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FISH, WILDLIFE PARKS
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th Ave.
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

May 26, 2021

RE: Request for Special Accommodation

Via Certified Mail/ Return Receipt

Reference: U.S. Department of Justice Disability Case # 62781-CHG

Permit To Modify Archery Equipment Provider #28001, Date of Issue 05/16/2016

Dear Director Worsech, Commissioners,

On May 16, 2016, I received a Permit to Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE) due to a permanent disability I sustained in 2005. After purchasing and installing the recommended (Draw Lok) equipment to my bow, I quickly realized that this equipment would not meet my needs in accommodating my disability and allow me to participate in the upcoming archery season. I had drawn a coveted bull tag in the Missouri Breaks on the Charles M. Russell Refuge using 12 pts. To get this tag. I was never able to go on this hunt because of equipment failures and the ability to use the equipment.

I have contacted my Primary Physician, Dr. Carlos Trevino of Sheridan Memorial Hospital, Plentywood, MT and multiple Orthopedic doctors at Ortho Montana and Billings Clinic in Billings, MT. They have all concluded that the approved equipment does not meet my needs as a disabled archer. Therefore, I am not able to hunt during the archery season.

I have been an avid bow hunter since 1968. In 2005, I sustained a work-related injury to my C-2 through C-7 Cervical Spine (fusion). I have a loss of use of both shoulders, arms and hands. I am also a 100% Disabled Veteran with a low back fusion which includes a Dorsal Column Stimulator Implant on my left hip and spine. I am no longer able to hold, draw, pull (including with my teeth) standard archery equipment because of my disability. I have metal implants in my cervical spine, left hip, Thoracic spine and right knee. For many years I have no longer been able to hunt with my five children not to mention I have nine grandchildren.

Therefore, I am requesting a reasonable accommodation so I may utilize a crossbow for this and any future archery seasons to include hunting all game species including predators and fish such as carp and suckers. Without this accommodation I would experience undue hardship at being able to participate in a major life activity. You currently have my PTMAE and all supporting documentation on file that was previously sent to you via my physician. Please refer to that information as a reference. This is my second request.

My request for a reasonable accommodation falls directly under the Americans with Disability Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all services, programs, and activities provided to the public by State and local governments, except public transportation services. Which defines a disability as: any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Even after installing the recommended equipment that is approved by MTFWP and spending more than \$200 for the equipment, the current regulations and guidelines do not accommodate my permanent disability enough to allow me to hunt during the archery season.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,



David Helmers

CC: Governor Greg Gianforte, Attorney General Austin Knutsen,