we have sent funding to the Voyageurs Wolf Project (<https://www.voyageurswolfproject.org/> [voyageurswolfproject.org]) who are studying wolf ecology and improving the evidence-base for wildlife management (and we are now thinking about visiting Minnesota).

All the best,

Ross

Ross Jolliffe
England

P.S. I associate the word 'harvest' with growing and gathering food, not this.

Wickman, Erik

From: LWren Walraven <wrendreams@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:09 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: Wolves

Hi Jeff thank you for your response. I just wish that the borders of Yellowstone could stay free of hunting. I don't think shooting a collared wolf should be legal. All that data lost.

Thanks,

Wren

L Wren Walraven
505-554-9051
www.wrenzart.com [[wrenzart.com](http://www.wrenzart.com)]
<https://linktr.ee/wrenzart> [[linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee/wrenzart)]

On Dec 16, 2023, at 9:53 AM, FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org> wrote:

Wren,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Dec 15, 2023, at 3:56 PM, LWren Walraven <wrendreams@gmail.com> wrote:

Commissioner Burrows,

Because there is no wolf pack in WMU please consider closing that WMU.

Thank you,

Wren

L Wren Walraven
505-554-9051
www.wrenzart.com [wrenzart.com]
<https://linktr.ee/wrenzart> [linktr.ee]

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:55 AM
To: joni madere
Subject: Re: WMU 313

Joni,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 15, 2023, at 2:39 PM, joni madere <jonimadere@me.com> wrote:

MtFWP Commissioners:

Nothing was more exciting and awe-inspiring than running into a majestic wolf while trail running way out in the middle of nowhere near Yellowstone in the mid-90's after they were re-introduced to the area. He or she just sat and watched me as I sailed by.

Having had discussions with local rancher friends and having followed this "issue" up-close ever since...

Please close WMU 313. No more "Yellowstone" wolves killed. Please. Thank you.

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:53 AM
To: marlenes52x
Subject: Re: WMU

Ms Smith,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 15, 2023, at 5:16 PM, marlenes52x <marlenes52x@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Burrows,

I am writing to you on behalf of Yellowstone wolves. I ask that you close WMU for good. No more killing these iconic symbols of a free America!

Sincerely,
M. Marlene Smith

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S9, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Good afternoon, everyone,

We have a quorum for the special meeting on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The wolf harvest in Regions 1 and 2 will be reviewed. Region 2 was added since they are currently at 70% and would likely have generated another special meeting prior to the Feb 16th regular meeting.

Chair Robinson, Vice Chair Tabor, and Commissioners Brooke and Burrows will be attending. The Zoom link will go out tomorrow. Press release will go out shortly and the Commission webpage has been updated to reflect the announcement.

Thank you ALL for helping me get this together!

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921

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[twitter.com](#)

Wickman, Erik

From: Marc Cooke <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 6:52 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] MWU 313

Jeff,

Thanks for the explanation. As soon as we get into the new year I will circle back to meet up with you. I will be at the RCC and look forward to chatting about the Ravioli Resource Plan. Thanks again for getting back to me.

All the best, Marc

On 2023-12-27 15:49, FWP. Commissioner Region 2 wrote:

Marc,

Thanks and hope you and the family had a good Christmas as well. Please see below timeline and explanation for the sixth wolf from 313.

The sixth wolf was taken on the evening of December 25th, Christmas Day. The hunters/trappers have 24 hours to report the take. The responsible party contacted the MRRE Call Center (out of state) after Noon on December 26th (well within the time frame required)

Wildlife staff have reviewed the audio from the call center. The caller reported to the MRRE call taker that the wolf had been taken from WMU 313. The call taker is heard to say, "So Region 3.". This is why the harvest was originally reported as being just generally in Region 3, because that's how the MRRE call taker sent it to FWP. What SHOULD have been sent to us from MRRE was what the caller told MRRE, which was specific to WMU 313. We didn't get the specifics, just the general report of a wolf taken in Region 3.

This is a training issue with MRRE that Wildlife Division has been made aware of and is addressing with urgency. It was later reported that the wolf had actually been harvested from WMU 313, at which point verification steps were initiated, research was done, and confirmation was made. The Director instructed me to send out an email to the two wardens in the North and South areas informing them personally of the pending closure of WMU 313, which I did immediately.

The regulations were followed to ensure closure is done 24 hours after notification/verification of the harvest, thus the press release from yesterday afternoon showing the closure date of today at sunset.

Jeff

*Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

| On Dec 26, 2023, at 4:38 PM, Marc Cooke <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org> wrote:

Commissioners,

I hope you had a nice Christmas and sorry to lean on you so soon after the holiday. The sixth Yellowstone wolf was killed yesterday. The notice of closure should have been issued yesterday. But only after we contacted the leadership of MtFWP did they even acknowledge this killing. Then, they put out a 24-hour notice that this WMU closes tomorrow.

This WMU should be closed today, just after sunset, and not tomorrow. This is typical and what we have tried to explain to all the commissioners. Now that this area closes tomorrow, many of the anti-wolf haters that call this area their home will be out in numbers trying to go over quota.

WMU 313 needs to be closed today and not tomorrow. This is wrong on many levels.

Sincerely, Marc

P.S. Please review email chain below. Also please see closure attachment.

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

Subject:Re: [EXTERNAL] MWU 313

Date:2023-12-26 15:31

From:Kim Bean <kim@wolvesoftherockies.org>

To:"Lemon, Greg" <GLemon@mt.gov>

Cc:Marc Cooke <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org>, Rob Farris-Olsen <rfolsen@mswdlaw.com>, "Clerget, Sarah" <sclerget@mt.gov>, Trap Free Montana <info@trapfreemt.org>, "Kujala, Quentin" <qkujala@mt.gov>, "Scolavino, Alexander" <Alexander.Scolavino@mt.gov>

Thank you. Do you have the number of the collar?

Kim Bean
Wolves of the Rockies
All Things Wolf and Wild Podcast
Kim@wolvesoftherockies.org
970-412-0905

On 2023/12/26 03:22 PM, Lemon, Greg wrote:

Kim,

Just confirmed with wildlife and the data on the wolf is it was killed in WMU 313, so we're closing it down now.

I'm not sure why it showed differently in the harvest data on the dashboard, but sounds like we're working to fix that too.

In Montana there are different hunting district for different species. This particular area has this confusing overlap.

Regardless, the quota is met and we're getting the notice out ASAP.

Thanks,

Greg Lemon

Administrator

Communication and Education Division

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 444-4038 | C: (406) 370-0077

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<image006.png>

From: Kim Bean <kim@wolvesoftherockies.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 3:20 PM

To: Lemon, Greg <GLemon@mt.gov>

Cc: Marc Cooke <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org>; Rob Farris-Olsen <rfolsen@mswdlaw.com>; Clerget, Sarah <sclerget@mt.gov>; Trap Free Montana <info@trapfreemt.org>; Kujala, Quentin <qkujala@mt.gov>; Scolavino, Alexander <Alexander.Scolavino@mt.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] MWU 313

Was this a YNP wolf? What is the collar number of this wolf - I would be able to tell from that.

Since when did WMU 313 become multiple units?

Kim Bean
Wolves of the Rockies
All Things Wolf and Wild Podcast
Kim@wolvesoftherockies.org
970-412-0905

On 2023/12/26 03:12 PM, Lemon, Greg wrote:

Kim,

According to our data, the wolf killed 12/25/23 was killed in Region 3 and in Elk/Deer Hunting District 313. This hunting district has a different boundary than Wolf Management Unit 313. The northern half of Elk/Deer HD 313 is outside of WMU 313.

So, it appears that the dashboard is correct, but we're double checking to make sure.

I'm including KC York on this email because she called with the same concern. We stand at the ready to issue a notice of closure once the quota in WMU 313 is met.

Thanks,

Greg Lemon

Administrator

Communication and Education Division

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 444-4038 | C: (406) 370-0077

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[\[youtube.com\]](#)

<image006.png>

[\[pinterest.com\]](#)

From: Kim Bean <kim@wolvesoftherockies.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 2:57 PM

To: Lemon, Greg <GLEmon@mt.gov>; Marc Cooke <marc@wolvesoftherockies.org>; Rob Farris-Olsen <rfolsen@mswdlaw.com>; Clerget, Sarah <sclerget@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MWU 313

Greg

WMU 313 summary is ONCE AGAIN -- incorrect with the data harvest report. This Yellowstone wolf was killed yesterday and FWP needs to ensure the Gardiner -WMU 313 is closed immediately and the summary updated.

This lack of notice allows hunters to go over quota. This notice should have gone out yesterday.

Please advise

Kim

--

Kim Bean
Wolves of the Rockies
All Things Wolf and Wild Podcast
Kim@wolvesoftherockies.org
970-412-0905

--

<fb3a441c.png>

Marc Cooke

Wolves of the Rockies

Stevensville, Montana

Cell: 406.493.5945

Marc@WolvesoftheRockies.org

501 C (3) All-Volunteer Org

<WMU 313 closure 26 Dec 2023.jpeg>

--



Marc Cooke

Wolves of the Rockies

Stevensville, Montana

Cell: 406.493.5945

Marc@WolvesoftheRockies.org

501 C (3) All-Volunteer Org

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:15 PM
To: Marilyn Wolff
Subject: Re: Gray Wolves Need Relisting

Marilyn,

I disagree that wolves need delisted. Wolf quotas are developed to sustainably manage wolf populations based on the best available science. Thanks for your comments.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 8, 2024, at 1:10 PM, Marilyn Wolff <wolffmarilyn@gmail.com> wrote:

Gray wolves need relisting under the ESA. Killing predators in MT including the gray wolf has become a profit-driven activity on public lands that has become a political football. Most Montanans are supportive of protections for the gray wolves. The minority is mostly trappers who just want to cruelly kill and sell their prey from public lands. This group should not be involved in state policy. Montanans expect sound scientific data to make decisions, not the pressure of special interests.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Wolff
Stevensville MT 59870

Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:30 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Honorarium update

Yes, and yes. No worries. My rep in Accounting changed (without my permission 😊) so I am re-teaching someone new. We will have it squared away shortly.

~E

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Honorarium update

Erik,

The expense report for the next meeting will be in arrears a couple meetings, can we get that squared away further in advance of the meeting. I am trying to keep County travel mileage for the fleet car straight. Also on the honorarium, I understand you will do that for us?

Thanks,
Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 4:25 PM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, commissioners,

I have discussed this with Accounting and have confirmed that your honorarium payments cover your travel to and from your homes as well. What this means is that if you leave your home for a meeting on, say, the 6th...and the meeting is on the 7th... and you drive home on the 8th, you get the honorarium (in this case \$100) for the 6th, 7th, and 8th because you are considered engaged in commission business during your travel dates as well. Example:

6 th	Travel in	\$100
7 th	Meeting date	\$100
8 th	Travel home	\$100

TOTAL \$300 - Honorarium

This changes nothing about what you send me, but it definitely DOES change how I enter your travel and meeting expenses. Going forward, please just send me your travel information in an email and let me fill out the voucher on your behalf. I know some of you submit the voucher, but we have a new voucher that is completely different and I re-enter your information anyway. So please make it easy on yourself and just send me the raw information in an email and I will complete the voucher for you; I also include your email with the voucher so nothing is edited or withheld.

Congratulations on your slight pay raise, and THANK YOU for everything you do!

~E

Erik Wickman

Commission Coordinator

Assistant to the Director

Director's Office | Headquarters Division

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 444-7826 | C: (406) 594-8921

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Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 11:50 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hotel Confirmations - Feb 15th

Thank you! I will cancel your hotel reservation.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 6:54 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hotel Confirmations - Feb 15th

Erik,

I will be in Pocatello for a recruiting trip for my son, but I will participate via zoom.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 8, 2024, at 6:12 PM, Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, commissioners,

Please find your hotel confirmations for the DoubleTree in Helena shown below in region order:

Commissioner Burrows	81459981
Commissioner Brooke	80149229
Commissioner Walsh	83294893
Chair Robinson	88013293
Commissioner Lane	81197709

Commissioners Tabor and Cebull have informed me that they will be attending virtually via Zoom. I will post these in the Google Drive as well so you have a back up location.

I have my card on file with Karlee at the DoubleTree, so when you check out please remind her that you are a Fish and Wildlife Commissioner and your bill should be paid using my card on file. I did this at the Delta Colonial as well, for those who like to stay with Marriott. Have Karlee call me if there are any issues.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921

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[youtube.com](#)

<image005.png>

[twitter.com](#)

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 9:50 AM
To: deborah slicer
Cc: Anja Heister; Angela Mallon; Connie Poten; cassandra rideg
Subject: Re: map

Deborah,

You can call the regional office. I have been assured that the nine mile watershed will have the hound hunting prohibition.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

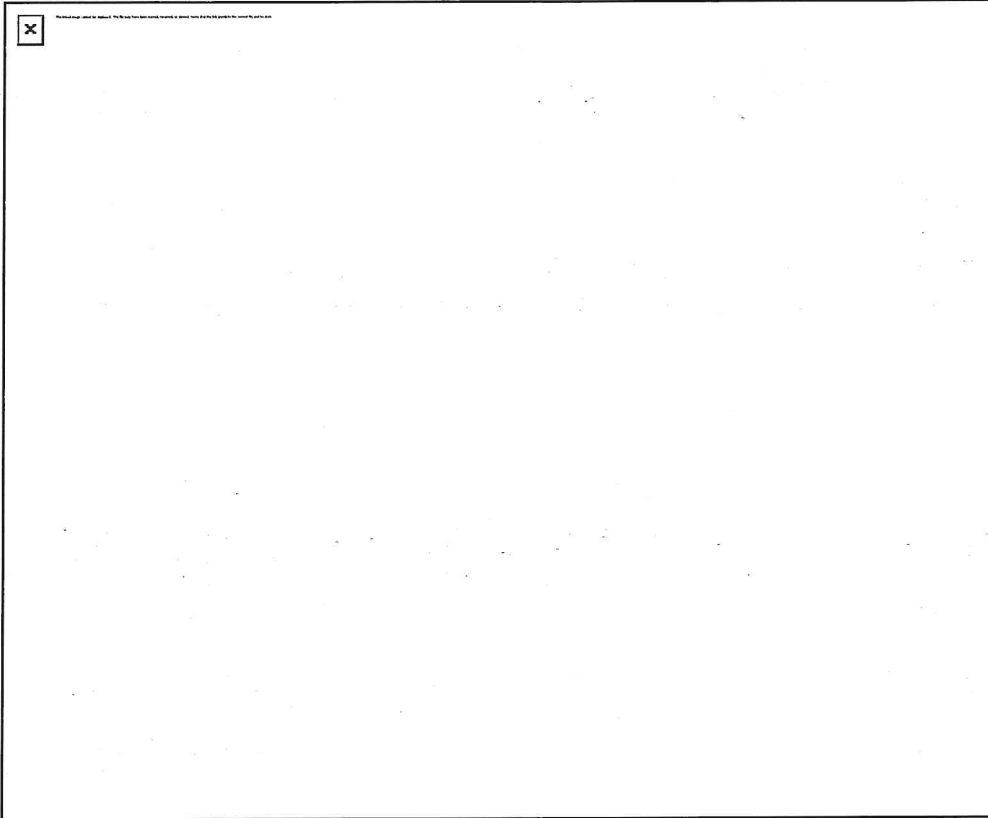
On Jan 29, 2024, at 4:55 PM, deborah slicer <deborahslicer031@gmail.com> wrote:

Jeff, Thank you for sending the map. When I look at it I worry that the upper 9 Mile Valley is out of the orange/protected area. Do you have a more detailed map? Or is there someone in FWP I can talk with about this? I've copied a few neighbors and friends in this email. Best, Deborah

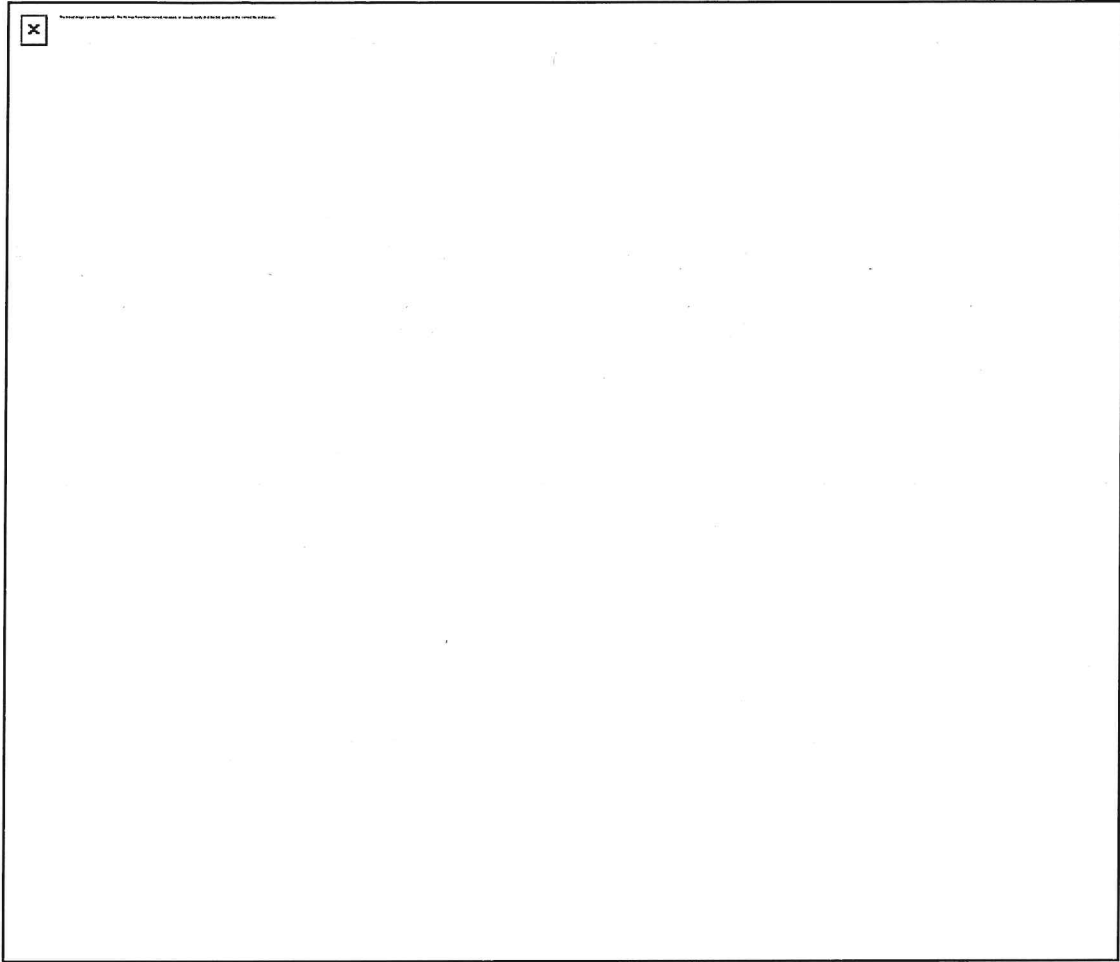
Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 11:23 AM
To: deborah slicer
Subject: Re: maps
Attachments: image007.png; image008.png

This is the proposed map showing the areas closed to hound hunting of black bears in orange.



This is the current map showing areas closed to hound hunting of black bears in blue.



Jeff Burrows
Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2

On Sun, Jan 28, 2024 at 9:01 PM deborah slicer <deborahslicer031@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello, Jeff,

I don't see the maps you meant to attach in your last mail to me. Could you please send them?

Thank you!
Deborah Slicer
9 Mile

Wickman, Erik

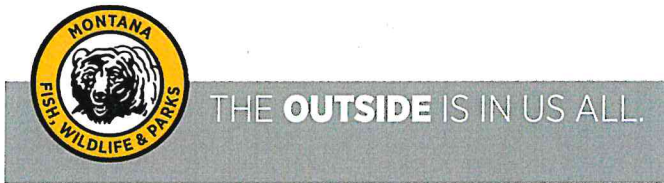
From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:08 AM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: New February Agenda Topic

No worries, Jeff. Thanks for keeping me in the loop!

All the best for you and the family!

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 3, 2024 11:20 AM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: New February Agenda Topic

Erik,

I may have to attend the meeting remotely, my son has a recruiting visit at ISU and is participating in the Simplot games. If I go I will make the meeting electronically.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows
Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 2, 2024, at 7:16 AM, Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning, commissioners,

There is a new topic under Wildlife Division on the Google Drive for the February meeting. The cover sheet is in the Wildlife folder in a sub-folder titled "ARM 12.9.101 Repeal".

The request for this topic is to initiate rulemaking to begin the repeal process through MAPA at the Secretary of State's Office. I have also attached the cover sheet here for ease of reference.

For your review and consideration,

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921

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<CS_FINAL EDIT_Big Game Management Policy Repeal_EW.pdf>

Wickman, Erik

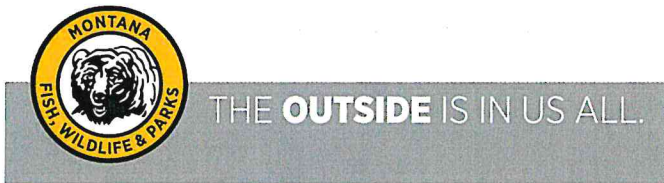
From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 2:31 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Shooting range update

Thank you, Jeff, for all your work on this! That gives us time to put the details together.

Moving forward!

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 2:22 PM
To: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Shooting range update

Erik,

See below from our Environmental Health Director on the junk cars at Whittaker:

I spoke with Brady with DEQ and they have to put the contract out for bid. He said he will get it written up and advertised for bid. I asked him to send me a link so I can send it to the people that have shown interest in it.

He said about 5-6 weeks.

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
Ph: (406) 438-1148

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 7:05 AM
To: Jeff Burrows
Subject: Signature Test

Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 7 <commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:02 PM
To: Wickman, Erik
Cc: Clerget, Sarah; FWP COMMISSIONERS; Graham, Robin; Kujala, Quentin; Rechkoff, Kevin; Viereck, Mackenzie; Wakeling, Brian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: ***Special Meeting Required***

I can be available on Thursday.

Bill

On Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:01 AM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good morning, commissioners,

There is a rather urgent need to schedule a special commission review based on the incidental capture of a lynx by bobcat trappers (see page 15 of trapping regs) over the recent holiday weekend.

While the details are different, this review will be similar to the commission review of wolf harvest in WMU 313, and is required by regulations.

Given time for public notice, Thursday would be the earliest but not later than this coming Friday, January 5th. The Vice Chair is 3 hours behind our time due to travel so the meeting will not be scheduled before 1:00 p.m. our time.

I am seeking availability time windows for each of you either Thursday (4th) or Friday (5th) between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be Zoom only and should not take long.

I have attached the Trapping Regs for ease of reference. You will find the information relevant to this incident on pages 12 through 15.

Once we have a meeting time set, with the required quorum of at least 4 commissioners, I will send out the Zoom link to all involved. Apologies for the late notice, but the incident occurred recently over the holiday weekend.

Please respond with your availability as soon as possible for this special meeting. I will also begin making phone calls after Noon today to assist with scheduling attendance.

Thank you!

~E

Erik Wickman

Commission Coordinator

Assistant to the Director

Director's Office | Headquarters Division

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 444-7826 | C: (406) 594-8921

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Wickman, Erik

From: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:22 PM
To: commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Special Meeting

Bless you, sir! Chair Robinson will be running the meeting. Should take about 10 minutes.

~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*
Headquarters | Director's Office
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



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From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:59 PM
To: commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org
Cc: Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov>; FWP COMMISSIONERS <FWP_COMMISSIONERS@mt.gov>; Rechhoff, Kevin <Kevin.Rechhoff@mt.gov>; Kujala, Quentin <qkujala@mt.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Special Meeting

Erik,

I am in Mexico, but should be able to participate if you need me for a quorum.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

Region 2 Commissioner

Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Ph: (406) 438-1148

commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org

On Feb 6, 2024, at 11:04 PM, FWP Commissioner Region 1 <commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org> wrote:

I'm available all day Friday from 9:00 am on
Pat

On Tue, Feb 6, 2024, 12:32 PM Wickman, Erik <Erik.Wickman@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, commissioners,

After discussing things with Legal, having the meeting tomorrow is too soon (not enough time for public notice). We are looking at Friday at 2pm now. This meets Legal's recommendations for proper public notice and is still a reasonable time to respond.

Additionally, since we are already at 70% of quota in R2, the review will encompass both Regions 1 and 2. This will also eliminate the need for an additional special meeting just for Region 2.

Please advise of your availability for Friday overall, and if 2pm works for you.

Thank you!

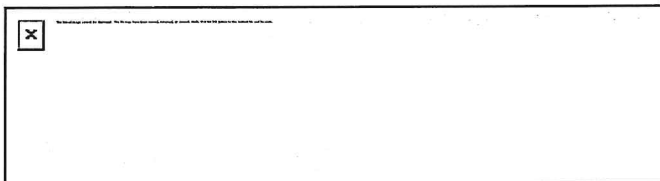
~E

Erik Wickman | *Assistant to the Director* | *Commission Coordinator*

Headquarters | Director's Office

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office: (406) 444-7826 | Cell: (406) 594-8921



Wickman, Erik

From: FWP Commissioner Region 2 <commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:59 AM
To: Bev Marie
Subject: Re: unit (WMU) 313.

Ms Marie,

I could not attend the meeting. My fellow commissioners decided to allow the 313 unit to stay open until the 6 wolf quota was filled and I support their decision. The quota decision was made with much discussion from all sides and consideration of the resource holistically.

Thank you for your comment.

Jeff

Jeff Burrows

*Fish and Wildlife Commissioner
Region 2*

On Dec 14, 2023, at 7:34 PM, Bev Marie <bev.marie56@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioner Tabor, Commissioner Burrows, Commissioner Brooke, Commissioner Walsh, Commissioner Cebull, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Lane

Please close unit WMU 313. No more killing Yellowstone wolves please.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely, Bev
Cincinnati Ohio

