



Weight, in pounds, of the state record Utah chub caught at Canyon Ferry Reservoir on March 7 by Steve Hagan of East Helena



### Former FWP director takes helm of USFWS

On March 8, Martha Williams was sworn in as director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, having served as principal deputy director of the 8,000-person federal agency for more than a year.

The former FWP director (2017–2020) and legal counsel (1998–2011) was nominated by President Joe Biden in October and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in February, with the support of U.S. Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester. “Martha’s strategic vision and collaborative approach will be key as the Department of the Interior works to conserve, connect, and restore America’s lands, waters, and wildlife for current and future generations,” Haaland said at the ceremony.



Starting this year, hunters can tag harvested animals with their smartphone.

#### FWP CUSTOMER SERVICE

## FWP launches new license and tag phone app

Successful big game hunters can now tag their animal in the field with a smartphone.

That service and more are available on the new MyFWP app, launched March 1. The app provides an easy way to store and display licenses, permits, and digital carcass tags, known as E-Tags. The app is available in Apple’s App Store and Google Play.

“We created MyFWP to be a major convenience for hunters and anglers,” says Hank Worsch, FWP director.

In addition to storing and displaying

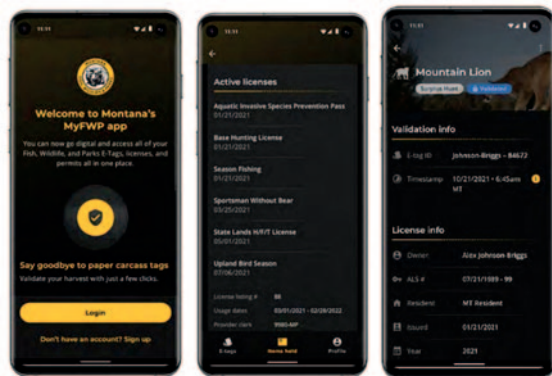
licenses and permits on their phone, MyFWP gives hunters the option to digitally tag a harvested animal instead of using a traditional paper tag—even if the hunter is outside of cell service range.

Hunters can choose between digital or paper versions for each license they buy online or at an FWP office. They can’t choose both, however, and the decision is final for the remainder of the license year for each license. For hunters who choose a digital license, their E-Tag for each species will be available on their mobile app to download to their phone before heading into the field.

Even those opting for paper carcass tags can still use MyFWP to carry and view licenses and permits for the current and previous year.

FWP is also working on new functions and services for the MyFWP app, including hunter harvest reporting.

Learn more at [fwp.mt.gov/myfwpapp](http://fwp.mt.gov/myfwpapp).



#### STATE PARK HISTORY

## Play at a park, then learn something important

Montana’s state parks offer stunning scenery and diverse hiking, fishing, camping, boating, and other outdoor recreation. Many also protect and interpret significant historical and cultural sites, from pioneer ghost towns to Native American buffalo jumps.

For instance, Council Grove, set in an old-growth ponderosa pine forest along the Clark Fork River, is one of 13 state parks honoring American Indian culture. It is the site of the 1855 Hellgate Treaty between the Salish, Kalispel, and Kootenai Indians and the U.S. government that established the Flathead Reservation. Under the treaty, the tribal leaders reluctantly ceded ownership of more than 20 million acres to the United States but reserved the perpetual right to use ceded



Roughly 40 miles south of Helena up a winding dirt road off Interstate 15, Elkhorn is just one of several ghost town state parks rich in pioneer and mining culture, history, and architecture.

lands for traditional cultural and subsistence purposes such as hunting and fishing.

Visitors interested in Old West and mining history can choose from eight parks, including Elkhorn, where several structures retain their pioneer architectural charm.

Lewis and Clark fans can learn about the Corps of Discovery at Missouri Headwaters, Travelers’ Rest, and five other state parks.

Plan your next historical or cultural state park visit at [fwp.mt.gov/activities/culture-and-history](http://fwp.mt.gov/activities/culture-and-history).

## Elk management advisory group dives in

A newly formed citizen advisory group has begun work shaping the future of elk management and hunting in Montana. The group’s 12 members, from across Montana, represent a broad range of viewpoints and experience but don’t officially represent any specific organizations. They will focus on two tasks: (1) develop a set of recommendations to address elk management issues, and (2) improve relationships among hunters, landowners, and others affected by elk and elk management.

The advisory group held its first virtual meeting March 22 and will meet nine more times before presenting final recommendations to FWP director Hank Worsch at the end of July. All meetings are available for public viewing. “The quality of applicants was tremendous,” Worsch says. “With so many people interested in helping out, the fairest way to select members was to focus on the experience of each applicant and their willingness to work with others to find solutions.”

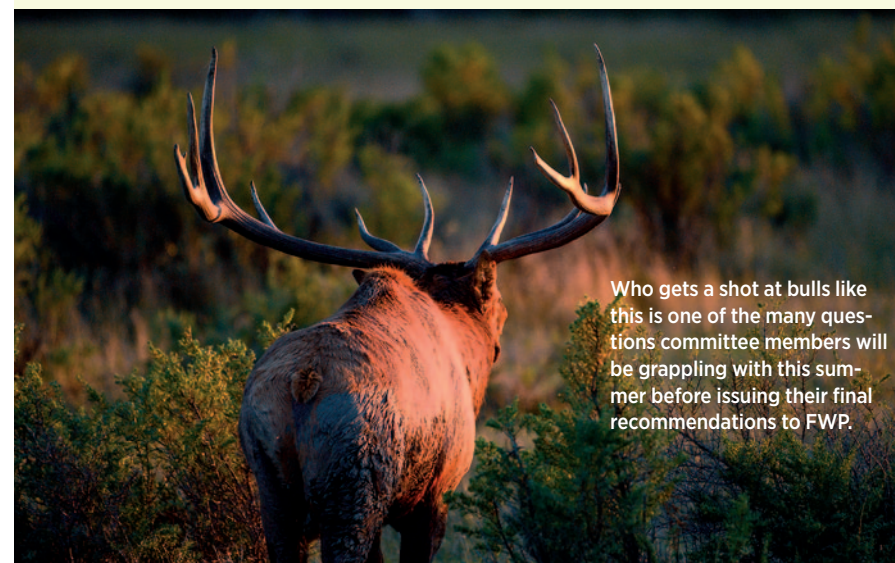
Among the issues the group will address are public access on private land, allocation of hunting opportunities, and burgeoning elk populations in many parts of the state.

“The challenge I’m asking this group to take on will be tough, but I’m convinced that they will work together to come up with lasting solutions,” Worsch says.

Any of the 232 applicants who weren’t selected will be able to participate as members of a “sounding board,” to attend every meeting and review and provide feedback on the advisory group’s work throughout the process.

For more information and to watch future meetings, visit [fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/elk-management-citizen-advisory-group](http://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/elk-management-citizen-advisory-group).

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: MIKE MORANI ILLUSTRATION; MONTANA OUTDOORS; FWP; U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR



Who gets a shot at bulls like this is one of the many questions committee members will be grappling with this summer before issuing their final recommendations to FWP.