



UGBEP Advisory Council Meeting
Helena, March 27 – 28, 2023

Overview UGBEP Winter Activities

- Budget Bureau prep for HB5
- Annual Payment Cycle: 199 totaling \$786,677.83 (OF \$581,560)
- 4 Field Reqs: Access Guide, Cons. Fabric, PF Billings, PF Mission Valley
- Work Plan meetings
- TWS meetings (February)
- Habitat Program Training (March)



FY23 UGBEP Balance Review (3)

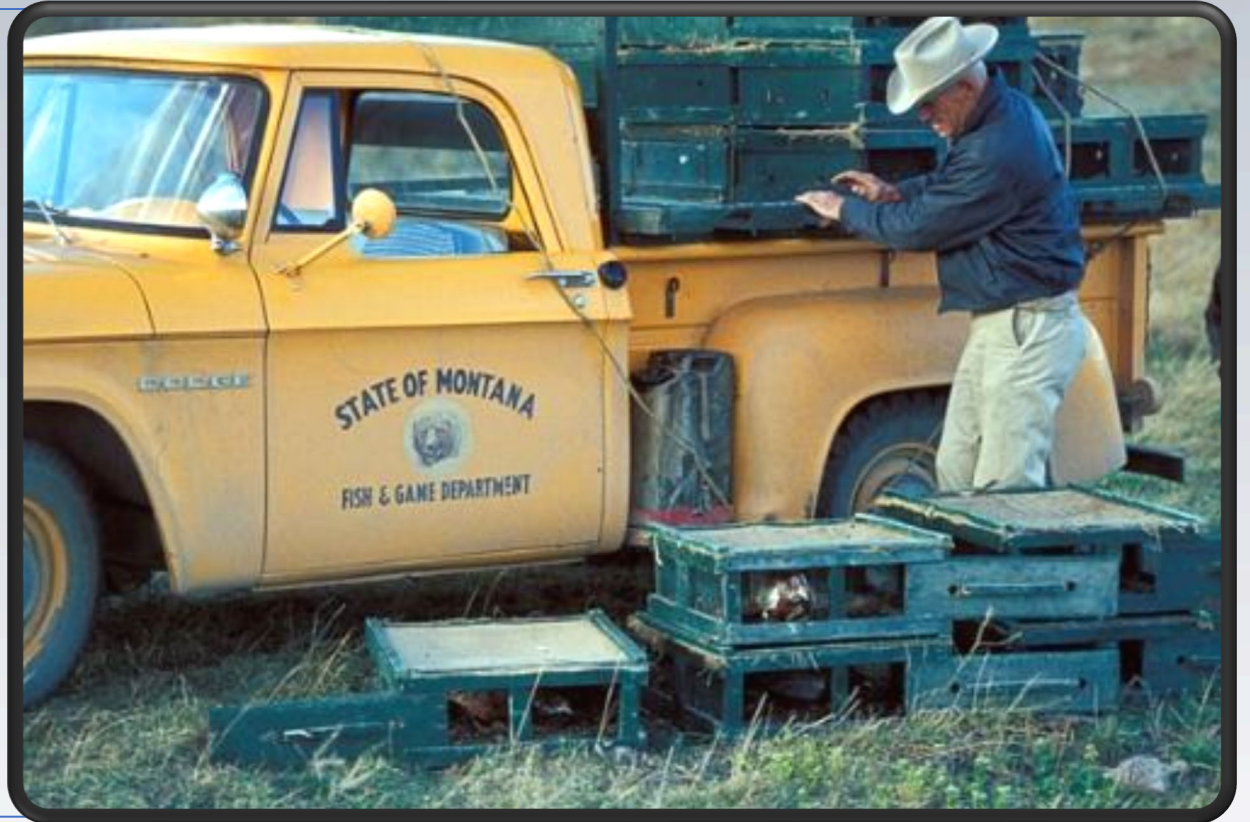
- Bird Planting Fund
- Volunteer Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program
- Habitat Fund



FY23 UGBEP Balances – Bird Planting

Unspent: **\$244,000**

Expenditure: **\$0**



Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) Grant Balance

Available Balance: **\$470,000**

Projected Expenditure: **\$470,000**

Goal: Unspent balance **\$0**

*Grant expires March 2024



FY23 UGBEP Balances – Habitat

Current Status: **\$792,000** Not contracted “Unallocated”

By FYE: **\$607,000 minimum** Contracted “Allocated”

*By FYE: **\$185,000** Not contracted “Unallocated”

*Reported to House Appropriations



FY23 UGBEP Balances – Habitat, cont'd

Current Status: **\$792,000** Not contracted/Unallocated

- Fall 2022 Projects **TBD**
- Spring 2023 Projects **TBD**
- New partner contracts, fabric, etc. **\$175,000**

By FYE: **\$607,000 min.** Contracted/Allocated (→ \$432,000)

*By FYE: **\$185,000** Not contracted/Unallocated



FY24 – FY25 Proposed Funding

HB5

Habitat: **\$1,520,000**

Bird Planting: **\$388,000**

PR: **\$600,000**

Total: \$2,508,000



Partner Contracts (FY24)

Partner	Term	Years	Contract \$	Funding
PF Billings	Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2025	2.25	\$135,000	UBGEP:WMA (50:50)
PF Mission Valley	Jul 1, 2023 – Sep 30, 2025	2.25	\$28,125	100% UGBEP
Contract Total			\$163,125	
UGBEP Total			\$95,625	



UGBEP Updates and Statuses



Open Fields Update

- General CRP Sign-up Feb 27 – April 7 (6 weeks)
- UGBEP mailed ~1,700 letters, apps, and fact sheets to landowners (OF and HML)
- FSA distributed app + fact sheet to USDA county offices
- FSA newsletters to 18K subscribers
- Getting calls



Open Fields -- Continued

- Partner-centric, PF and FSA
- “Deadline” to apply: April 14
- 5 apps so far
- Limited grant funding, will review and enroll as apps come in
- UGBEP can also fund



2023 Pheasant Releases

- 3 Applicants: Beaverhead, Phillips, Pondera counties
- 203 Pheasants (Pre-auth)
- Access: 1,276 + 10K-acre BMA
- Reimbursement \$ not established yet
- 65.5 cents per loaded mile



UGBEP Planning for FY24 – FY25

- UGBEP funding in next biennium (2.5M)
 - Develop program enrollment strategies to effectively and efficiently enroll projects on private and public lands
 - Develop goals and objectives for project enrollments
- Review current cost-list, especially leases (2017 rates)
 - Difficult to entice enrollment at current rates
 - UGBEP needs to be competitive
- Explore current marketing strategies with Greg Lemon



UGBEP Planning for FY24 – FY25

Review and receive input / recommendations from Council early April on:

- Enrollment strategies
- Lease rates updates
- Outreach strategies



Questions?

