

Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program Advisory Council

March 23 - March 24, 2026

Draft Agenda

Meeting Location: DoubleTree, Elkhorn Room (basement)

22 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601

ZOOM LINKS

3/23 <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/89187892612?pwd=QpHcUtb580TGyfnDvYgLWR5wNWf6kR.1>

Passcode:737840

3/24 <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/83302590261?pwd=mHWOUmieWB3YVvyMGGppyHaBX0FfIPh.1>

Passcode:471196

The public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Objectives

- 1) Program’s fiscal updates (biennium budget, unallocated balance, pending obligations balance)
- 2) Director visit
- 3) Legislative updates
- 4) Program updates and statuses: VPA-HIP, pheasant releases, partnerships.
- 5) Spring 2026 work plan and activities: CRP Add-on Lease enrollment, proposed projects in the works
- 6) Partner presentations: Hunter VanDonsel, (PF), Bridger Line (NWTF)
- 7) Block Management Program update, Jason Kool, Hunting Access Program Manager
- 8) Update on [HB 568](#): Nonresident hunting impact study, by Mike Lewis, FWP Human Dimensions Program Supervisor
- 9) Receive public comments.

Agenda

Monday, March 23, 2026

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| 9:00 am | Meeting begins. <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Introductions (Kleppen)◆ General housekeeping◆ Overview and acceptance of Sept. 8-9 minutes◆ History of the UGBEP Council (Plourde) |
| 9:15 am | Division/Department updates (McDonald) |
| 10:00 am | UGBEP Fiscal report (Hohler) <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Review biennium budget, available balance, and current obligations.◆ 2025 field season - enrollment summary◆ 2026 field season: VPA-HIP Open Fields, proposed enrollment activities |

- ◆ **Field Manual update**, administrative forms update
- ◆ Partner contracts updates

- 12:00 pm Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 pm Director Clark to meet with the UGBEP Council
- 2:00 pm Regional Updates – proposed work for 2026 field season, updates on past accomplishments
- 3:00 pm Pheasants Forever partner update. (Hunter VanDonsel & PF MT Team)
- 3:30 pm National Wild Turkey Federation – (Line and Nikonow)
- 4:00 pm Council’s input on program activities; placeholder for general Council discussion.
- 4:30 pm Chairman’s wrap up for the day

*Meet at The Windbag for dinner at 6 pm. Reservations are not accepted, but if people start heading down after the meeting, we can all eat in the back. Manager is Dallas and the server is Dustin.
Location: 19 S Last Chance Gulch*

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Return to the Elkhorn meeting room for Tuesday’s meeting.

- 9:00 am Chairman’s overview of yesterday’s meeting highlights and continued discussion as needed.
- 9:30 am Update on [HB 568](#): Nonresident hunting impact study, Mike Lewis, FWP Human Dimensions Program Supervisor
- 10:00 am Block Management Update, Jason Kool
- 10:30 am Public Comment
- 11:00 am Update on the 2025 field season in terms of capacity - discussion on the year’s successes, challenges, obstacles. (UGBEP Staff)
- 11:30 am Placeholder for general Council discussion
- 12:30 pm Lunch

1:00 pm

Chairman's closing remarks

- Review action items
- Date/logistics for fall 2026 council meeting
- Develop guest list for R4 fall tour
- Council membership needs