

Director Joe Maurier Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks P.O. Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701

March 22, 2011

Joe L. Perry, Acting Chair UGBEP Citizens' Advisory Council 4125 Circle S. Road Brady, MT 59416

Dear Director Maurier:

The Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Citizens' Advisory Council has spent the past 18 months developing recommendations for Fish, Wildlife and Parks in the form of a strategic plan for the UGBEP. Members of the Council have given considerable effort toward this important process, including participation in 9 public meetings at 5 locations in Montana.

Enclosed is the Council's final product for your consideration. Although the Council collaborated on nearly all aspects of the program—encapsulated in the attached strategy—we felt it appropriate to point out some specific highlights that are most consequential for how the program proceeds into the future.

- Ten guiding principles
- Regional strategic plans with identified focus areas
- Establishment of measurable program objectives within annual work plans for affected biologists and ongoing farming projects
- Landscape and community-based approaches for effectively implementing the UGBEP
- Endorsement of four staff positions fully dedicated to UGBEP administration and project delivery
- Revision of habitat contract terms and contract recording requirements
- A framework for emergency supplemental pheasant feeding, which also limits the activity to 3 counties in northeastern Montana
- Maintaining and revising pheasant release program components
- Program funding apportioned among habitat, pheasant release, emergency supplemental feeding, and upland game bird translocations
- Established funding cap strategies for projects that are tiered from statutory project caps.
- Established a funding cap for project effectiveness evaluations
- Administrative Rule change that redefines cost share requirements for habitat projects



- Administrative Rule change that gives equal consideration for projects on private and public lands
- Clarification of use and need for memoranda of understanding agreements and need for additions to administrative rules
- Annual progress reporting format that is based on 19 performance measures
- Annual Council schedule for monitoring program activities and performance
- Statutory changes anticipated in the future

Please give full consideration toward the Council's enclosed strategic plan and contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Perry, Acting Chair

<u>Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Council Members</u>

Joe Perry, Acting Chair
Representative Julie French, Chair—Scobey
Mike Begley—Billings
Terry Comstock—Eureka
Jay Gore—Missoula
Bernie Hart—Hinsdale
Gordon Haugen—Bozeman
Bill Howell—West Yellowstone
Mike Jensen—Plentywood
Craig Roberts—Lewistown
Senator Jim Shockley—Victor
Dale Tribby—Miles City