



*The Mission of the Mule Deer Foundation is
to ensure the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer
and their habitat.*

July 14, 2026

Evan Klein
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Licensing Bureau
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Proposal for one (1) 2027 Montana Mule Deer Lottery License

Dear Mr. Klein:

Please accept this letter as our official application for one (1) 2027 Montana Mule Deer License, which will be auctioned off during our 2027 Western Hunting Conservation Expo (WHCE) in Salt Lake City, UT – February 11-14, during either the Friday or Saturday night Hunt Auctions. The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) has been awarded this coveted license in years past and we take great pride in working alongside MT FWP in developing Mule Deer conservation projects that can be funded with the dollars raised from this license

The Mule Deer Foundation is a non-profit wildlife conservation organization whose mission is “To Ensure The Conservation of Mule Deer, Black-Tailed Deer and their Habitat”. Headquartered in Clearfield, UT, the MDF has members from across the United States and has been in operation since 1988. Our objectives center on restoring, improving and conserving mule deer and black-tailed deer habitat, resulting in sustainable, healthy, free-ranging and huntable deer populations. MDF achieves its goals through partnering with state and federal wildlife agencies, other conservation groups, businesses, private landowners and individuals, to fund and implement habitat enhancement, research and conservation education projects. In 2024 & 2025, the Mule Deer Foundation leveraged \$1.6 million dollars raised through our MDF Banquets, with agency partner dollars, culminating in \$3.4 million dollars of conservation work accomplished across Montana! Over 90,000 acres of Mule Deer habitat has been improved and 32 miles of fence removed, allowing for safer migration between summer and winter feeding grounds. MDF continues to partner with USFS on 3 service agreements in western Montana totaling \$5.5 million to perform habitat improvements on over 8,000 acres, with BLM on the Hi-line to remove 6 miles of unsafe livestock fencing and replace it with wildlife friendly design, and private landowners in central and eastern Montana to improve grazing infrastructure and management that will benefit wildlife habitat on over 20,000 acres. MDF has also been helping to fund the restoration of washed-out man-made water reservoirs in Region 7 as well.

MDF chapters across Montana continue working hard to raise crucial dollars for mule deer habitat improvement and helping to raise awareness on issues impacting mule deer & other wildlife. MDF urges all their members and banquet guests to share their concerns about our mule deer with FWP in hopes of building a better relationship between our hunters, conservationists and MT FWP. Attached, you will see

the list of current MDF Banquets in Montana that are contributing to the conservation of mule deer here in Montana and across the West.

Our 2026 WHCE Expo, had over 76,000 guests and nearly 600 vendors, both event records! The 2026 Montana Mule Deer License brought in \$60,000 which was also a new record for that license and we're confident that the 2027 Montana Mule Deer License will again set a new record as we anticipate continued growth at our 2027 WHCE Expo! MDF will utilize our national communications and marketing team to build awareness of this tag through our Website (www.muledeer.org), social media pages and other pre-Expo promotional advertising. MDF would retain 10% of the auction proceeds to help offset advertising costs and the remaining 90% will be provided to MT FWP for use in mule deer conservation & habitat work in Montana. MDF would lend our total support to FWP in locating, evaluating and administering these projects.

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for the 2027 Mule Deer License and hope that MT FWP will consider our request. Our ongoing partnership with MT FWP is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with FWP on continuing to develop and modify the new Mule Deer Management Plan. Together, we can secure a strong future for Montana's mule deer and other wildlife for future generations to enjoy!

Sincerely,

Chris Fortune
MDF Senior Regional Director – Montana

Encls.

Montana MDF Chapters

- Northern Rockies Chapter – Kalispell, MT
- Dark Horn Chapter – Missoula, MT
- Sapphire Range Chapter – Hamilton, MT
- Beaverhead Chapter – Dillon, MT
- Treasure State Chapter – Butte, MT
- Lewis & Clark Chapter – Helena, MT
- High, Wide & Heavy Chapter – Great Falls, MT
- High Plains Chapter – Havre, MT
- Madison County Chapter – Ennis, MT
- Missouri Breaks Chapter – Lewistown, MT
- Bridger Bucks Chapter – Bozeman, MT
- Boulder River Bucks Chapter – Big Timber, MT
- Big Sky Chapter – Billings, MT
- Beartooth Chapter – Red Lodge, MT
- Milestown Muleys Chapter – Miles City, MT
- Badland Ghosts Chapter – Glendive, MT
- Black Gold Chapter – Baker, MT
- Border to Breaks Chapter – Glasgow, MT
- Northeast Montana Chapter – Sidney, MT