



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Agenda Item: Renewal of Malteurop Water Right Lease, Infrastructure Agreement and Pipeline Easement Agreement

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to renew an agreement originally entered with International Malting Company LLC in 2004 and renewed in 2015 with Malteurop North America Inc., successor in interest to International Malting Company LLC. Under the original and renewed agreements, FWP has leased water to the two companies for use in a malting barley plant north of the Missouri River near Great Falls. The source of the leased water is from Giant Springs and is held by FWP under water right provisional permit 41Q 55863-00. Twelve hundred gallons per minute (gpm), up to 1,936 acre-feet per year, of the water right has been temporarily changed to industrial use. The remainder of the right continues to be used at the Giant Springs Trout Hatchery. This water use is non-consumptive as it returns to the Missouri River via the City of Great Falls' Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The agreement also provides for infrastructure and pipeline easements for Malteurop to use the hatchery wet well and pump building to pump water via a pipeline to the Malteurop facility. The current lease and easement agreement will expire at the end of February 2026.

Proceeds from the original and renewed agreements have been deposited into a Fisheries Mitigation Trust Fund and used by FWP to support fisheries-related projects and programs including hatcheries, fish health, fisheries monitoring, water leasing and instream flow enhancement, and fishery restoration. Malteurop currently pays FWP approximately \$500,000 per year with an annual increase of 2.15% which will continue under the renewed agreement.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The draft environmental assessment was made available for public review and comment from Dec. 1 to Dec. 15. A legal notice was posted on FWP's public notice webpage: <https://fwp.mt.gov/news/public-notices>. The draft EA was also made available for public review on the Environmental Quality Council's website: <https://leg.mt.gov/mepa/search/>, by individual request, and through notice to identified interested parties. FWP did not receive comments during the public comment period.

Alternatives & Analysis: Renewing the lease would allow Malteurop to continue operating its malting barley plant in Great Falls, which employs approximately 50 people. FWP would continue to receive approximately \$500,000 per year in lease payments and utilize those funds to benefit fisheries in Montana.

Alternative A: Approve renewal of the water right lease, infrastructure agreement and pipeline easement agreement.

Alternative B: The commission could choose not to approve the renewal.



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Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the commission approve the renewal of the Malteurop water right lease, infrastructure agreement and pipeline easement agreement.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the Malteurop water right lease, infrastructure agreement and pipeline easement agreement.