

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 12, 2012

Agenda Item: Nongame Tax Check-Off Project Proposals

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Proposals

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

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Background

Under the provisions of 87-5-122, MCA, “the FWP Commission shall review and annually approve the nongame wildlife program’s projects recommended by the Department for funding from the nongame wildlife account. The commission shall provide for public comment during the review and approval process.” While final 2011 tax year donations are unknown at this time, the average received by FWP from the 2004-2011 tax years was \$27,000/year (As of May 31, 2012, contributions totaled \$30,000).

FWP is proposing the following work in FY13 with this anticipated funding:

- \$15,000 Prioritize habitat for conservation including 1) identifying the most critical habitat needs for nongame, threatened or endangered species, 2) identifying and monitoring threats to these critical habitats.
- \$15,000 Inventory, monitoring and conservation work on species of concern including bald eagles, common loons, bats, and amphibians.
- \$5,000 Competitive student stipend for nongame research

Public Involvement Process & Results

No public comment was received by the June 18 deadline.

Alternatives and Analysis

The recommended work addresses several components of FWP’s overall nongame management program (including threatened and endangered species management), as identified in the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Tax check-off funding is used in conjunction with State Wildlife Grants to address high priority habitat, survey and inventory, and species conservation needs. Alternatives could include allocating more or less among these categories, as needs greatly exceed available resources.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the FWP Commission endorse the proposed work for funding with nongame tax check-off funds.

Proposed Motion

I move that the FWP Commission approve the proposed Nongame Tax Check-Off work and funding for Fiscal Year 2013.