

**FWP TRACKING SUMMARY**  
**2015 LEGISLATION**  
Updated May 12, 2015

The following are bills FWP is tracking that pertain, in most instances, to the FWP resources we are responsible for managing.

You may access information on any bill by visiting the Legislative home page at <http://leg.mt.gov> . If you have specific questions about legislation, call **Ron Aasheim, Helena, 444-4038**.

*\* Bills that were Tabled in Committee, Missed Transmittal date, etc.*

<b>BILL #</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>SUMMARY AND STATUS</b>
HB 82	Hertz	Would allow the development of a boat dock at Wild Horse Island State Park. Signed by Governor 2/13/15
*HB 92	Funk	Would create a fish and wildlife enterprise fund for the purpose of dedicating revenue for the management of educational, commemorative and interpretive merchandise. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
HB 140	Welborn	Would revise and streamline FWP's license fees and licensing structure. The basics of the bill are a \$3 increase to the resident fishing license and an \$8 resident base hunting license increase. Signed by Governor 5/8/15
HB 144	Redfield	Amends existing statute adding the requirement that game bird hunters obtain landowner permission to hunt on private property. Signed by Governor 3/17/15
HB 145	Cuffe	Would transfer \$400,000 from the state general fund to the livestock loss restricted state special revenue account. Signed by Governor 4/29/15
*HB 146	Flynn	Would revise the distribution of hunting license revenue for hunting access programs by increasing from 25 to 33 the percent of the fee for certain nonresident big game combination licenses that would go to an earmarked fund for hunting access enhancement. Died in Senate Standing Committee 4/28/15
*HB 149	Cuffe	Would revise fishing derby laws and regulations including for which species they are prohibited and under what circumstances the F&W Commission may regulate fishing contests. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
HB 150	Flynn	Would revise penalties for fish and wildlife laws including those penalties for harassment of hunters and wildlife, hunting from a highway, hunting from a vehicle and the use of a vehicle while hunting. Signed by Governor 5/5/15
*HB 152	Miller	Would allow residents senior citizens over 62 years of age to use a general elk tag to take a antlerless elk in certain areas at certain times and reorganizing statutes concerning Legion of Valor members and Purple Heart awardees. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 160	Curdy	Would prohibit the possession of exploding targets on state lands and waters. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
HB 167	Welborn	Would increase the nonresident temporary use permit fee for off highway vehicles. Requires a nonresident temporary use permit for all off highway vehicles owned by nonresidents and clarifies the purposes for which FWP could use the dollars. Signed by Governor 5/5/15
*HB 176	Mandeville	Would allow the use of crossbows while hunting during any archery season. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15

HB 194	Redfield	Would require a forage analysis as a part of a management plan before wild buffalo are released or transplanted onto private or public land in Montana. Signed by Governor 4/2/15
*HB 199	Ellis	Revises laws related to use of personal floatation devices. Died in Senate Standing Committee 4/28/15
HB 212	Wagoner	Clarifies the types of fish and game harvest protected under the Montana Constitution. House Transmitted to Governor 3/12/15
*HB 214	D. Moore	Revises laws pertaining to operating certain vessels under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 234	Ballance	Would revise laws related to shooting range grant funding, requiring FWP to expend or obligate \$500,000 per year for the program. A person making the decision not to expend or obligate those funds or to expend them for a different purpose would commit the offense of official misconduct that is provided in statute. Died in Senate Standing Committee 4/28/15
HB 250	Wagoner	Would clarify that sound reduction devices may be used on firearms while hunting wildlife not protected by state or federal law. Signed by Governor 4/23/15
*HB 263	Monforton	Would remove Madison Buffalo Jump State Park from the list of primitive parks. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 268	Flynn	Would create a \$25 block management stamp and eliminate the hunting access enhancement fee. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 269	Jacobson	Would revise laws related to the hunting access enhancement program, increase the hunting access enhancement fee and increase payment limits for participating landowners. Died in Senate Standing Committee 4/28/2015
*HB 278	Essmann	Would prohibit the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for purposes related to hunting and fishing, and under certain other conditions over certain lands and waters and authorize seizure and forfeiture of unlawfully used unmanned aerial vehicles. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
HB 279	Essmann	Would revise the requirement for tagging game animals by requiring attaching the license or tag before the carcass is removed from or the person leaves the site of the kill. Signed by Governor 3/31/15
*HB 281	Mortensen	Would generally revise laws related to practices used by wardens, requiring consistency with practices used by other law enforcement entities and revising provisions for search and seizure. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 286	Jacobson	Would prohibit the restriction of public access on certain roads or right-of-ways used by the public unless certain requirements are met. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 292	B. Brown	Would prohibit a warden from using a simulated wildlife decoy for enforcement purposes during the authorized hunting hours of any hunting season. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
HB 300	K. White	Would create a snowmobile trail pass. The pass would be a requirement to operate a snowmobile or to use motorized equipment in snowmobile areas groomed using funding assistance awarded by FWP. Signed by Governor 5/5/15
*HB 304	Tropila	Would revise laws governing encroachments and obstructions on county roads. Provides that a locked gate is considered to be an obstruction and increases the penalty for failure to remove an encroachment. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 351	Jacobson	Would require a peace officer to verify that a game animal death was the result of a vehicle collision and eliminate online permits for salvaging game animals. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 352	Jacobson	Would prohibit an outfitter from hunting, fishing or trapping on state land not legally accessible. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 381	Burnett	Would require certain state agencies to report on their receipt and use of federal funds. Vetoed by Governor 4/30/15

*HB 386	Z. Brown	Would revise requirements regarding the sale or exchange with public entities of state parks, recreation areas, monuments and historic sites. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 391	D. Moore	Would establish registration fees for tracked vehicles that would be considered snowmobiles under certain circumstances a portion of the fees would be used for snowmobile trail grooming and maintenance. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
HB 403	Hagstrom	Appropriates dollars for capital projects including dollars statutorily earmarked for FWP land acquisition including the: Upland Game Bird; Habitat Montana; Big Horn Sheep; Migratory Bird and Fishing Access programs. Signed by Governor 5/5/15
*HB 427	B. Brown	Would provide for the defense of water rights from competing claims if the Legislature does not pass the CSKT water rights compact. Would appropriate funds to defend State based water rights. Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 432	Jacobson	Would revise hunting licensing laws for nonresidents sponsored by a Montana family member and who have either previously purchased a Montana resident hunting license, been born in Montana or born to or adopted by parents who were Montana residents at time of birth. Sets the price of nonresident combination licenses for these individuals at half the price of the equivalent nonresident license. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 450	Wagoner	Would allow the use of sound reduction devices while hunting mountain lions and wolves. Vetoed by Governor 4/23/15
*HB 458	Z. Brown	Would establish the Smith River Legacy Act and require a legacy permit for certain activities in the Smith River Watershed. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*HB 495	Meyers	Would require FWP to post a \$5,000 bond for each wild bison transferred to a tribal entity or to land in public or private ownership. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
HB 525	Noland	Would revise aquatic invasive species funding laws by creating a trust fund and a grant account. Signed by Governor 4/24/15
HB 553	Noland	Would revise laws related to aquatic invasive species including revising departmental duties, allowing other entities to operate check stations and providing enforcement authority. Signed by Governor 4/24/15
HB 557	B. Harris	Would revise what constitutes a legal fence in Montana, adding a three-wire electric fence to the list of legal fences and defining a legal fence as at least 42 but not more than 48 inches in height. Signed by Governor 4/17/15
*HB 605	McKamey	Would provide a deduction from income for investment in measures to prevent certain game damage depredation. The deduction may not exceed \$20,000 per tax year. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 616	J. Price	Would appropriate funds to FWP to establish a grant program to purchase and install accessible playgrounds. Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 630	Manzella	Would generally revise water laws, retaining state authority to allocate, administer and protect state water resources. Missed Deadline for Appropriation Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*HB 633	Mortensen	Would revise laws related to filming law enforcement officers during conduct of official duties, requiring a permit to film on private property, providing penalties, and defining law enforcement officer. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
SB 21	Cohenour	Would provide for the automatic forfeiture of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and privileges for unlawful procurement, possession, use or transfer of replacement/duplicate licenses. Signed by Governor 3/25/15
SB 46	Pomnichowski	Would allow fishing, hunting and trapping licenses to be signed electronically. Signed by Governor 2/18/15
*SB 87	M. Phillips	Would standardize the prohibition on possession, shipping or transport of live fish in Montana. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15

SB 100	Larsen	Would grant the Board of Livestock the power to control and eradicate feral swine and provide rule making authority. Prohibits the possession, hunting and other actions related to feral swine. Signed by Governor 5/5/15
*SB 118	Hamlett	Would clarify that disruptions of a means of conveyance is not an intent to abandon a water appropriation right. House 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Not Concurred as Amended 4/21/15
*SB 120	Kary	Would revise laws related to the regulations of game animals that damage property. Revises eligibility for game damage assistance and revises provisions for special seasons. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*SB 153	Sales	Would require any person in a district open to hunting big game animals to wear hunter orange unless exempted by the landowner. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*SB 154	Sales	Would revise the requirements for wearing hunting orange to apply only to persons under 18 years of age. Died in House Standing Committee 4/28/15
*SB 189	M. Phillips	Would clarify that funding for wolf management may be used for public education about wolves. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
SB 191	Driscoll	Would provide an exception from the Montana Procurement Act for contracts concerning State Parks, state recreational areas, state monuments and historic sites. Signed by Governor 4/27/15
*SB 203	Hamlett	Would revise the exemptions to permit requirements for ground water developments and establish criteria for exempted uses by number of users. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*SB 210	Vuckovich	Would provide for an expansion of the Livestock Loss Reduction Program to include mountain lion predations on livestock and providing for an additional \$50,000 to the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Account. Died in House Standing Committee 4/9/15
SB 230	C. Vincent	Would provide a public scoping process for FWP land acquisitions totaling more than 640 acres. Signed by Governor 4/27/15
SB 232	Moore	Would revise the stream access law only to reflect the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the 1987 Galt decision. Signed by Governor 4/27/15
*SB 245	Kary	States FWP may conduct a post season population management hunting season for antlerless elk to ensure that the population of elk remains at or below the sustainable population number. Vetoed by Governor 5/5/15
*SB 247	Brenden	Would prohibit sage grouse hunting in Montana. Died in House Standing Committee 4/28/15
SB 261	Hamlett	Creates the Montana Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act which would establish an oversight team, a stewardship account and grant criteria, conditions of funding of leases or conservation easements and provide for management of conveyed lands. Signed by Governor 5/7/15
SB 262	Vincent	Would implement the CSKT water rights settlement. Signed by Governor 4/24/15
*SB 284	Brenden	Would require authorization of the County Commissioners before wild bison are released into a county and requiring those bison to meet certain conditions. Vetoed by Governor 5/4/15
*SB 295	Blasdel	Would eliminate a state limitation on the use of sound reduction devices on firearms while hunting. Vetoed by Governor 4/23/15
SB 309	Hinkle	Would revise the Unlocking State Lands Program to include specific federal land. Signed by Governor 5/4/15
SB 326	Hinkle	Would revise laws related to the recreational use of state lands and requiring public notice prior to land closures and restrictions on general recreational use. Signed by Governor 5/4/15
SB 333	Hinkle	Would clarify the states policy to protect game animals primarily for the citizens of Montana while acknowledging the financial contribution of to Montana's wildlife management and tourism industry made by nonresidents licensed to hunt in Montana. Signed by Governor 4/23/15

*SB 334	Fielder	Would revise the definition of 'game animal' to include game birds and furbearers and revise the definition of predatory animal. Vetoed by Governor 5/4/15
*SB 339	D. Howard	Would revise fish and game laws directing a game warden to have a reasonable belief that someone is fishing, hunting or trapping in order to inspect a license and identification. Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal 3/31/15
*SB 342	M Phillips	Would revise laws related to management of wild buffalo for disease control and defines 'imminent threat'. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 2/27/15
*SB 395	Blasdel	Would create a \$5 apprentice hunting certificate for individuals 10 years of age or older. Individuals would not need to have passed a hunter education course, would need to be accompanied by a mentor at least 21 years of age. House 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Not Concurred 4/16/15
SR 7	Brenden	Would confirm the Governor's appointment of Gary Wolfe to a Fish & Wildlife Commission with a term ending in January of 2017. Would also confirm Diane Conradi, Doug Smith and Jeff Welch as members of the State Parks and Recreation Board through January 1, 2017. Senate Resolution Adopted 4/13/15
SR 8	Brenden	Would confirm the Governor's appointment of Mary Sexton and Tom Towe to the State Parks and Recreation Board through January 1, 2019. Senate Resolution Adopted 4/24/15
SR 30	Brenden	Would confirm the Governor's appointment of Richard Kerstein to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. Senate Resolution Adopted 4/24/15
SR 31	Brenden	Would confirm the Governor's appointment of Dan Vermillion to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. Senate Resolution Adopted 4/24/15
SR 44	Brenden	Confirmed the appointment of Tom Towe of Billings to the State Parks and Recreation Board to a term ending January 1, 2019. Senate Resolution Adopted 4/24/15