

LTC Tim A. Gardipee
5570 Brumby Lane
Missoula, MT 59808

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AUG 03 2021
LEGAL UNIT
FISH WILDLIFE & PARKS

July 21, 2021

Kgyn Kuka
FWP Diversity Coordinator
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0401

Re: Request to Use Crossbow During Archery Season as a Reasonable Accommodation Under the Americans With Disabilities Act

Dear Ms. Kuka:

Pursuant to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), I am hereby requesting permission to use a crossbow during archery season this upcoming September and October.

To give you some background about my situation, I have been passionate about hunting ever since I completed a hunter safety course in 1968. I hunted the Bear Paw Mountains, the Missouri Breaks, and the Rocky Mountain with my father, cousins, and uncles. I continued hunting and harvesting game to eat through my college years.

I later joined the Army and spent many years stationed in areas where no hunting opportunities existed. I missed hunting immensely but willingly sacrificed many hunting seasons so others could hunt while I served my country.

After I left active service and joined the Army Reserve, I purchased a bow and began hunting during archery seasons.

I became paralyzed in 2012 as a result of a catastrophic injury below the neck. The Veterans Administration gave me a 240% disabled rating due to the loss of my two lower limbs. I continue to suffer from nerve damage. I can stand and walk a few steps and I have upper arm mobility to use a rifle. Utilizing a compound bow requires standing or kneeling. I can do neither.

I am therefore requesting that FWP reasonably accommodate my disability by allowing me to use my crossbow during archery season in September and October. Both common decency and the ADA require that disabled Montanans, particularly disabled veterans, have the same opportunities to participate in archery season as able-bodied hunters

I am currently retired and had planned to hunt, fish, and partake of outdoor activities as much as possible. Being in a wheelchair, however, has enormously limited my enjoyment and access to hunting and will continue to do so. Please comply with the ADA and agree to reasonably accommodate my disabilities by allowing me to use a crossbow during archery season.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim A. Gardipee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "G".

Tim A. Gardipee