



Citizens' Advisory Council

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

July 07, 2011

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

Dear Director Maurier:

The 13 members who have served during the past 2 years on the Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Citizens' Advisory Council are pleased to submit their final recommendations for the UGBEP Strategic Plan. After the initial adoption by the FWP Commission on April 14, 2011, the draft plan underwent an 8 and a half week public review and comment period. After considerable review and deliberation over the public comments, the Council has made additional recommendations to the final UGBEP Strategic Plan.

The initial draft recommendations presented to you on March 22, 2011, will be maintained along with new recommendations highlighted below. If accepted by you and endorsed by the FWP Commission, the two recommendations below will require changes in ARM Rules.

- Differentiate and define "habitat maintenance" as a separate activity from habitat "project." As defined, maintenance of habitat projects will not be governed by the statutory cap. [New ARM]
- Project implementation may occur on private property that is less than 100 contiguous acres if more than 100 contiguous acres of public access is adjacent to the proposed project site. The current ARM states, "projects must be located within a suitably sized area normally a minimum of 100 contiguous acres." [ARM revision]

Additional revisions to the plan include providing a state map with FWP regional boundaries defined, updates to the "acronym" and "terms and definitions" sections, and clarification of Region 4's prairie-agricultural geographic locations. These recent additions contribute to overall greater clarity and will help improve program implementation.



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For your convenience, pages that were revised since the initial adoption by the FWP Commission are enclosed with this letter along with the public comment summary report with Council's responses.

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

Sincerely,

Joe Perry, Acting Chair

Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Council Members

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

Enclosures:

Public Comment Summary report
Select pages from the UGBEP Strategic Plan – with revisions