

# #1

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 05, 2024 5:21:53 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 05, 2024 5:36:53 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:59  
**IP Address:** 72.175.34.238

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Will Vossler</b>
City/Town:	<b>Whitefish</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>William.vossler@gmail.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

I support the opening of Ray Kuhns WMA on April 14. This coincides with the opening of Turkey Season and will be advantageous to local turkey hunters.

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## #2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, March 08, 2024 10:22:36 AM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, March 08, 2024 10:52:51 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:30:15  
**IP Address:** 172.59.153.59

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Page 1

### Q1

Contact information:

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

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### Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

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.

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# #3

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:43:26 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:54:24 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:10:58  
**IP Address:** 63.153.84.110

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Mark Oswald</b>
City/Town:	<b>Hamilton</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>moswaldnra@yahoo.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

On behalf of the Ravalli Co.Fish and Wildlife Assoc., we would like to support the Region 2 biologist's recommendation of maintaining the closure of the Calf Creek WMA until May 15 of each year. Protecting the WMA during the stressful late winter/early spring period is critical. Mark Oswald, President RCFWA.

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# #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 1:04:34 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 1:07:54 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:20  
**IP Address:** 71.32.50.37

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Nancy Miller Valdez</b>
City/Town:	<b>Hamilton</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>ndmiller1978@hotmail.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

I support moving the Calf Creek WMA opener to May 15 from April 15. I have personally observed elk using that area over several years in the late April/early May timeframe.

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#5

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:04:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:07:41 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:35  
**IP Address:** 107.122.177.74

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Scharff**  
City/Town: **Stevensville**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **leelin549@hotmail.com**

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**Q2**

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

Please consider the limited April 15th opening again this year and into the future!!! Thank you

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#6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:30:54 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:32:16 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:22  
**IP Address:** 72.174.2.188

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

**Name:** Dan Tracey  
**City/Town:** Corvallis  
**State/Province:** MT  
**Email Address:** montana@backcountryhunters.org

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**Q2**

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

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 WMA Closure Exceptions.

Our members and supporters value our fair-chase hunting heritage and the wild public lands habitat needed to support it. Our thoughts on this come from a standpoint of doing what's best for the resource and then adding opportunity where it makes sense.

We support the Blackfoot Clearwater WMA closing on Dec. 1 at 11:59 p.m as this better aligns with the unique Hunting District 282 season dates.

We support the Calf Creek WMA closing on Dec. 1 and opening at noon on May 15th, as this better aligns with other WMA seasons and takes into account the increasing development in the area and lack of suitable winter range elsewhere.

We support adding an exception for the J. Ray Kuhns WMA and opening this on April 14 at noon. As stated in the proposal, this WMA is primarily white-tailed deer winter range and by mid-April, the deer have dispersed. Opening this WMA before the turkey opener will allow our members the ability to hunt turkeys on public lands.

Finally, we ask that FWP put added resources into enforcing these closures as trespass - specifically before opening dates for shed hunting - is becoming a growing concern amongst our membership.

In closing, we respectfully ask that the Commission approve the Agency Recommendation & Rationale for the proposed 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Dan Tracey, Volunteer Missoula Valley Board Member  
The Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

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# #7

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 10:42:35 AM  
**Last Modified:** Sunday, March 24, 2024 11:16:03 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:33:27  
**IP Address:** 98.164.194.164

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Ron Engelenburg</b>
City/Town:	<b>Mission Viejo</b>
State/Province:	<b>CA</b>
Email Address:	<b>rengelenburg@me.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

It makes no sense to open the Yellowstone river since its closure in 1958. Why fix something when its not broken! Not only because its sanctuary for wildlife, but you would be opening pandora box for numerous problems. Here again to make a blanket statement request by former FWP director Hank Worsch to regional staff asking them to "search out regulations that had no biological need or could be simplified seems" just it made more complicated. That section of the river can also be very dangerous for someone who doesn't know how to read it. I hope your decision comes with common sense to keep the river "CLOSED "!

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# #8

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 6:40:58 PM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 6:53:43 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:45  
**IP Address:** 63.153.84.110

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

Name:	<b>Mark Oswald</b>
City/Town:	<b>Hamilton</b>
State/Province:	<b>MT</b>
Email Address:	<b>moswaldnra@yahoo.com</b>

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

I am requesting that the Commission vote to keep the Calf Creek WMA closed to public access until May 15. This would make the Gate opening more in alignment with other WMAs. But more importantly, to allow Elk to stay on their winter range, until THEY want to migrate to summer range. Speaking to our local biologist, when she opens the gate on April 15, the elk are usually still down by the gate. As a result human visitation to the WMA forces the animals out of the winter range prematurely. This puts undue pressure on the neighbouring property owners land, and undue stress on the elk. For these reasons I encourage the Commission to keep the Calf Creek WMA closed to public access until May 15th of each year. Thank you for your consideration.

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#9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:59:24 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:12:04 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:40  
**IP Address:** 66.62.166.8

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Page 1

**Q1**

Contact information:

Name: **Edward W Stoddard**  
City/Town: **Columbia falls**  
State/Province: **MT**  
Email Address: **ed@fullcurlmanufacturing.com**

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**Q2**

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

I am in favor of letting the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as a biennial rule the game winter closure date exceptions as presented by FWP

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# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:12:05 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:10:22 PM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
**IP Address:** 184.166.66.121

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Page 1

## Q1

Contact information:

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

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## Q2

Please comment on 2024 WMA Closure Exceptions

MWF supports adjusting these WMA open/closure dates. Most of these deal with recreationists and shed hunters disturbing elk and deer wintering grounds, while another will provide a spring turkey hunt where deer security is not an issue. Each of these modifications show that FWP is taking winter range and ungulate security into consideration when allowing the public onto these grounds, and we applaud this effort. As fun as shed hunting can be, it should not come at the expense of animal security on WMA wintering grounds. Pushing elk and deer around, and sometimes off of, these WMAs at a time when energy conservation for elk and deer is essential, and leads to unnecessary stress on animals. This can easily be mitigated through these adjustments to these specific WMA's opening dates for public access. We appreciate FWP standing up for the essence of why some of these WMAs were created in the first place- as a place for refuge game animals when they need it most.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

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