



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 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: FWP proposes to renew an agreement originally entered with International Malting Company LLC in 2004 and renewed in 2015 with Malteurop North America Inc. (“Malteurop”), 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, MT. 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 Plan.

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 as extended earlier this year will expire in August of 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. Compensation paid to FWP under the lease compares very favorably to the rate paid by Malteurop to the City of Great Falls for its consumed water and the rates contained in Bureau of Reclamation water service contracts with the City of Helena and a Great Falls water bottling plant.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from 12/1/2025 to 12/15/2025. 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 or EQC 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. This item was also previously considered by the commission at its February 12, 2026 meeting, at which time the commission directed that the current agreement be extended for six (6) months pending further inquiry into comparative pricing of other water contracts. No public comment was received on this matter for the February commission meeting.

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.



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL & INFORMATION SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

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.

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.