

PL/PW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS
April 26, 2016

The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council adopted through consensus the following three DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS at the April 25-26, 2016 meeting in Helena. Council members will circulate the DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS for feedback prior to the next meeting on June 1-2 in Helena. These DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS will also be posted on the PL/PW Council website as part of the April meeting summary.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1: Propose modifications to MCA 87-2-513 Landowner Either-sex or antlerless elk permit for landowner who offers free public elk hunting.

- New Name for program – possibly Enhanced Big Game Hunting Access Program.
- Allow FWP to provide license and permit to landowner who enters into contractual agreement.
- Have FWP select public hunters from pool of successful permit applicants who applied for permits in that hunting district:
 - Ratio of no less than 1:4 landowner to public permits
 - Random draw by FWP for public hunters
- Require selected hunters to complete Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project as a prerequisite to hunt on contracted land.
- Add deer and antelope permit options:
 - Landowner may receive elk OR deer OR antelope permit.
 - The department may prioritize the distribution of the permits according to the areas the department determines are most in need of management.
 - For deer and antelope, FWP could propose pilot areas to test effectiveness.
- Strike provision that makes landowner ineligible for permit if he/she has received payment under Block Management .

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2. Propose increasing the cap on landowner payment for cooperators in Block Management, contained in MCA 87-1-267.

- Increase cap from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #3. Propose combining the Come Home to Hunt License (MCA 87-2-526) with the Native Montana Nonresident License (MCA 87-2-514) in a manner similar to proposal developed by PL/PW Council in 2014.

- Cap of 500 for B10 Big Game Combination licenses (Deer, Elk, Upland Game Bird, Fishing, Conservation licenses.)
- Cap of 500 for B11 Deer Combination licenses (Deer, Upland Game Bird, Fishing, Conservation licenses.)
- Modify language for sponsor eligibility – must be nonresident’s natural or adoptive mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse, grandparent, or grandchild.
- Direct funding to Hunting Access Program account – in the same amount and to the same account as earmarked funding from other current combination licenses.
- *Staff Note: Come Home to Hunt licenses will have the same deadline as all other nonresident combination licenses with a quota, which is March 15th. The Come Home to Hunt drawing will be held first and any applicants who are unsuccessful and who have opted to be considered in the full price General Nonresident license drawings will be added to that drawing.*