

Wickman, Erik

From: Mack Konigsfeld <mackkonigsfeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:23 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the waterfowl closure on the Yellowstone

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Please don't consider opening this stretch of river to hunting. Our birds need a safe roost! Plain and simple. Hunting opportunity would decrease exponentially in this entire flyway! The closure of this body of water is one of the greatest wildlife management stories in the United States. It needs to stay closed if we want future generations to experience montana waterfowl opportunities!

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeremy DeVries <jdevries12@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:28 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supports for the Yellowstone Refuge

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

I don't see any sound reason to try and fix a problem, when no problem exists.

Jeremy DeVries
DeVries Insurance
(406) 860-0293

Wickman, Erik

From: Nick Johnson <njohnson2367@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:42 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River waterfowl closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Thank you!

Nick Johnson

Wickman, Erik

From: Mark Gipson <gibones1918@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:40 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river closures.

Please keep the river closed.

Wickman, Erik

From: Jay Sprott <wapatihunter77@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 5:12 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Waterfowl Closure

Dear Sirs,

My name is Jay Michael Sprott from Custer, Montana. I am an avid waterfowl hunter and do not want the Yellowstone River closure (waterfowl sanctuary) open to hunting waterfowl. Please keep it closed or you will move birds south. If you're concerned about the numbers then increase daily harvest limit.

Many landowners don't need the added trouble with potential trespass and other poor behaviors of some. The river is frozen most of the late hunting season and unsafe for increased jet boaters that won't let birds settle. Causing waterfowl migration to be interrupted and simply leave our area. I know for a fact that very few if any landowners along the Yellowstone River in question have been spoken to on their concerns. Again, VOTE NO! Keep it closed. Thank you for your time and full consideration in this matter.

Very Respectfully,

Jay M. Sprott
406-861-1861
PO Box 89
Custer, MT 59024

Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: NANCY NILE <nnile1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:28 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Yellowstone River Closure.

04/13/2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I adamantly support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Nancy Nile 
nnile1@hotmail.com
1943 Old Highway 10
Forsyth, MT 59327

Wickman, Erik

From: Kim Nile <nileenterprises@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:45 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

*Kim T. Nile
nileenterprises@yahoo.com
Forsyth, MT 59327*

Wickman, Erik

From: cody Hermes <cody_hermes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:57 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the Yellowstone closed to waterfowl hunting

Commissioner,

I fully support keeping the Yellowstone river closed to waterfowl hunting in the 86 mile stretch that is currently closed. The geese that winter in that corridor will not tolerate people hunting their roosts. Eventually the geese will fly over the river because there is no where safe to roost. The only reason that there is such a large number of birds in that 86 mile stretch is because the river is closed to hunting. When the geese leave so will the money from hunters, we spends thousands of dollars in local communities. Please keep the river closed.

Cody Hermes

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:cody_hermes@yahoo.com)

Wickman, Erik

From: Tim Johnston <trj59088@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 7:17 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners. Thanks for your consideration on this matter

Wickman, Erik

From: Cole Nile <farmerinthecity00@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 8:34 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers and landowners.

Wickman, Erik

From: Kristi Zentz-Nile <elvishasstripes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 8:40 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I support Commissioner Cebull's Amendment to keep the Yellowstone River closure in place. This is great for water fowlers and landowners.

Wickman, Erik

From: Gary Kirpach <1mtfiredog@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:01 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River proposal

I support commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River closure in place. This closure is great for waterfowlers and landowners.

Sincerely,
Gary Kirpach
Lewistown MT
Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Greg Lowe <lowegreg21@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:02 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Thank you,

Greg Lowe

Wickman, Erik

From: Tanner Price <tannerprice703@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:37 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners

Wickman, Erik

From: colby mitchell <deadeyemitch@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 10:29 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the YS river closed to hunting

The closure of this portion of the Yellowstone river is crucial to the regionally renowned premier goose hunting area this is. This sanctuary provides a resting area for migrating geese. This allows them to come off the river to feed in the fields on there own without being harassed by other hunters and anglers. This allows fathers like me to bring their children to an area likes this to hunt geese like nowhere else in the country. We spend 3-4 days there with the locals in that friendly farming community contributing mighty to the economy.

I am aware the goose population is much greater now than it was when the closure was enacted. This growing population is necessary for the success in this area.

Please keep this sanctuary closed to hunting for the sportsmen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

Wickman, Erik

From: Lindsay Rose <rosell816@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 6:30 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone closure

To whom it may concern:

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers, landowners, and local businesses!

Lindsay Farley

Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Kathleen Kirpach <kirpach@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 6:52 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone closure

I support Comissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers and landowners.... KC Kirpach Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: jeff fishingowlfarm.com <jeff@fishingowlfarm.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:44 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support Cebull amendment

Commissioners:

I'm writing in support of Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024 waterfowl regulations. Please leave the hunting restriction on the lower Yellowstone in place. This place of refuge has helped create some of the best waterfowl hunting in Montana if not the nation and there remains plenty of opportunities to gain access to hunt birds in fields on private land, block management and access other parts of the river via boat. Don't mess with what isn't broken.

Thank you-
Jeff Welch
Custer, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: BRADEN MITCHELL <bmitch5150@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:54 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure Amendment

Commissioner Cebull,

I wanted to send a quick email in support of keeping the portion of the Yellowstone River closed to hunting as it has been for many years. Opening it could have dramatic negative consequences on the economy of the surrounding area. The opportunities to hunt in those areas are plentiful with many of the land owners participating in the Block Management Program. Opening the river would increase some of the available hunting area, but it also might drive the wildlife away from the area as they no longer have an area for rest.

This is an important decision and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Thanks,
Braden D. Mitchell

Wickman, Erik

From: Richard Stoker <totaly_stoked@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 8:19 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river closure

Sent from my iPhone

As an avid waterfowl hunter and frequent visitor to Montana to partake in some of the best hunting I've experienced in a long while my thoughts of opening this stretch of river up to open hunting would do nothing but drive all the ducks and geese out of the area. Having this closed is the best refuge for these birds and actually keeps them in the area and is a perfect resting spot for all the migrating birds that arrive on a weekly basis. I and my friends have been hunting around this river for several years now and would hate to see this open to hunting. As time moves on in my eye the wildlife be it fowl or big game seems to always get the brunt end of everything even though everyone says it's best for them. This river closure IS THE BEST thing for these birds and I hope it stays closed!!!

Wickman, Erik

From: Scott Schissler <schissler32@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 8:24 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I am in favor of keeping the Yellowstone river. Closed Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Randy Southard <teamsouthard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 8:45 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commissioner Cebull

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-25 waterfowl regulations to keep the Yellowstone River closed to waterfowl hunting. The Yellowstone is a crucial roosting area for waterfowl and provides ample hunting opportunities along the river corridor.

Thank you
Randy Southard
Fort Benton MT

Wickman, Erik

From: Derek Mitchell <derek.mitchell@live.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 9:22 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please continue hunting restriction on Yellowstone River

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my support for the amendment to retain the restriction on waterfowl hunting on the 87-mile portion of the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer County line.

It has been my experience that having the river closed improves the hunting in the surrounding fields.

Regards,
Derek Mitchell
801-458-8540

Wickman, Erik

From: Roy Strong <rstrong@montanabones.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 10:50 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone Rive Closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Roy Strong, MBA, CMPE
Chief Executive Officer
Ortho Montana
Office 406-238-6732
Cell 406-690-0861
rstrong@montanabones.com

Wickman, Erik

From: Robert Butler <butlerrobert61@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 2:31 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cebull amendment to 24-25 waterfowl regs

Commissioners-

I support Mr. Cebull's amendment.

Thanks.

Bob Butler

Wickman, Erik

From: Robert Strecker <bobbyb@midrivers.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 9:13 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

To Whom it may Concern:

My Name is Robert Strecker. My family and I farm along the Yellowstone River, stretching from Custer MT to Rosebud MT. We allow water fowl hunting on all of our fields free of charge, only accepting tokens of appreciation and developing friendships along the way that have been passed down for generations.

My family and I very much support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River closure in place as it is. We strongly urge the rest of the commissioners to follow Commissioner Cebull's lead on the amendment as well.

If the river is opened to water fowl hunting, our 4500 acres of farm ground along her banks will be closed.

Sincerely,

Robert Strecker
President
Strecker Farms Inc.

406-860-1657

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

Wickman, Erik

From: Steven <peterman.steven@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 9:34 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waterfowl regulations on the Yellowstone.

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Steven Peterman

Wickman, Erik

From: Tina Sams <ttsams_821@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:48 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] River Opening Disagreement

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

*Tina Sams
80 Hwy 39
Forsyth, MT 59327*

Wickman, Erik

From: mchristian2@zoominternet.net
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:33 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place - I support Cebull's Amendment

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Wickman, Erik

From: Derrick Sander <derrick@abmechanicalcontractors.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 8:33 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river closed to hunting

I strongly support leaving the closure **as is** for the Yellowstone River. This is a very successful seasonal refuge for this birds and is critical for the community.

Wickman, Erik

From: jim moreland <jimmoreland41@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:28 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opening 87 mile stretch yellowstone river to waterfowl hunting

There is no scientific reason for this section of the Yellowstone River to remain closed anymore. You stated local hunters, business ect oppose changing or opening the river to waterfowl hunting. Who benefits keeping the river closed? Pheasant and deer hunters have access to the river. Fisherman with jet boats have access to the river. A few influential Ducks Untimed board members have field access near Rosebud.

Waterfowl hunters make up 1/2 of 1% of the total population in this country. How much can we possibly disturb the hunting of waterfowl on this section of the river? Or, are we disturbing someone's private little honey hole.

We live in a society where the tail wags the dog. The loudest bark is all we hear. Let's open the river back up for all to hunt. And, with a big push in this state for more river access sights in Eastern Mt sooner vs later is now.

Personally I do have access to field hunting near Hysham. But I think you are wrong on your decision. Stop letting the tail wag the dog. Open the river up to all.

Jim Moreland
3141 N. Daffodil
Billings Mt 59102
671-5502

Wickman, Erik

From: skyler mitchell <dawsix77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 12:57 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River

As an avid outdoorsman, I am writing to inform you of my **support** for Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone river closed to hunting.

Thank you for your time.

Skyler Mitchell

Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Parker Meek <parkermeek413@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 1:17 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

Good afternoon commission, my name is Parker Meek. I am the owner of Sage County outfitters. I would like to take a brief minute to talk about the discussion of opening up the Yellowstone river for hunting.

Before I start, I think it is important to bring up that I am not from Montana. I am from Beaumont, Texas, which happens to have one of the highest densities of water fowl hunters in the country. I think it is important to mention that due to the fact that I am used to public access and the struggle there of.

I think it is also important to note that I have been chasing ducks and geese all over the North American continent since I was a young child. I have spent many seasons in Canada, and most of the states between our shared border all the way down to the Texas Mexico border. I've spent a lot of time in Montana, Wyoming, both of the Dakotas and Nebraska. I have guided in Montana for five seasons now and will be starting my business in the great state of Montana starting this fall. The reason that I think it is important to grasp that is because I have spent much time all over this country and Canada establishing a good bit of water fowl knowledge, and what serious pressure from hunters really looks like.

To say that there is not an abundance of public opportunity in the state of Montana, specifically along the Yellowstone river corridor would be an absolute lie. Although I have not gotten a specific count, I'm going to say that there are at least 2 to 300 block management, and state land opportunities along the corridor that is currently closed. Over the last five years, I've hunted in the area quite frequently. Once the birds have arrived 75% of these block management areas have ducks and geese using them every single day and I would say on a Saturday or Sunday maybe one in 10 of those block management areas will have hunters on them. On a weekday, you can literally look at dozens of block management areas with birds on them and not a single Hunter around. I do, however, believe that one reason people think that these block management areas have so much pressure is because the landowners are using all of their friends and family to fill the days, but nobody ever actually hunts them. They are getting paid to sit and never let anyone hunt. I have encountered this problem several times myself when just trying to have a shoot with somebody buddies. However, that's a separate issue to be addressed at a different time.

I could keep going on for days about my opinion of this subject. But I will try and keep it short and sweet from here. The Yellowstone river closure is one of the biggest success stories in waterfowl history. I think it is extremely important to grasp who the vast majority of people saying that they would like to open it is. The majority of them are people that are new to hunting or do not know how to hunt properly. Hundreds of thousands of birds use this river closure as a migration stopping point and roost. They have this river imprinted on their mind and brain and to go in and shake the roost that has been well established for well over 50 years would be a monumental embarrassment and mistake.

All this would do would decrease the number of birds in Montana, and result in lower success among the majority of hunters in the future. There is nothing gained from hunter's perspective if this river is opened up.

Talk to anyone that hunted the bighorn 5 years ago plus, and ask them what they are seeing now, versus what they saw in the past. The answer will be less birds, more pressure, and more accidents. That is what the state is asking for if the Yellowstone is opened.

Signed, respectfully,

Parker Meek

Wickman, Erik

From: Peter R. Borowick <pborowick@briggsdistributing.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:42 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river waterfowl restriction

Retain the restriction on waterfowl hunting on the 87-mile portion of the Yellowstone River between the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers to the Rosebud-Custer County line that has been in place since 1958.

Thank you.
Pete

Wickman, Erik

From: Kenneth Jansa <kjansa2011@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:42 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone river closure

Thank you Mr. Cebull for putting forth your amendment to keep the Yellowstone river closed from the confluence of the Bighorn river to the Rosebud/Custer county line.

I would encourage all the Commissioners to support this amendment as well for the reasons stated by over 200 commenters to this topic.

Respectfully,

Ken Jansa

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:mail.onelink.me)

Wickman, Erik

From: Robert Farrell <mtgreenheads@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:18 PM
To: commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commisionerregion6@mtfwp.org;
commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.gov; KC Walsh;
commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org; FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Waterfowl Hunting Closure

Greetings-

I wanted to extend my support for Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 24-25 Migratory Bird regulations to keep the long-standing waterfowl hunting closure of the Yellowstone River intact. This has been of enormous benefit to migratory birds, our hunting traditions and the communities than benefit from our support during the hunting season.

I also would like to see FWP establish joint FWP/waterfowl hunting stakeholder committees in both the Central and Pacific Flyways. These committees would work together, along with USFWS to address our season, zones, limits, etc.

Respectfully

Bob Farrell
406.223.6890

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeremy DeVries <jdevries12@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 5:13 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone Refuge

It is encouraging that Commissioner Cebull has supported keeping the Yellowstone Refuge Area closed to waterfowl hunting. This protects and preserves the strongest genetic migration path in Montana for hundreds of thousands of migrating birds and the hunters that love to pursue them!

I would encourage the commissioners to take a MUCH LONGER LOOK (comment periods) on these types of issues! They impact so many Montanans! In most of these situations, every possible option has already been argued for and against for decades, and there are very good reasons why the system is set up the way it is currently. When listening to the general public, "the loudest person in the room".....well, you know that old saying. Thankfully, over 80% of Montana waterfowlers understand the value of this refuge to the entire migration.

Here's the short version:

We already have OUTSTANDING duck and goose hunting in that area.

Why would we try to "fix" a problem that doesn't even exist?

--
Jeremy DeVries
DeVries Insurance
(406) 860-0293

Wickman, Erik

From: Bill Buckley <bill@billbuckleyphotography.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 5:54 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone refuge status in place for waterfowling

Dear FWP:

Please consider this email as my support for Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the April 17th meeting. Opening the Yellowstone to hunting is a bad idea and threatens a successful and established management policy that thousands of public hunters have benefited from. Don't change something that works!

Sincerely,
Bill Buckley
Bozeman

Wickman, Erik

From: Phil Jacob <jacobphil383@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:19 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River waterfowl closure

ADOPT CEBULL AMENDMENT!

I learned of FWP proposed lifting of Yellowstone waterfowl closure AFTER public comment window closed. I then made a good faith effort to find an early reference to this proposal to lift closure on FWP website and could not find one.

Please direct me to sources (beyond an 11 year old survey and unsupported 'personal communications') that support lifting YRC.

I ask you to not reverse the decision to keep 13% of the Yellowstone River closed to waterfowl hunting.

Thank you for your time and consideration .

Phil Jacob
Moccasin Mt.

Sent from my iPad

Wickman, Erik

From: Clayton Elliott <clayton@montanatu.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:14 PM
To: FWP Commission
Cc: Ryce, Eileen; commissionerregion1@mtfwf.org; Temple, Dustin; commissionerregion2@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwf.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwf.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MTU written public comments on Swan River Fishing Regulation amendment
Attachments: 2024-04-05 SwanFishRegMTUComments FNL.pdf

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find attached written public comment submitted on behalf of Montana Trout Unlimited and Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited concerning the proposed amendment to the fishing regulations for the Swan River. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information from me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments.

I look forward to speaking to these on April 17th as well.

Sincerely,
Clayton Elliott

--
Clayton Elliott
Conservation and Government Affairs Director
Montana Trout Unlimited
clayton@montanatu.org
2802 State Street
Butte, Montana 59701
o: 406-543-0054
c: 307-272-6298
www.montanatu.org [montanatu.org]



Wickman, Erik

From: Doug Bing <dougb@blueribbonbuilders.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:03 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Support Commissioner Cebull amendment to keep the Yellowstone closed to waterfowl hunting intact

To FWP,

This section of the Yellowstone is a renowned Montana Wildlife Resource known national for its goose population and hunter access and success ! Affording safe Roosting Haven to the geese keeps large numbers of them in Montana for all to enjoy they will continue their migration without the Yellowstone River Safe Haven .

I support and ask you to support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-2025 Migratory Bird regulations to keep the Yellowstone river closure intact.

Thank You

Doug

DOUG BING
(406) 995-4574 EXT. 105



MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 160068, BIG SKY, MT 59716
PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 145 CENTER LANE UNIT L, BIG SKY, MT 59716
OFFICE: (406) 995-4579
MOBILE: (406) 580-4580
WEBSITE: WWW.BLUERIBBONBUILDERS.COM

Wickman, Erik

From: luke bing <luke.m.bing@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 7:41 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Keep the Yellowstone Closed

To whom it may concern,

I have been hunting the fields around the Yellowstone closure with my father since before I could hunt myself and continue to do so today. Some of my best childhood memories are of those hunts. Now 20 years later it appears I will not be able to share those same experiences with my own kids. This section of river has been a safe haven for waterfowl for generations, with no safe roost the waterfowl will simply continue their migration.

I support and ask you to support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-2025 Migratory Bird regulations to keep the Yellowstone river closure intact.

Thanks

--
Luke Bing
luke.m.bing@gmail.com
(406)580-4583

Wickman, Erik

From: Peter Bing <peterbing@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:28 PM
To: commissionerregion1@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwf.org;
commissionerregion3@mtfwf.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwf.org;
commissionerregion6@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwf.org; FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I whole hardily support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-25
Migratory Bird regulations to keep the Yellowstone River Closure intact

Hi Patrick, Jeff, Susan, KC, Brian, Lesley, Willaim,

I have enjoyed waterfowl hunting the fields around the 87 mile closed area for 25+ years.

*For many reasons, I wholeheartedly support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-25
Migratory Bird regulations to keep the Yellowstone River Closure intact.*

Please vote in favor of this amendment.

Thanks,

Peter

--

~~~~~  
Peter Bing  
406-600-6642  
~~~~~

Wickman, Erik

From: James Freyholtz <freyholtz@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:59 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Swan River Fishing Regulations Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I am a native of the Swan Valley and called it home for over 50 years. I am against the proposed amendment to change the regulations for eliminating the harvesting of rainbow on the Swan River.

First note the information contained in the "Proposed Amendment Language with Department Response" is not entirely accurate. It is indicating that the Swan River was historically catch-and-release for rainbow as well as cutthroat trout. In actuality prior to 2020 the regulations were for catch-and-release of rainbow and cutthroat from "Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake", and catch-and-release for cutthroat from "Swan Lake outlet downstream to the Highway 35 Bridge." However, prior to 2020 upstream from the Piper Creek Bridge the western District standard was in effect for harvesting of cutthroat and rainbow. (It should be noted that historically outfitters had operated mainly downstream from the Piper Creek Bridge.) The 2020 regulations changed to allow harvesting of rainbow as per the Western District standard and also changed cutthroat to catch-and-release for the entire Swan River.

Secondly the "Rationale & Background" indicates there was a meeting with "a group of constituents both outfitters and sportsmen" to discuss the issue and concerns; however, I have not yet heard from any of my Swan Valley neighbors (many who like myself are sportsmen) that were part of or even aware of any meetings to discuss concerns with the Swan River fishing regulations. (This gives a feeling of disappointment and one might say belittlement of Swan Valley residents.)

As previously stated I urge you not to approve the proposed amendment. Or at the very least table it to allow for complete and accurate information to be made available to all and thus providing for proper evaluation and comments.

James Freyholtz
Condon, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: Troy Sams <twoutfitters2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 5:08 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for amendment Brian Cebull keep Yellow stone river closed

I, my family, all of my neighbors, Forsyth business owners along the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River support Brian Cebull amendment to keep the law in effect since 1958, Yellowstone River closed to waterfowl hunting. Makes zero sense and when does not the people who live here on river count? We vote for your Bosses who appoint and hire your positions. We have always stood by and supported your decisions at FWP but this is totally stupid and will not be acceptable if this stretch of river is opened to waterfowl hunting. Your thought process not well thought out nor communicated well at all. Ashamed

Troy Sams, Owner
Trophies West Outfitters
260-350-1470
TWOutfitters2@gmail.com

Wickman, Erik

From: RICHARD LEWALLEN <rpdlew@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 7:18 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone Closure

I hunt waterfowl around Hysham and the lower Bighorn. I am in favor of leaving the closure in place. The geese leave the Bighorn early in the day and don't return until after sunset. The geese on the Yellowstone come and go all day long. Leave it as is.

Richard Lewallen
Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Lew and Eileen Melby <melbyanelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 9:38 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cebull's Amendment to keep the Yellowstone closed to waterfowl hunting.

One of the primary goals of the F&G Commission should be to increase public access for hunting and fishing.

Opening the Yellowstone River to waterfowl would do just that.

The only hunters who would oppose opening the river are those who have or rent hunting blinds and are afraid flight patterns will be interrupted or disturbed.

I and friends have hunted waterfowl on the Yellowstone for 40 years. It is great because of all the waterfowl hunting opportunities it provides while incorporating our stream access bill.

I would venture a guess that a select group has Cebull's ear. Otherwise, how can any commissioner oppose increasing public access !

I am a birder and love all waterfowl. I was on the first DU committee and set up the first DU Dinner in Dawson County. Anyone who has boated or floated on the Yellowstone knows it provides countless gravel bars, islands, and miles of shoreline on both sides of the river where waterfowl can rest. If geese are shot at or hazed from one spot they simply fly to another spot, maybe a quarter of a mile away. Given the 10's of 1,000's of Canada geese in the proposed area it would be virtually impossible to keep them off the river. That is where geese rest. Field hunters don't have to worry, even if the river is open to hunting, the geese will be going to the fields to feed.

One more thing to consider is the tremendous population of Canada Geese along the Yellowstone River. I bet most biologists would say that opening the river to hunting would have zero, that's right zero, impact on the goose population.

Lew Melby
Glendive

Are you attending the Montana Governor’s Conference on Tourism in Missoula, April 14-16?

We invite you to attend our session “Unveiling the Power of Tourism Research: Navigating Insights from Montana for 2024 and Beyond” on April 16th at 10:30 AM. Don’t have time to attend? Visit us at the Accelerate Montana exhibitor booth!

Agritourism Study – We need YOUR help!

Are you or anyone you know involved in agritourism? Whether it's through farmstands, u-pick services, accommodations, tastings, events, CSAs, tours, hunting opportunities, or any other visitor engagement—we want to hear from YOU!

We are leading a research project to explore Montana's agritourism sector. We invite you to take part in a survey! All responses are confidential. As a token of our appreciation, survey participants will have the chance to win a gift box of goodies from Chalet Market.

Your insights will contribute to a public report and further efforts to understand and advance agritourism across the state, enriching direct sales, education, recreation, entertainment, hospitality, and related activities.

To participate, please visit [ITRR Agritourism Survey \[umt.co1.qualtrics.com\]](http://umt.co1.qualtrics.com) . If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact us at itrr@umontana.edu.

On behalf of the ITRR team, thank you for your continued support!

Please do not reply to this message. To contact ITRR, please Ctrl+click the following link to send a message:
itrr@cfc.umt.edu

To unsubscribe from ITRR-L, Ctrl+click the following link to send an e-mail to ITRR-L.
Do not type anything in the subject line or message.

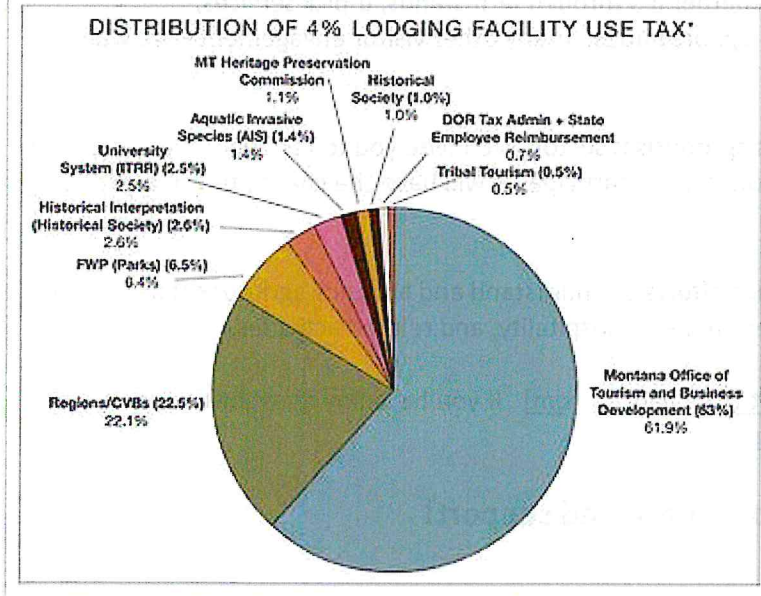
[ITRR-L Unsubscribe](#)

MONTANA PROMOTION FUNDING

The State of Montana levies two different taxes on accommodations that total 8%; the 4% Lodging Facility Use Tax and the 4% Lodging Facility Sales Tax. These taxes are collected from guests of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, guest ranches, resorts, and campgrounds.

The 4% Lodging Facility Use Tax, commonly known as the "Bed Tax", funds tourism related activities. Enacted by the 1987 Legislature, these funds are divided according to the chart below.

No additional funds come from Montana's General Fund. In fact, tourism helps to support the General Fund due to the additional 75% of the 4% Lodging Facility Sales Tax being directed to the General Fund. An additional 25% of this tax is directed to the construction of the Montana Heritage Center and historic preservation grants.



From: Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research <ITRR-L@LISTS.UMT.EDU> **On Behalf Of** Kara Grau
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:25 AM
To: ITRR-L@LISTS.UMT.EDU
Subject: [ITRR] Inside Look: New Reports on Montana Travel, Recreation, & Economic Insights for 2023!

Our team has been working hard behind the scenes analyzing our 2023 data. We're excited to announce that the 2023 Montana Travel Industry Summary and the 2023 Nonresident Visitation, Expenditures, and Economic Contribution Report have been published and are available for download!

[The Montana Travel Industry – 2023 Summary \[scholarworks.umt.edu\]](https://scholarworks.umt.edu)

This infographic explores the travel and recreation insights from the past year.

[2023 Montana Residents' Attitudes Towards Tourism \[scholarworks.umt.edu\]](https://scholarworks.umt.edu)

A summary of Montana residents' attitudes towards tourism from the 2023 season. To view the interactive data dashboard, [click here \[tableau.mus.edu\]](https://tableau.mus.edu).

[2023 Estimates - Nonresident Visitation, Expenditures, and Economic Contribution \[scholarworks.umt.edu\]](https://scholarworks.umt.edu)

This report is a collection of estimates of 2023 nonresident visitation to Montana, expenditures by nonresident travelers in the state, and the contribution to Montana's economy of that traveler spending.

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeff Reed <Jeff@reedfly.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:28 PM
To: commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org
Cc: Wickman, Erik; Wild Livelihoods
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: [ITRR] Inside Look: New Reports on Montana Travel, Recreation, & Economic Insights for 2023!
Attachments: Screenshot 2024-04-12 120535.png; Screenshot 2024-04-12 121225.png

[Erik, please forward this to the other commissioners.]

Hi Susan,

Passing this along. I pulled out the summary infographics and attached them. Yellowstone Country's tourism district numbers have not been published yet. Wildlife watching again made it in to the top activities (which is not being called out to diminish the value of hunting to the tourism economy, though the State's economist doesn't do a side by side comparison).

As a reminder, the lodging facility use tax (which is generated in large part due to the tourism traffic in to Yellowstone) in part goes to FWP. The overall spend exceeded state ag GDP, and we continue to work with our Ag partners on wildlife fencing funds, carnivore conflict funding, and voluntary drought mitigation plans (which is important to our local \$70M fly-fishing industry in Park County).

I'm sure you saw the recent media about the wolf incident in Wyoming, and we appreciate FWP's law enforcement's effort on the local poaching incident just outside of WMU 313, which we anticipate FWP is considering a reduction in quota for WMU 313 next year by one, with precedent in Wyoming doing the same in the past.

Regards,

Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition steering committee (now with 216 local tourism business members) and a new partnership with Trout Unlimited's Joe Brooke's chapter.

Wickman, Erik

From: eric archer <earcher1001@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 12:49 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Amendments

I very much support the amendments put forward by Commissioner CeBull. Both, in my opinion, are sound amendments based on the public input received.

Eric Archer, Belt MT

Wickman, Erik

From: Kenneth Jansa <kjansa2011@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:03 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Waterfowl Season Date Amendment by Commissioner Cebull

I like the season date changes being proposed by Mr. Cebull for Zone 1 of the Central Flyway in Montana.

But why stop there! Zone 1 would like to see the same season extending dates.

I would propose to ADD Zone 1 to Mr. Cebull's amendment to make the regulations more simplistic for the FWP department to manage and to allow extended hunting when the birds are here!

It was not that long ago that our extended dates were taken away from Zone 1. And as I have stated in my previous comments to the commission, we in zone 1 would appreciate getting those dates back as we have a ton of opportunity to hunt during the month of January with Fort Peck Reservoir and the Missouri river below the dam typically being open in January.

Thanks for considering!

Ken Jansa.

Wickman, Erik

From: Chase Mitchell <chastonmitchell@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:14 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

I would like to express my support for the amendment to keep the 87 mile stretch of the Yellowstone River closed to waterfowl hunting. As a non-resident, this is what brings me to that area of the state to spend my money and help support the local economy.

Thank you!

Chase Mitchell

Wickman, Erik

From: Matt Page <page89@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:25 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone Closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners!

The closure makes every experience in the area better. Please keep it in place.

*Matthew Page
801-425-0354*

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeff Faycosh <jfsheep58@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:29 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I support keeping the waterfowl resting area Yellowstone river closure from Big Horn River to Cottonwood Creek.

Jeff Faycosh

Wickman, Erik

From: Jeff Grovijahn <jgrovijahn55@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:32 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I agree with Commissioner Cebull to keep the 87 mile Yellowstone River closure in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Jeff Grovijahn

Worden Montana

Wickman, Erik

From: Taylor Bickerstaff <tbickerstaff0@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:47 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Waterfowl Hunting Closure

To Whom It May Concern:

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. I believe this is best for waterfowl, waterfowl hunters, and landowners.

Thank you,

Taylor Bickerstaff
3599 Sourdough Road
Bozeman, MT 59715

Wickman, Erik

From: Drew Mitchell <drewmitchell248@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 11:52 AM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

Dear Montana Wildlife Commission , I strongly -support- Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure regulations "AS IS" .

It's the best thing to do for all concerned .

Sincerily , Drew Mitchell

Wickman, Erik

From: Tex Yarnell <tex@voormi.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 12:40 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Yellowstone closed for waterfowl

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Ryan Yarnell
Hunt community Manager Turtlebox Audio
423-608-4401

EXTERNAL CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Use caution when clicking links and opening attachments from this source.

Wickman, Erik

From: George Liknes <george.liknes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 12:59 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2024-2025 Migratory Bird Seasons - Yellowstone River Closure Proposal

Dear FWP Commissioners:

Public comment demonstrated that local hunters, local business owners, county commissioners and landowners oppose the reopening of the 87 mile Yellowstone River Waterfowl River Closure, The benefits of keeping this closure in place outweigh the limited benefits provided by reopening the river.

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Please vote to maintain the Yellowstone River Closure by voting for Commissioner Cebull's amendment.

Thank you for considering these comments and your service to the sportsmen and wildlife of Montana!

Sincerely,
George Liknes

Wickman, Erik

From: Gene Bach <sweatsocks2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 1:42 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone Goose Closure

The only reason the goose hunting is so good on the east side of this state is because of the Yellowstone River being closed. Without that closure there is no place for the birds to rest. You'd have to be totally brain dead to want that river opened. Leave the damned thing CLOSED!!!

Gene Bach
Ennis, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: John Mayclin <johnmayclin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 2:21 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

FWP,

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in PLACE! This is the best thing for waterfowlers and landowners and keep waterfowl conservation and waterfowl hunting at an elevated level in the great state of Montana!

Thank you,
John Mayclin

Wickman, Erik

From: Evan Guenther <evanguenther@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 2:21 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Zone 1 needs zone 2 season dates.

I am emailing you in regards to the proposed season date changes in zone 2. I am in favor of those changes to zone 2 but I am from Glasgow and I would like to see these changes in zone 1 as well. Around the area where I live in Glasgow we usually have waterfowl around all winter long below the damn because the river typically does not freeze. I would like to see zone one season dates changed to push or season later in to January since we do not have many birds around to hunt till mid November. I know Bowdion and Medacine Lake freeze up sooner so an option would be to have McCone and Valley Counties added to zone 2 and leave everything else in zone one. If the dates can be change for zone 2 they can be changed in zone 1 as well. It is time for a change in the season dates in both zones. Why have the season open in October when no birds are here to hunt? Pushing the season later into January gives hunters more opportunity to hunt after other season like deer and elk have finally ended. Please consider this when making your decision. If it can be change in zone 2 it should be change for zone 1 as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Wickman, Erik

From: Rusty Coe <mt107157@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 2:36 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Keep the part of the Yellowstone river closed to waterfowl hunting. This closure has been a successful endeavor. As the old saying goes- if it ain't broke, don't fix it!!

Wickman, Erik

From: pat mccarthy <mhp189@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 2:39 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't open yellowstone river by Forsyth

Dear fwp comm

I am a lifetime goose hunter and resident of montana. I cherish my waterfowl hunting and pump thousands of dollars into the Forsyth community annually despite living in Winston mt. I rent houses, buy gas groceries and eat in restaurants in Forsyth. That community depends on my dollars and dollars from hundreds or thousands just like me.

Part of the reason the hunting is good there is because the river (roost) for the geese is closed to hunting. They have a safe place to roost and can be easily accessed by field hunting. Plenty of landowners allow goose hunting. There is block management and state lands.

I have hunted in other parts of montana and know from experience geese will leave if hunted on the roost. This will mean less geese in the area and less hunters. Fewer geese is less dollars and less hunting opportunity. It's that simple. Less dollars for the community and less hunting opportunity,

I believe one of fwp's missions is or should be to increase hunting opportunity.

Again please do not open yellowstone river to hunting in the Forsyth area.

Patrick mccarthy. Winston mt.

Wickman, Erik

From: DJH <hagen.davej@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:04 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure Amendment

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to leave the existing Yellowstone River Waterfowl Protection Zone in place.

Thank you,
Dave Hagen
Helena, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: William Poindexter III <billypdxunltd@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 3:06 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure

I support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to keep the Yellowstone River Closure in place. This is great for waterfowlers & landowners.

Thank you!

From: mtduckhunter@gmail.com
To: commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; [KC Walsh](mailto:KCWalsh); commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org; [FWP Commission](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellowstone River Closure Amendment
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:02:57 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I whole hardily support Commissioner Cebull's amendment to the 2024-25 Migratory Bird regulations to keep the Yellowstone River Closure intact.

I also encourage the Commission to direct the FWP to establish joint FWP/Waterfowl Stakeholder committees in each of the Pacific and Central Flyways. These committees will work together, along with the USFWS, to address Montana waterfowl seasons, zones, and limits.

Thank you for your service to the residents of Montana,
Steve

Steve Christian

PO Box 562
Colstrip, MT 59323
Cell – 406/740-1025
mtduckhunter@gmail.com