DEVELOPMENT OF AN UPLAND GAME BIRD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: A CHARTER FOR THE UPLAND GAME BIRD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Statement of Need:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) administers the statewide Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program (UGBEP). The UGBEP is further organized into two separate component programs:

- 1. Upland Game Bird Release Program.
- 2. Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program.

The principle outcomes of the UGBEP are pheasant and turkey releases; establishment or enhancement of upland game bird habitat; conservation of valuable game bird habitats; and enhanced public upland game bird hunting opportunities.

In 2008 and 2009, the UGBEP underwent a legislative performance audit. One of the outcomes identified through the audit was the recommendation that FWP develop a long-term UGBEP strategic management plan with clearly defined management controls. Presently, FWP lacks a formal, detailed strategic management plan for the UGBEP. Additionally, the legislative audit report identified the need for a citizens' advisory council whose primary purpose would be to advise FWP on the development of the UGBEP strategic program plan.

HB 499 passed the 61st Montana State Legislature and revises certain laws related to the UGBEP. Through this legislation, FWP is directed to:

- 1. Establish a citizens' advisory council, with appointment made by the FWP director.
- 2. Develop a strategic program plan.

Strategic planning and management controls are both considered fundamental in the practice of effective management. To reach its full potential, the UGBEP will benefit from the development of a strategic-program plan that identifies long-term goals and objectives with performance measurements that align with statutory requirements. The citizens' advisory council will offer recommendations to FWP for the implementation of a long-term strategic plan.

The Process:

- Collaborative/coordinated approach from a diverse 12-member council.
- Meet a minimum of every two months (refer to calendar) beginning July 7-8, 2009. Eight subsequent two-day meetings are slated to take place through October 2010.
- Meeting will usually include two-day sessions (not including travel).

- Additional meetings may occur as warranted via teleconference or in person.
- After October 2010, meetings will be less frequent but still occur annually.

The Mission:

The mission of the Upland Game Bird Citizens' Advisory Council is to:

- Advise FWP on the development and maintenance of a 10-year strategic plan.
- Provide an annual evaluation of Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program activities.
- As deemed necessary, recommend rules for adoption by FWP.

The Goals:

The Upland Game Bird Advisory Council is expected to:

- Advise FWP on the development and maintenance of a 10-year strategic plan that includes recommendations that:
 - Define quantifiable goals, objectives and performance measures for the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program by administrative region.
 - Establish regional and statewide priorities for the development of upland game bird habitat.
 - o Prioritize allocation of funding and personnel.
 - o Promote landowner outreach and relations.
 - Provide for the ongoing monitoring, of access, and signage for upland game bird projects.
 - Develop strategies to ensure the effective release of upland game birds and use of funding.
- Provide an annual evaluation of Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program activities including:
 - o Implementation of the 10-year strategic plan.
 - o Whether objectives, goals and performance measures established are being met.
 - Revenue and expenditures of the upland game bird enhancement program and any unreserved balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year.
 - Whether upland game bird enhancement project contracts are in compliance with state law.

Resources:

FWP will provide a facilitator, staff, and administrative report. Each member of the council is entitled to receive \$50 in compensation and travel expenses for each day spent on official council business.

Council Authority and Duration:

The council, appointed by FWP's director, is advisory in nature and authorized to develop recommendations, which shall be submitted to FWP.

The council is chartered effective July 1, 2009. Council duration is indefinite; council membership will consist of 4-year staggered terms.

Council Oversight:

The council is appointed by FWP's director and serves at the discretion of the director.

Council Membership and Roles:

Council membership includes:

- an upland game bird hunter;
- a local chamber of commerce representative;
- a conservationist;
- an upland game bird biologist;
- two landowners, one of whom is enrolled in the Block Management program;
- a senator and a representative from different political parties.

Seven of the 12 council members must be from each of FWP's seven administrative regions.

<u>All members</u> within this council will share equally and are expected to participate in good faith, work collaboratively and strive to achieve consensus. Council members shall focus on accomplishing council goals within the specified timeframe.

<u>The Chairperson</u> will be appointed by FWP's director and will preside over the Citizens' Advisory Council during meetings to ensure council business is conducted in an orderly, effective manner. Duties of the chairperson include:

- Conducting meetings in a manner that results in consensus and a commitment to clear and unambiguous decisions;
- Fostering openness, common purpose and debate where contributions from all members are encouraged and valued;
- Ensuring that appropriate matters are brought before the council for information, discussion, deliberation and decision;
- Ensuring council minutes properly record decisions and business conducted at each meeting.

<u>The Facilitator</u> will assist the council by promoting structure and process throughout council meetings. The primary role of the facilitator is to assist the council to establish meeting guidelines as they pertain to the goals. Specific duties include:

- Ensuring meeting timeliness;
- Assisting in developing clear records of agenda;
- Balancing participation within the council;
- Providing an objective presence complementary to the chairperson.

Council Operating Procedures:

The collaborative process will be developed by the council with assistance of the facilitator during the first meeting.

Specific Assignments and Expected Products:

- October 2010: Completion of the final draft of the Upland Game Bird Citizens' Advisory Council report to FWP with recommendations that address the implementation of a 10-year strategic plan.
- December 17, 2010: Completion of the final Upland Game Bird Citizens'
 Advisory Council report of efforts to date. This report will be given to FWP's director, and copies will be available for the 62nd Legislature.

UGBEP Advisory Council Members:

Names, representation go here