

MINUTES
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Meeting
FWP Wild Center – 2668 Broadwater
Helena, MT
DECEMBER 8 - 9, 2011

DECEMBER 8, 2011

Commission Members Present: Bob Ream, Chairman; Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chairman; Ron Moody; Shane Colton; A.T. Stafne.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: Joe Maurier, Director, and FWP Staff.

Guests: See December, 2011 Commission file folder for names of who signed in.

Topics of Discussion:

1. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes of November 10 Commission Meeting**
3. **Approval of Commission Expenses through November, 2011**
4. **Commission Reports**
5. **Director's Report**
6. **Commercial Use Permit Biennial Fee Rule - Final**
7. **Fort Peck Reservoir Management Plan – Final**
8. **2012 Helena Urban Deer – Proposed**
9. **Elk Archery Working Group Proposal - Informational**
10. **2012/2013 Moose/Sheep/Goat Seasons, Quotas Ranges, HD Boundaries—Proposed**
11. **2012/2013 Black Bear Seasons, Quotas Ranges and HD Boundaries – Proposed**
12. **2012/2013 Mountain Lion Seasons and HD Boundaries – Proposed**
13. **2012/2013 Bison Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries – Proposed**
14. **2012/2013 Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries – Proposed**
15. **2012/2013 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations - Proposed**
16. **2012/2013 Game Damage Quotas – Proposed**
17. **2012/2013 Hunting Season Dates – Proposed**
18. **Wolf Season Extension – Final**
19. **Use of Hunters to Remove Depredating Wolves – Final**
20. **2012/2013 Deer/Elk/Antelope Seasons, Quota Ranges, HD Boundaries—Proposed**
21. **Bison Relocation Decision - Final**
22. **Open Microphone – Public Opportunity to Address Additional FWP Issues**

1. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Ream called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2011.**

Action: Vermillion moved and Moody seconded the motion to approve the November 10, 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of the November Commission Expense Report.**

Action: Vermillion moved and Moody seconded the motion to approve the expense report as presented. Motion carried.

4. Commission Reports.

Moody said he attended a Devil's Kitchen Working Group meeting, and it proved to be a great day of communication. Ream said he observed the opening day of hunting at the Triple 8 Ranch near Canyon Creek. The Triple 8 Ranch only allows youth who have just gone through hunter training to hunt on their land, and a parent must accompany the youth. He noted that Bill Holdorf, an active sportsman and advocate for the resources, passed away at the age of 85. Vermillion reported that harvest was lower this season than in past years. He attended the Woolgrowers Association meeting in Billings to speak on hunter removal of wolves. A process to address commercial use on the Madison River will soon be initiated.

5. Director's Report. Director Maurier introduced Becky Jakes-Dockter as FPW's new Chief Legal Counsel, replacing Bob Lane who retired in November.

6. Commercial Use Permit Biennial Fee Rule – Final. Charlie Sperry, FWP Fisheries Bureau, presented the final Biennial Fee Rule pertaining to fishing access sites, wildlife management areas, and state parks for 2012 and 2013. Three changes are recommended to the rule that was proposed in October. Those changes are to charge a minimum fee for Restricted Use Permits (\$50 - \$100) for outfitters and water-based service providers, to charge a late fee (\$50) for failure to submit restricted use permit fees / records by the required deadline, and to add language allowing regional park or fisheries managers, or their designee, to select the fee system. Adding "or their designee" clarifies that it is often the site manager that selects the appropriate fee, so is not necessary to include the regional managers on routine decisions, and with the transfer of the FAS Program to the Fisheries Bureau, it is necessary to add the fisheries managers to the list of authorized staff. FWP already charges an annual fee for commercial use on the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Blackfoot and Madison rivers under the authority of ARM 12.14.160.

Action: Vermillion moved and Moody seconded the motion to approve the final Commercial Use Permit Biennial Fee Rule as proposed in Alternative A, inclusive of the Department's modification.

Mac Minard, MOGA, stated that they originally had concerns with designating authority to subordinate staff, but now agrees with it after Sperry helped him work through his concerns.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

7. Fort Peck Reservoir Management Plan – Final. Don Skaar, FWP Fisheries Bureau, explained that this plan is very important because Fort Peck Reservoir rates second in angling pressure in Montana, and the Fort Peck Hatchery enhances management of the Reservoir. Two changes were made to the proposed plan which include walleye management and not aggressively stocking northern. No public comments were received in response to the proposal.

Action: Stafne moved and Moody seconded the motion to adopt the Final Draft Fort Peck Reservoir Management Plan for 2012 through 2022. Motion carried.

8. 2012 Helena Urban Deer – Proposed. Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, reported that 425 deer have been taken so far. The City is now requesting approval to kill 200 more deer between January 20, 2012 and March 31, 2012.

Action: Ream moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the proposed 2012 take of urban deer by the City of Helena as presented by FWP and City staff, but increase the quota to 220 rather than 200.

Ron Alles, Helena City Manager, said this has been successful in the past, and people don't even know the officers are in their back yards taking the deer out. The deer population has climbed a bit but is not as high as before. He thanked FWP for their partnership. Meat goes to Helena Food Share.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

9. Elk Archery Working Group Proposal - Informational. Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, stated that the ten-member volunteer working group held five meetings. The group utilized a Structured Decision Making Process to develop a problem statement and fundamental objectives, and also assessed the performance of multiple season options. Dr. Mike Mitchell of the University of Montana Wildlife Co-op Unit was the facilitator, and several FWP staff members assisted with logistics and technical input. The recommendation of the working group is to maintain the status quo either sex elk archery permits. These existing permits are valid on all land ownerships within the described districts or portions of districts. Additionally, the working group recommends another set of either sex elk archery permits to each of the bundles in and out of the Breaks which would be available through the drawing as a first and only choice. These new permits would be valid only on private land outside Block Management Areas in a specific bundle. A person holding one of these new permits could not hunt an antlered bull elk in any other district during any other season that license year. Details are provided in the Elk section of the agenda.

Dr. Mike Mitchell, Montana Cooperative Research Unit, University of Montana, presented a Power Point presentation entitled "Structured Decision Making" which described the process the group utilized.

Vito Quatraro, Bozeman, said benefits to resident hunters are based on assumption rather than on concrete guarantees. The same amount of tags are sold, so money is merely redistributed. Other areas in the state welcome the money too. He takes issue with the assumption that this will work for everyone. Landowners already have the option to open their land so this proposal does not guarantee anything. He recommended maintaining status quo in the Breaks, and treating the 22 adjacent units as applicable.

Steve Kamps, Montana Bowhunter's Association, did not feel that only five hunters serving on the working group was an adequate representative of the larger hunting group across the state, and he pointed out there were no members from west of the Divide. He feels the "Easterners" receive preferential treatment. It will draw primarily non-residents.

Adam Barker, MBA, has concerns regarding the implementation of enforcement of the permits. The end result now is more restrictive than before.

Mac Minard, MOGA, endorsed the process that was used on this project. He encouraged putting this proposal out for public comment. Limiting permits costs the state money.

J.W. Weston, Park City, said he believes in I161 - it was passed by the people of Montana. Either take no action on this proposal and leave things the way they are, or put it out for public comment. He goes on record as opposing this proposal.

Tom Madden opposes the working group's proposal. It negates I161, which was passed by Montana voters. This will only benefit non-resident archers. There are no rules and regulations in place.

John Gibson, Public Land and Water Access Association, said this is a public resource, and public resources are not a revenue earning objective. He said it is a special interest group trying to get more. Reject the proposal.

Robert Allen said he is against permits. Permits were developed because numbers were too low, and now permits are because the numbers are too high. He doesn't understand the problem. This all goes on the backs of the archers. Now he has to pick an area, first choice only. He does not want to hunt on the west side of the state.

Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation, feels that three alternatives is a good idea. Creating a new permit structure on private land is called ranching for wildlife. That makes it seem as though you have more right to wildlife than anyone else when that is not the case.

Tom Tyrie, Billings, said limited permits came about in the first place because of non-resident hunting, and their knowing there was a certain number of non-residents that could hunt. Unlimited opens up hunting to the every-day hunter.

Terry Snow, Glasgow, Elk Archery Working Group member, said there is confusion by the people who are making comments. The intent of the proposal was to distribute the elk from private ranches to public land, and should make getting

a permit for residents easier. Private ranches must have enough hunting to distribute elk. This proposal will help resident hunters in the breaks, as well as everywhere else.

10. 2012/2013 Moose/Sheep/Goat Seasons, Quotas Ranges, HD Boundaries—Proposed.

Moose

Region 1

HD 100

Change lpt: 100-00.
From: 12 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 12 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 101

Change lpt: 101-00.
From: 12 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 12 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 102

Change lpt: 102-00.
From: 14 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 14 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 103

Change lpt: 103-00.
From: 3 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 3 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 104

Change lpt: 104-00.
From: 5 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 5 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 105

Change lpt: 105-00.
From: 20 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 20 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 106

Change lpt: 106-00.
From: 12 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 12 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 110

Change lpt: 110-00.
From: 12 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 12 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 111

Change lpt: 111-00.
From: 10 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 10 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 112

Change lpt: 112-00.
From: 3 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 3 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 121

Change lpt: 121-00.
From: 4 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 4 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 122

Change lpt: 122-00.
From: 4 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 4 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 125

Change lpt: 125-00.
From: 3 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 3 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 130

Changed HD status to CLOSED.

HD 140

Change lpt: 140-00.
From: 2 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 2 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 141

Change lpt: 141-00.
From: 2 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 2 **Antlered Bull** licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

HD 150

Change lpt: 150-00.
From: 1 Either-sex license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Moose.
To: 1 **Antlered Bull** license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

Region 3

HDs 306, 307, 310

Changed HD status to OPEN
Change lpt: 310-20.
From: 1 Antlered Bull license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.
To: 1 Antlered Bull license. **Valid in HD 306, 307, or 310**
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Moose.

Change lpt: 310-20 quota range from 1 - 1 to 1 - 4

HD 319

Remove lpt: 319-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 323

Change lpt: 323-20 quota range from 4 - 10 to 1 - 10

HD 325

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Moose Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.

Sheep

Region 1

HD 121

Changed HD boundary description (enlarge)

HD 122

Changed HD boundary description (reduce/adjacent to HD 121)

Region 2

HD 210

Changed HD status to OPEN.

Change lpt: 210-00.

From: 10 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
To: **2** Either-sex licenses.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery

Remove lpt: 325-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 326

Remove lpt: 326-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 327

Remove lpt: 327-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.
Change lpt 327-20 annual quota from 4 to 3
Change lpt: 327-20 quota range from 3 - 10 to 1 - 6

HD 340

Remove lpt: 340-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 341

Remove lpt: 341-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 350

Remove lpt: 350-10. 1 Antlerless license.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless Moose.

HD 380

Changed HD boundary description (adjust to proposed HD 390 expansion)

HD 390

Changed HD boundary description (enlarge to include area along bndy with HD 380)

Only Season.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

Remove lpt: 210-30. 2 Adult Ewe licenses.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

Sep 05 - Sep 14 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.

HD 216

Changed HD status to OPEN.

Change lpt: 216-00.

From: 8 Either-sex licenses.

Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery

Only Season.

Sep 15 - Oct 31 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

To: **2** Either-sex licenses.

Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery

Only Season.

Sep 15 - Oct 31 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
Remove lpt: 216-30. 20 Adult Ewe licenses.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Oct 31 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

Region 3

HD 301

Change lpt: 301-10.
From: 5 Any Ram licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Any Ram Bighorn Sheep.
To: 5 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

HD 302

Add lpt: 302-30. 5 Adult Ewe licenses. This is a remote
backcountry unit. Access may be difficult.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Oct 31 Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.
Quota range 1 - 10

HD 315

Change lpt: 315-00.
From: 2 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
To: 1 Either-sex license.
Sep 05 - Sep 14 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep. Archery
Only Season.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

Action: Vermillion moved and Moody seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.

Goat

Region 2

HD 240

Change lpt: 240-00

From: 1 Either-sex license. Valid north side of Tin Cup
Crk drainage to the Lost Horse Crk Rd to Bear Crk Pass.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.
To: 2 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Change lpt: 240-00 quota range from 1 - 1 to 1 - 5

Remove lpt: 240-01. 1 Either-sex license. Valid from the
Lost Horse Crk Rd north through the entire Roaring Lion
and Sawtooth drainages.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-02. 1 Either-sex license. Valid from
Canyon Crk through the Sheafman Crk drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-03. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Fred Burr drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-04. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Bear Crk and Sweathouse Crk drainages.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-05. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Big Crk drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-06. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Kootenai Crk drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-07. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Bass Crk drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 240-08. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in the
entire Sweeney Crk, One Horse Creek, Carlton Creek,
through the South Fork of Lolo Crk drainage.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

HD 250

Close HD

Remove lpt: 250-00. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in
portion of hunting district
north of Nez Perce Rd and West Fork Rd.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Remove lpt: 250-01. 1 Either-sex license. Valid in
portion of hunting district
south of Nez Perce Rd and West Fork Rd.
Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Region 3

HD 313

Change lpt: 313-00.
From: 69 Either-sex licenses.
Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

To: **84** Either-sex licenses.
Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Change lpt: 313-00 quota range from 40 - 90 to 40 - 100

HD 314

Change lpt: 314-00.
From: 14 Either-sex licenses. Gallatin Closed Area
(buffer zone adjacent to

Yellowstone Natl Park) has been renamed the
Gallatin Special Management

Area - closed to Mtn Goat hunting.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

To: **30** Either-sex licenses. Gallatin Closed Area (buffer
zone adjacent to

Yellowstone Natl Park) has been renamed the
Gallatin Special Management

Area - closed to Mtn Goat hunting.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Change lpt: 314-00 quota range from 12 - 25 to 10 - 40

HD 323

Change lpt: 323-00.
From: 26 Either-sex licenses. Deckard Flats-Eagle Crk

portion of HD 323 as posted, subject to closure to all
hunting on a 24-hour notice.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

To: **38** Either-sex licenses. Deckard Flats-Eagle Crk
portion of HD 323 as posted, subject to closure to all
hunting on a 24-hour notice.

Sep 01 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Change lpt: 323-00 quota range from 15 - 40 to 15 - 60

Region 4

HD 451

Remove Hunting District.

Remove lpt: 451-00. 1 Either-sex license.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

HD 453

New hunting district (south portion of old HD 451
above).

Add lpt: 453-00. 2 Either-sex licenses.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mountain Goat.

Quota range 1 - 4

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP.

Tony Jones, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife, said they support these changes.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

11. 2012/2013 Black Bear Seasons, Quotas Ranges and HD Boundaries – Proposed.

Region 1

Remove spring license validation

Region 2

BMU 216

Change general license season description:

From:

Apr 15 - May 31 Either-sex Black Bear.

Apr 15 - Jun 15 Either-sex Black Bear. Deer/Elk

HD270 portion of BMU216.

Sep 01 - Sep 14 Either-sex Black Bear. Archery

Only Season.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Black Bear.

To:

Apr 15 - **Jun 15** Either-sex Black Bear.

Sep 01 - Sep 14 Either-sex Black Bear. Archery

Only Season.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Black Bear.

BMU 240

Change general license season description:

From:

Apr 15 - May 31 Either-sex Black Bear.

Apr 15 - Jun 15 Either-sex Black Bear. Deer/Elk
HD250 portion of BMU240.

Sep 01 - Sep 14 Either-sex Black Bear. Archery
Only Season.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Black Bear.

To:

Apr 15 - **Jun 15** Either-sex Black Bear.

Sep 01 - Sep 14 Either-sex Black Bear. Archery
Only Season.

Sep 15 - Nov 25 Either-sex Black Bear.

Region 4

BMU 420

Changed BMU boundary description (expand north and
east)

BMU 440

Changed BMU boundary description (reduce size—area
lost to BMU 450))

BMU 450

Changed BMU boundary description (enlarge—

incorporate portion of BMU 440)

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.

12. 2012/2013 Mountain Lion Seasons and HD Boundaries – Proposed.

Statewide

Allow unsuccessful special lion license applicant to purchase a general lion license valid only during Fall season without dogs.

Region 2

Replace current special lion regulation with hybrid. Starting February 1, any unfilled quota may be taken with special lion license or general lion license.

Region 3

HD 309

Open lion season. Quota = 5 legal mountain lions.

HD 380

Separate from HD 370. Total quota = 6 legal lion, female subquota = 2

HD 350/370

New group. Total quota = 2 legal male.

HD 339/343/388

New group. Total quota = 4 legal male.

HD 318/335

New group. Total quota = 2 legal male.

Action: Moody moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP.

Charlie Johnson, Bitterroot Elk Working Group, supports the proposals.

Roland Dean, MHA, supports the hybrid season.

Howard Jones, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife, supports portions of the proposal. They support the January date, but not the proposed February date.

Rod Bullis said the hybrid system opens old wounds. How do you control the non-residents? There was an unacceptable take by nonresidents before – now they will over-run the quota, and unethical chases will occur.

Steve Kamps, MBA, stands behind the hybrid proposal. It provides the opportunity to hunt trophy cats and use dogs.

Steve Hall, Missoula, said populations of ungulates are crashing. He supports anything that will reduce predator numbers.

Representative Pat Connell, House District 87, supports the hybrid season. This is a safety net to maintain an elevated quota. The predators are killing the elk.

Action on Motion: Moody moved to amend the motion to incorporate a change of HD boundary 298. Vermillion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. 2012/2013 Bison Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries – Proposed.

No proposed changes to existing regulations.

Action: Vermillion moved and Moody seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Bison Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.

14. 2012/2013 Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries – Proposed.

Statewide

Extend Mountain Grouse season thru January 1.

Region 1

Remove all turkey special permits, permit areas and closed areas and open all of Region open to Spring and Fall general season.

Region 2

Turkey - Mineral County

Open Spring and Fall special permit areas.

282-20: Spring Season. Male Wild Turkey. 100 permits.

282-50: Fall Season. Either Sex Wild Turkey. 50 Permits.

Turkey - Ravalli County

Eliminate Bitterroot Watershed Hunting District

Establish Spring and Fall general turkey seasons in Ravalli County

Turkey - Missoula County

Eliminate Bitterroot Watershed Hunting District

Establish Spring and Fall general turkey seasons in Missoula County

Region 4

Turkey - Cascade County

New set of 10 special licenses for wild male turkeys in Spring season

Action: Moody moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Quotas as proposed by FWP.

Colton inquired how the bird populations fared in Region 7 after the hard winter.

Brad Schmitz, FWP Region 7 Supervisor, replied that sharp-tail grouse did fairly well, but pheasants are lower than average due to flooding, and turkeys have declined in the forests, partially due to forest management practices. They are not out of the woods, but things are better than expected. He feels that good residual nesting cover is responsible.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

15. 2012/2013 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations – Proposed.

Sandhill Cranes - Broadwater County

Open new limited permit hunt area for Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes.

Sandhill Cranes - Golden Valley County

Expand the existing Wheatland, Meagher and portion of Sweetgrass County Sandhill Crane permit area to include Golden Valley County.

Canada Geese

Increase dark goose daily bag limit in Central Flyway from 4 to 5 birds.

White Geese

Increase white goose daily bag limit in Central Flyway from 6 to 20 birds.

Increase white goose daily bag limit in Pacific Flyway from 6 to 10 birds.

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations as proposed by FWP and pending compliance with Federal frameworks. Motion carried.

16. 2012/2013 Game Damage Quotas – Proposed.

REGION	DEER	ELK	ANTELOPE
1	100	50	0
2	400	600	50
3	1400	2000	200
4	1500	1000	450
5	1400	600	300
6	5000	500	100
7	5000	200	500

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Game Damage and Management Season Quota authorizations as proposed by FWP.

Ron Wetsch, Drummond, said they have tried several means to catch elk and move them. He has 500 head of elk near his house, as well as many predators. He loses feed and grain. Seasons need changed. He may turn his land over to licensed outfitters to take care of the problem. He wants more help from FWP.

Brian Quigley, Avon, suggested allowing 65 year old people, and older, to shoot a cow without buying a special tag. Matt Graveley, Avon, said they have an elk distribution problem due to wolves.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

17. 2012/2013 Hunting Season Dates – Proposed.

Proposed 2012 Season Dates

Season	Dates/Process
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/11 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/1 – 10/5 (First Saturday of September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/6 – 11/11 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 11/25 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)
Bison	11/15 – 2/15
Black bear spring	4/15 – 5/15 (some districts end later)
Black bear fall - archery	9/1 – 9/14 (First Saturday of September to 9/14)
Black bear fall	9/15 – 11/25 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer/elk/lion archery	9/1 – 10/14 (First Sat in Sept to Sunday before general deer/elk opener)
Deer/elk backcountry	9/15 – 11/25 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer youth	MEA Days not confirmed until January 2012; likely to be 10/18 – 10/19
Deer/elk general	10/20 – 11/25 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion fall	10/20 – 11/25 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion winter	12/1 – 4/14
Sage grouse	9/1 – 11/1
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1

Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1 (proposed to change from 12/15)
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (9/1 to 1/10 for portion of Carbon County)
Pheasant	10/6 – 1/1 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 1/1)
Youth Pheasant/Youth Waterfowl	9/22 - /9/23 (weekend before start of general waterfowl)
General Waterfowl	9/29 Start date (Saturday nearest 10/1; End date to be adopted late summer 2012 per federal frameworks)
Turkey spring	4/14 – 5/20 (2nd Saturday in April to 3 rd Sunday in May)
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Proposed 2013 Season Dates

Season	Dates/Process
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/10 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/7 – 10/11 (First Saturday in September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/12 – 11/10 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 12/1 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)
Bison	11/15 – 2/15
Black bear spring	4/15 – 5/15 (some districts end later)
Black bear fall - archery	9/7 – 9/14 (First Saturday of September to 9/14)
Black bear fall	9/15 – 12/1 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)

Deer/elk/lion archery	9/7 – 10/20 (First Sat in Sept to Sunday before general deer/elk opener)
Deer/elk backcountry	9/15 – 12/1 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer youth	MEA Days not confirmed until January 2013; likely to be 10/17 – 10/18--not adjacent to general season start, overlap with archery
Deer/elk general	10/26 – 12/1 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion fall	10/26 – 12/1 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion winter	12/1 – 4/14 start date overlaps end date for general deer/elk
Sage grouse	9/1 – 11/1
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1 (proposed to change from 12/15)
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (9/1 to 1/10 for portion of Carbon County)
Pheasant	10/12 – 1/1 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 1/1)
Youth Pheasant/Youth Waterfowl	9/21 - /9/22 (weekend before start of general waterfowl)
General Waterfowl	9/28 Start date (Saturday nearest 10/1; End date to be adopted late summer 2013 per federal frameworks)
Turkey spring	4/13 – 5/19 (2nd Saturday in April to 3 rd Sunday in May)
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Action: Colton moved and Moody seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Hunting Seasons Dates as proposed by FWP.

Mary Ellen Schnurr, MOGA, supports the proposal.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

18. Wolf Season Extension – Final.

The proposal is to extend wolf hunting season through January 31, 2012, unless a WMU quota or subquota is met earlier.

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to extend the wolf hunting season to February 15, 2012 and relax the hunter orange requirement for wolf hunting effective immediately. (See clarification of motion on next page).

A gentleman from Missoula (via AV system) agreed with the motion, and said to keep the season open until quota is filled.

Mark Cooke, National Wolf Watcher Coalition, said he is against this motion. If people aren't getting wolves when weather is good, how will they get them when there is deep snow? How will the existing study happen if the rules are changed?

Mary Ellen Schnurr, MOGA, said she applauds the extended date and removal of the hunter orange requirement.

Troy Whitman supports this extension and the removal of the hunter orange requirement.

John Wright supports the extension and the removal of the hunter orange requirement, but wants the season open until quotas are filled.

Brian Quigley supports the extension and wants the season open until the quota is met.

Tony Jones supports the extension to February 15.

Ben Lamb, MWF, supports the proposal. He said it is a great example of adaptive management.

Steve Kamps, MBA, supports the proposal.

A man from the Bitterroot said he is not in favor of doing anything rash until statistics are gathered.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

19. Use of Hunters to Remove Depredating Wolves – Final. Hunters would be used to complement existing efforts by landowners and Wildlife Services. Livestock producers must have allowed a reasonable amount of no fee wolf hunting access during the wolf hunting season in order for hunters to participate on their properties. A pool of hunters will be identified, but will not come from a roster. There are no proposed changes to what was presented in November.

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the process for wolf depredation removal by hunters in 2012 and 2013 as presented by FWP. Motion carried.

20. Open Microphone. There were no comments made.

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*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. on December 8, 2011.

## DECEMBER 9, 2011

**Commission Members Present:** Bob Ream, Chair; Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chair; Ron Moody; Shane Colton; A.T. Stafne.

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present:** Joe Maurier, Director, and FWP Staff.

**Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Ream called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, asked that the wolf extension motion be clarified to reflect when the removal of the hunter orange requirement would take effect.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to clarify that the relaxation of the hunter orange requirement included in the wolf season extension is effective immediately. Motion carried.*

### **21. 2012/2013 Deer/Elk/Antelope Seasons, Quota Ranges, HD Boundaries—Proposed.**

#### Deer

#### **Statewide**

The youth deer hunt item was assigned a 2011 sunset by the FWP Commission in February 2010. The statewide deer youth season is proposed to be repeated on MEA days for 2012 and 2013. In 2013, the projected MEA dates would overlap with the last Thursday and Friday of the archery season—one week before the general deer season. Archers would be required to wear orange on these two days if these youth deer season dates are adopted.

#### **Region 1**

##### HDs 120, 132, 170

Change lpt: 170-10.

From: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Up to two licenses per hunter. Valid in HD 170 and portion of HD 132 outside of State School Trust Lands and Natl Forest boundaries. Not valid on the Kuhns WMA. Legal descriptions and map available from FWP-R1 HQ 406-752-5501 in Kalispell.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Up to two licenses per hunter. Valid in HD 170 and on private land only in HD 132 and HD 120 (not to include Stoltze Lumber Company or Plum Creek lands in HD 120). Not valid on the Kuhns WMA.

Legal descriptions and map available from FWP-R1 HQ 406-752-5501 in Kalispell.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

#### **Region 2**

##### HD 201

Add lpt: 201-02. 100 Antlerless licenses. Only valid on private land in the Ninemile/Sixmile Area.

Sep 01 - Jan 15 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Arch Equip only.

Quota range 5 - 300

##### HD 210

Change lpt: 210-50.

From: 100 Antlered Buck permits. Permit must be used with a valid General Deer License. Holders may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlered Buck Mule Deer.

To: 50 Antlered Buck permits. Permit must be used with a valid General Deer License. Holders may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlered Buck Mule Deer.

HD 213

Change lpt: 213-00.

From: 5 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

To: 25 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

HD 215

Remove general license mule deer buck harvest

Add lpt: 215-40. Unlimited Antlered Buck permits. Permit must be used with a General Deer License. Hunters may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlered Buck Mule Deer.

HD 240

Add lpt: 240-50. 25 Antlered Buck permits. Permit must be used with a valid Deer A License. Holders may not hunt Antlered Buck Mule Deer in any other HD.

Oct 01 - Oct 15 Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Valid inside wilderness boundary only. Quota range 1 - 40

HD 250

Add lpt: 250-60. 10 Antlered Buck permits. Permit must be used with a valid General deer license. Holders may not hunt Antlered buck mule deer in any other HD.

Oct 01 - Oct 15 Antlered Buck Mule Deer. Valid inside wilderness boundary only. Quota range 1 - 15

**Region 3**

HDs 388 weapons restriction area

Change lpt: 003-10.

From: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Resident/Nonresident. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Only valid in all Region 3 HDs except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA.

Aug 15 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Resident/Nonresident. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Only valid in all Region 3 HDs except Canyon Ferry WMA and Lake Helena WMA.

Aug 15 - Jan 31 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

HD 302

Add lpt: 302-00. 25 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Quota range 25 - 150

HD 319

Change lpt: 319-00 quota range from 75 - 150 to 10 - 150

HD 324

Add lpt: 324-00. 50 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Quota range 5 - 150

HD 328

Add lpt: 328-00. 15 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Quota range 10 – 150

HD 329

Add lpt: 329-00. 25 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Quota range 25 – 150

HD 333

Change lpt: 333-00.

From: 50 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in portion of HD between Interstate 90 and Hwys 287 and 359.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

To: 50 Antlerless licenses. (Valid entire HD)

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Remove lpt: 333-01. 50 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.

HD 341

Remove lpt: 341-00. 40 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

HD 343

Changed HD boundary description (remove Fort Harrison)

HD 388

Changed HD boundary description (add Fort Harrison)

**Region 4**

Brinkman Game Preserve

From: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Resident/Nonresident. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Only valid all Region 4 HDs except HD 455.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Valid entire HD including Brinkman Game Preserve.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To: Unlimited Antlerless licenses. Resident/Nonresident. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Valid all Region 4 HDs except HD 455.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Valid Brinkman Game Preserve. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Valid Brinkman Game Preserve.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

Change lpt: 400-01.

From: 400 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in HDs 400, 401, and 406.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To: 400 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in HDs 400, 401, and 406.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Valid Brinkman Game Preserve. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Valid Brinkman Game Preserve.

HD 405

Changed HD boundary description (more recognizable bndy, reduce HD, also for elk)

HD 447

Changed HD boundary description (more recognizable bndy, enlarge HD, also for elk)

**Region 5**

HD 500

Change general license season description:

From:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

To:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

HD 570

Change lpt: 570-00 quota range from 50 - 500 to 25 - 500

Change general license season description:

From:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

To:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

HD 575

Change general license season description:

From:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

To:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 **Antlered Buck** Mule Deer.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

**Region 6**

HDs 600, 611, 620, 621, 622, 630, 631, 632, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652, 670, 680, 690

Change lpt: 699-00.

From: 4000 Antlerless licenses. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Valid in all of Region 6 HDs.

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To: **1000** Antlerless licenses. Antlerless White-tailed Deer B License. Valid in all of Region 6 HDs.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.  
Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

HD 640

Change general license season description (adjust from 3-week to 5-week season):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.  
Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.  
Oct 20 - Nov 11 Either-sex Mule Deer.  
Oct 20 - Nov 11 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.  
Nov 12 - Nov 25 Antlerless Mule Deer.  
Nov 12 - Nov 25 Antlerless White-tailed Deer.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Mule Deer. Archery Only Season.  
Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex White-tailed Deer. Archery Only Season.  
Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Mule Deer.  
Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex White-tailed Deer.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP.*

Pat Martin, said he lives in a deer merry go round. He was surprised on reduction of deer doe quota in the Bridger's.

Steve Kamp suggested the Commission change the proposal to not require hunter orange during the archery season.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

Elk

**Region 1**

HD 101

Add lpt: 101-82. 20 Antlerless licenses. Valid on private land only in Tobacco Plains portion of HD 101.

Nov 26 - Feb 15 Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 5 – 100 (this B license addresses trans-boundary elk from Canada)

HD 109

Add lpt: 109-82. 20 Antlerless licenses. Valid on private land only.

Nov 26 - Feb 15 Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 5 – 100 (this B license addresses trans-boundary elk from Canada)

HD 121

Added new Portion: Heron Flats.

Add lpt: 121-82. 20 Antlerless licenses. Valid on private land only in Heron Flats portion of HD 121 excluding Stimpson Lumber Company and Avista Land.

Nov 26 - Feb 15 Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 5 – 100 this B license addresses trans-boundary elk from Idaho)

**Region 2**

HD 201

Change lpt: 201-81.

From: 5 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in Four Mile Area.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

To: 20 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in Nemote Creek Area.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Adjust portion boundary (Nemote Creek Area)

HD 202

Remove lpt: 202-80. 5 Antlerless licenses. Only valid between Trout and Quartz Creeks.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Change general license season description (remove antlerless):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 **Brow-tined Bull Elk.** Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk. **(no antlerless)**

HD 203

Remove lpt: 203-80. 5 Antlerless licenses. Only valid east of Petty Crk-Graves Crk road.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Change general license season description (remove antlerless):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 **Brow-tined Bull Elk.** Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk. **(no antlerless)**

Remove from list of HDs where 002-80 antlerless B license is valid

HD 210

Add lpt: 210-81. 300 Antlerless licenses. Valid only on private lands outside National Forest.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Quota Range 50 - 600

Change lpt: 210-80 quota range from 5 - 600 to 50 - 600

HD 240

Add lpt: 240-80. 50 Antlerless licenses. Valid South of Lolo Creek Drainage. Private land only

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk. Valid South of Lolo Creek Drainage. Private lands only.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Valid South of Lolo Creek Drainage. Private lands only. Archery Only Season.

Added new Portion: South of Lolo Creek.

Quota range 5 - 300

HD 270

Change general license season description (remove general license bull):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

Add lpt: 270-40. Brow-tined Bull permits. Unlimited permits. 1st choice only.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull Elk. Archery Only Season.

HD 283

Add 283-83: 50 antlerless B licenses, general rifle season.

Quota range 5 – 100

Add 283-84: unlimited antlerless B licenses, archery equipment only (subdivision), 12/1-2/15

Changed Portion: Rattlesnake Wilderness Portion of HD 283 (clarify boundary). This applies to 283-20 and 283-82.

### **Region 3**

#### HD 312

Changed HD boundary description (clarify boundary)

#### HD 313

Add lpt: 313-20. 30 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless permits. Only youth ages 12-15

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 1 - 50

Add lpt: 313-40. Brow-tined Bull permits. Unlimited permits. 1st choice only

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Remove lpt: 313-81. 15 Antlerless licenses. Only valid west of the Yellowstone River.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Remove lpt: 313-80. 15 Antlerless licenses. Only valid east of the Yellowstone River.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Change general license season description:

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull Elk. Archery Only Season. (remove general season general license)

#### HD 314

Change general license season description (remove general season antlerless):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Antlerless Elk.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

#### HD 319

Add lpt: 319-80. 5 Antlerless licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 5 - 75

#### HD 332

Change general license season description (adjust from antlered bull to BTB):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlered Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

#### HD 339

Remove lpt: 339-80. 500 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Change general license season description (change to full general season BTB/antlerless):

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Spike Bull or Antlerless Elk. Any elk having antlers which do not branch. If branched, branch must be less than four inches long measured from the main antler beam. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Spike Bull Elk. Any elk having antlers which do not branch. If branched, branch must be less than four inches long measured from the main antler beam.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Spike Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

Nov 12 - Nov 25 Spike Bull or Antlerless Elk.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Spike Bull or Antlerless Elk. Any elk having antlers which do not branch. If branched, branch must be less than four inches long measured from the main antler beam. Archery Only Season.

**Oct 20 - Nov 25 Spike Bull or Antlerless Elk.**

#### HD 340

Adjust lpt 340-80 annual quota from 250 – 300

Change lpt: 340-80 quota range from 250 - 400 to 100 - 400

#### HD 343

Change general license season description (eliminate general license antlerless)

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Brow-tined Bull Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 11 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

Nov 12 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

**Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.**

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

#### HD 360

Changed HD header notes (may not take 2 elk in HD).

Change general license season description:

From:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

**Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.**

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

#### HDs 360, 362

Remove lpt: 398-80. 500 Antlerless licenses. Resident/Nonresident Elk B License.

Only valid on private lands in HDs 360 and 362.

Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.

Add lpt: 398-81. 50 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 20 - Oct 26 Antlerless Elk.

Add lpt: 398-84. 100 Antlerless licenses.

Nov 10 - Nov 16 Antlerless Elk.

Add lpt: 398-85. 100 Antlerless licenses.

Nov 17 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Add lpt: 398-82. 100 Antlerless licenses.

Oct 27 - Nov 02 Antlerless Elk.  
Add lpt: 398-83. 100 Antlerless licenses.  
Nov 03 - Nov 09 Antlerless Elk.

HD 361

Change lpt: 361-80 quota range from 50 - 75 to 5 - 75

HD 362

Changed HD header notes (may not take 2 elk in HD).

Change general license season description:

From:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

To:

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Brow-tined Bull or Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Brow-tined Bull Elk.**
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15 and hunters with a PTHFV.

HD 380

Changed HD boundary description (clarify boundary)

**Region 4**

HD 422

Changed HD boundary description (enlarge—incorporate portion of HD 424)

HD 424

Changed HD boundary description and/or header notes (reduce—incorporate portion into HD 422).

HD 425

Change lpt 425-80 from 20 to 25 antlerless B licenses, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license  
Change lpt 425-81 from 20 to 30 antlerless B licenses, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license  
Change lpt 425-82 from 25 to 35 antlerless B licenses, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license  
Change lpt 425-83 from 30 to 35 antlerless B licenses, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license  
Add lpt 425-84: 35 B licenses valid Nov 12 – Nov 18 throughout HD, quota range  
5 – 60, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license  
Add lpt 425-85: 35 B licenses valid Nov 19 – Nov 25 throughout HD, quota range  
5 – 60, allow successful applicants to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> antlerless elk with general license

**Region 5**

HDs 500, 570

Add lpt: 500-80. 25 Antlerless licenses. Only valid in HDs 500 and 570.

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Quota range 25 – 50

**Region 6**

HDs 620, 621, 622

Change lpt: 620-80 quota range from 50 - 300 to 100 - 500

HDs 620, 622

Remove lpt: 622-00. 100 Antlerless permits. Only valid in HDs 620 and 622.

- Sep 01 - Oct 14 Antlerless Elk. Archery Only Season.
- Oct 20 - Nov 25 Antlerless Elk.

Change lpt: 622-80 quota range from 50 - 500 to 50 - 1000

HDs 680, 690

Change lpt: 690-81 quota range from 25 - 300 to 25 - 400

**Region 7**

HD701

Adjusted general elk season in a portion of HD701 from antlerless-only to either sex; not valid north of the Yellowstone River south of Highway 12 and west of Sumatra Myers Road.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to approve the 2012 and 2013 Elk Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.*

Brenden Daly suggested eliminating the antlerless elk privilege that goes along with the permit to hunt from a vehicle.

Tony Jones asked the Commission to strike the antlerless portion from the hunt from a vehicle permits.

Marvin Mace asked the Commission to look into instituting a waiting period for bull elk in trophy areas.

Pat Martin, Bozeman, requested lowering the quota in HD620-15 to 800.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

*Action: Moody moved and Colton seconded the motion to propose that any successful applicant for a limited bull elk permit valid during the general rifle season would be ineligible to apply for an antlerless Elk B license valid in that same hunting district. This is specific to rifles. Motion carried.*

*Action: Ream moved and Colton seconded the motion to eliminate the antlerless opportunity from the Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle, statewide.*

Mac Minard, MOGA, asked if this would be revisited should they be successful in tightening legislation on this issue, to which Ream replied to the affirmative.

Kujala clarified that under the general license there is an opportunity for youth and those holding a Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle to take an antlerless elk on their general licenses.

Rod Bullis said he believes this proposal would help return respect to the disabled hunters program. There is abuse of the program now.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**ELK ARCHERY**

The elk archery working group recommendation maintains the status quo either sex elk archery permits as listed below. These existing permits are valid on all land ownerships within the described districts or portions of districts.

Inside the Missouri River Breaks

HDs 410/417 (biennial quota range 1600 – 1900)  
HDs 620/621/622 (biennial quota range 1100 – 1300)  
HDs 700/701 (biennial quota range 500 – 820)

Outside the Missouri River Breaks (annual quotas set at 90% of previous year's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice eligible resident/nonresident applicants)

—  
HDs 401/403/450 HDs 411/412/426/511/530  
HDs 420/447/455  
HDs 500/570  
HDs 502/510 (west of Hwy 310)/520 (south and east of West Fork of Rock Crk)/575  
HD 580 (south of Sweetgrass Creek)  
HD 590 (and portion of HD 701 north of the Yellowstone River, south of Hwy 12 and west of Sumatra-Myers Rd.)

HDs 702/704/705

To this status quo, the elk archery working group recommends another set of either sex elk archery permits to each of the bundles in and out of the Breaks. These new permits would be available thru the drawing as a first and only choice. These new permits would be valid only on private land outside Block Management Areas in a specific bundle. A person holding one of these new permits could not hunt an antlered bull elk in any other district during any other season that license year. The number of these new permits would ultimately be set to accommodate the number of outfitted nonresident archery elk hunters in each of these bundles in 2007. For the 2012 and 2013 hunting seasons, these new permits would be initially available thru the drawing in unlimited fashion only to determine what an appropriate number of limited permits would be needed to accommodate a number of nonresidents equal to the number of outfitted nonresident archery elk hunters in each of these bundles in 2007. These permits would only be valid on private lands outside Block Management Areas. The focus is on the *number* of successful nonresidents—they may or may not be outfitted. After the 2013 hunting season, these new permits would become limited. These new permits would be initiated in all bundles for the 2012-2013 seasons. These new permits would remain in place in any one district if the elk population objective was met or maintained OR if an annual harvest prescription was met. This annual harvest prescription would be developed by FWP staff with consideration of achieving a population objective in not more than 6 years.

There would be an assessment of these circumstances every two years within the biennial season setting process. FWP would use population trend surveys and harvest surveys to assist biennial assessments. If there was no clear and consistent reaching or maintaining a population objective or annual harvest prescription during the two year interval, these new permits would be removed until a subsequent two year evaluation revealed the population objective or annual harvest prescription was clearly and consistently reached. In addition, the recommendation would maintain the existing working group (to include the specific persons to the extent possible) through at least one 2-year cycle of review for these permits. This group would meet twice annually to assess the effectiveness of this recommendation. In addition to evaluating the elk population status relative to objective and harvest, this group would attempt to assess harvest of bull elk on different permits, elk distribution on public and private lands during the hunting season, effectiveness relative to fundamental objectives (see below), public access levels (looking for no net loss) and outfitted acres.

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to provide five alternatives for public comment.*

1. *The Working Group recommendation (as above)*
2. *Status Quo*
3. *Status quo with potential permit level adjustments to bundles and permit numbers*
4. *Working Group recommendation with modifications to include mandatory reporting for the two-year period to include identification of the sex and where the animal was taken with the guaranteed permit, and that if the prescription is not met, cow-only / antlerless-only on private lands within those districts*
5. *Retain the 2007 season structure*

Vito Quatraro said the working group's proposal is not fair to resident rifle hunters and is setting a dangerous precedent.

Mac Minard, MOGA, appreciates the five alternatives as they cover the full range of possibilities. He supports the motion.

Steve Kamps, MBA, opposes the alternatives and is opposed to the working group's recommendations.

Ben Lamb, MWF, said this is such a contentious issue, the offer of the alternatives is a good idea, but approach cautiously.

Brian Billey, Frenchtown, said to move forward carefully. Archers already benefit from opportunity advantages and longer seasons than rifle hunters. Rifle hunters want equal opportunity.

Jason Townsley said he is the dissenter of the working group proposal, but does support putting it out for public comment.

Bert Wilke said it is a self serving proposal for profit for outfitters and landowners. It circumvents I161, which the public voted for. It is special interest and will destroy block management. It is selling public wildlife to the highest bidder, and leasing of private land will run rampant.

Robert Allen doesn't like permits period. They are unnecessary. How will this proposal be policed?

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

Antelope

**Region 2**

HD 215

Change lpt: 215-10.

From: 25 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

To: 5 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

**Region 3**

HD 311

Change lpt: 311-10.

From: 200 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

To: 100 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

Change lpt: 311-10 quota range from 200 - 350 to 25 - 350

HD 318

Change lpt: 318-00 quota range from 250 - 550 to 100 - 550

HD 341

Change lpt: 341-00 quota range from 150 - 300 to 100 - 300

HD 350

Change lpt: 350-00 quota range from 40 - 75 to 25 - 75

**Region 4**

HD 470

Changed HD boundary description (encompasses portion of HD 473 which is eliminated)

HD 471

Changed HD boundary description (encompasses portion of HD 473 which is eliminated)

Change lpt: 471-00.

From: 75 Either-sex licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Either-sex Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Either-sex Antelope.

To: 150 Either-sex licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Either-sex Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Either-sex Antelope.

Change lpt: 471-10.

From: 25 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

To: 50 Doe/Fawn licenses.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Doe/Fawn Antelope. Archery Only Season.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Doe/Fawn Antelope.

HD 473

Remove Hunting District.

Remove lpt: 473-00. 150 Either-sex licenses.

Oct 06 - Nov 11 Either-sex Antelope.

Sep 01 - Oct 05 Either-sex Antelope. Archery Only Season.

**Region 5**

HD 500

Change lpt: 500-10 quota range from 25 - 1200 to 5 - 1200

HD 501

Change lpt: 501-10 quota range from 25 - 1500 to 5 - 1500

HD 510

Change lpt: 510-10 quota range from 25 - 1000 to 5 - 1000

HD 511

Change lpt: 511-10 quota range from 25 - 500 to 5 - 500

HD 512

Change lpt: 512-10 quota range from 25 - 150 to 5 - 150

HD 513

Change lpt: 513-10 quota range from 25 - 2000 to 5 - 2000

HD 514

Change lpt: 514-10 quota range from 25 - 200 to 5 - 200

HD 530

Change lpt: 530-10 quota range from 25 - 3000 to 5 - 3000

HD 540

Change lpt: 540-10 quota range from 25 - 300 to 5 - 300

HD 550

Change lpt: 550-10 quota range from 25 - 800 to 5 - 800

HD 560

Change lpt: 560-10 quota range from 25 - 2000 to 5 - 2000

HD 570

Change lpt: 570-00 quota range from 750 - 1750 to 500 - 1750

Change lpt: 570-10 quota range from 25 - 3500 to 5 -

3500

HD 590

Change lpt: 590-10 quota range from 25 - 1600 to 5 - 1600

**Region 6**

HD 600

Change lpt: 600-00 quota range from 300 - 1500 to 50 - 1500

HD 690

Changed HD boundary description (minor correction to align with adjacent HD 620)

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the 2012 and 2013 Antelope Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP. Motion carried.*

**22. Bison Relocation Decision – Final.** Director Maurier stated that there has been no support for locating bison on WMAs, but there has been support for placing them on tribal lands. Another alternative considered was the National Bison Refuge in Moiese, however FWP received excuses from the Fish & Wildlife Service and Department of Interior deterring placing them on the National refuge. The bison on the refuge have cattle genes in their bison, so there are considered to be hybrid, and ours are genetically pure from Yellowstone, and it is important to maintain this reservoir of genes. FWP has no other option but to utilize the tribal lands. The Department of Interior has committed funding for Fort Belknap and Fort Peck for infrastructure and fencing. FWP is recommending the bison go to tribal lands.

Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Bureau Chief, stated that the bison under consideration for relocation are currently quarantined at the quarantine facility near Gardiner. This has been a rigorous process. When the RFP was issued in 2008, Fort Peck and Fort Belknap responded, but the Interagency Review Panel determined the tribes' facilities were not yet ready. Turner Enterprises provided the only proposal with the ability and facilities to handle the bison. They were to hold them for five years with a testing protocol, and receive a percentage of the offspring as payment. FWP was sued over this, and people were upset.

McDonald said FWP just completed a background document and is developing a process for handling these quarantined bison and the Turner bison. FWP put out a proposal for the bison to be translocated to Spotted Dog WMA, Marias River WMA, Fort Peck Reservation, and Fort Belknap Reservation. An extensive public comment period was provided on the EA, and public hearings were held. Much criticism and opposition was expressed regarding placing them on the WMAs, and there was mixed support for the tribal proposals, so ultimately the Decision Notice was signed that the bison should go to the two tribes. FWP is initiating a formal EIS process. Management plan agreements with each Tribe will include requirements for continued disease testing for five years, proper containment of the bison, and a response plan for escaped bison. These bison are to be considered wildlife. The Department of Livestock feels that since these bison have been extensively tested, they can be under FWP jurisdiction. These animals are the most frequently tested animals ever, even more than domestic cattle.

Ream reminded everyone that the Commission is approving the initiation of agreements with the two tribes. FWP will not sign an agreement until conditions are met. They will follow state statute guidelines. The bison are brucellosis free, and will belong to the tribes once they are turned over. The bison are not inbred.

*Action: Stafne moved and Moody seconded the motion to approve the translocation of bison to the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Reservations pending successful negotiation of terms and conditions with the tribes.*

Moody stated that the two tribes are entirely different and we are locking them into one commonality. Diligence must be exercised to assure that Fort Belknap honors its agreements.

Stafne stated that the two tribes have conferred, and Ft. Peck will keep all the bison until Ft. Belknap fulfills their agreement.

Jakes-Dockter noted that translocation statutes in Montana do provide leeway for the Commission to insert conditions into agreements. The motion covers this. Authority is under the statute not the IBMP.

John Munding said he supports the proposal. He co-developed the original quarantine concept with Keith Aune. The Department of Interior insisted genetics must be conserved, but they are not interested in taking any cohorts of bison.

Jonathon Matthews said he applauds the Governor and the Commission for moving forward on this. The Commission must find safe places for the bison, with no livestock conflict. Genetic purity is important. Moving them from the Park to other areas could protect them from disease, illness etc. that might kill the entire herd.

Stan Frasier said to get these bison on the reservations, it is way overdue. Bison must be placed on the landscape. They should be on the CM Russell and on WMAs. Get livestock off the WMAs and put bison on them. It is disgraceful how the bison are treated. It is awful to slaughter bison coming out of the Park when there is so much public land they could be on.

Vicky Hofeldt, whose ranch borders Fort Belknap Reservation, is opposed to the translocation. She said the pasture at Fort Belknap is bad. She asked if the Commission will come back ten years from now to see if the tribe maintains the fences. It will be a hardship for surrounding ranchers, as they have already had extensive damages from the bison that reside on the reservation. She does not feel the tribe provides enough feed to properly winter the bison. If they would prove they can properly keep the bison they already have, she might not feel so bad about them getting more.

Jonathon Proctor endorses and supports the translocation of bison to the reservations. We owe them a debt of gratitude. Future scenario is better than what we have now.

Tom Heyes recommended going forward with this proposal.

Mary Fay said this proposal is a major step in the recovery of America's iconic bison, and of returning the bison to its historic range. It is also another way to avoid the continued slaughter of them.

Dusin Hofeldt, whose ranch borders Fort Belknap Reservation, said there should be a vote by the people in Blaine and Roosevelt Counties on how they want to handle this. If the bison get out and are on state and federal land, do they become public wildlife with permits issued to hunt them?

Jay Bodner, Montana Stock Growers Association, said none of his members support this. Disease management is their concern. The bison need monitored for five years after they leave the quarantine facility. It is critical that the Commission look at the details involved in this. The fencing needs to be a seven foot high bullet proof fence. Leave them in the quarantine facility until a statewide plan is developed.

Ben Lamb, MWF, thanked Director Maurier and Governor Schweitzer for moving forward with this. The issue is a lot closer to being resolved. The decision notice responded to many concerns. This is a very good step in the right direction to figure out what to do with the surplus bison. He said to take into account what the neighbors have to say.

Dave Dittloff said he is supportive of this step. There have been a lot of steps in the right direction with the bison, and the relocation to the tribes is good – there is good habitat there. The added money for fencing from the government will help with concerns at Fort Belknap.

Representative Wayne Stahl fears that personal property rights will be trampled. The tribes should put up a bond for damages. He said a 7-wire fence is not adequate as bison will go where they need to go, whether it be for grass or for water. He wants proof that they are genetically pure – he does not believe they are.

An unidentified man state that the bison should be freeze branded so if they escape, they can be identified. He said to keep eyes open when dealing with Fort Belknap as they do not follow through on their agreements.

Brian Quigley, Avon, asked if test results indicate the bison are genetically pure as he does not feel they are. He said a landowner organization should also be involved with agreements developed between tribes and FWP.

Terry White said he is opposed to translocating the bison anywhere in Montana.

Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife, wants bison to be managed as wildlife, and wants management plans to be public.

McDonald stated that the Bison Management Plan process has begun and scoping will begin early in 2012.

A woman stated that bison and cattle originally shared the same genetics, so there has to be inbreeding.

Jane Roybal, Montana-Wyoming Tribal Fish & Wildlife Commission, said they support the transfer of the bison to the reservations. Fort Peck is ready to receive the bison and has the infrastructure to do so. Fort Belknap is in the position to get it done. It is a win/win situation for the tribes and the bison.

Floyd Azure, Fort Peck Tribal Chairman, said they are anxious to receive the bison. Bison are significant to their religious beliefs, and bison have sustained the tribes for hundreds of years, so now the tribes would like to return the favor. Fort Peck has 4,008 acres of pasture for them, and drilled two new water wells for them. They will be considered as livestock while on the reservation, and will have to comply with livestock requirements. The meat will be used for those who need healthy diets. The tribe will be responsible for them and any damages they may incur. He gave his word that as long as he is Chairman, they will be taken care of.

Commissioner Stafne stated that these bison will be held at Fort Peck until Fort Belknap is prepared to take them.

Moody cautioned against entering into an agreement with Fort Belknap based on their past history with agreements. The Commission needs to reserve the ability to review the agreement with them in the future to manage any bad situations that may occur.

Colton said the Commission must decide now if they want the final say. Once the bison are transported to Fort Peck, the Commission's power is relinquished and there will be no decision making authority when they go from Fort Peck to Fort Belknap. The Department should perhaps remain in the agreement for these reasons.

Vermillion commented that the public does not seem to have any concerns with Fort Peck receiving bison, but they do have concerns about Fort Belknap. FWP is fortunate to have A.T. Stafne on the Commission with his vast experience as a tribal leader. Maintaining Commission involvement in this process is prudent.

Maurier stated that the Department is cognizant of the issues, and would not approve anything the Commission would not approve. FWP needs to send a message we want to do this, but with conditions. Nothing moves until there is an agreement in place.

Jakes-Dockter said when the bison are placed with a sovereign nation, FWP would not have jurisdiction to go in and remove them unless a provision is included in the agreement.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**19. Open Microphone – Public Opportunity to Address FWP Issues Not on Agenda.**

Terry White asked the Commission to reconsider their decision to prohibit jet boats on the Bitterroot River.

Matt Gravely, Avon, said to fill the entire wolf quota.

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Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p .m.

Bob Ream, Chairman

Joe Maurier, Director