

PRIVATE LAND/PUBLIC WILDLIFE COUNCIL
Holiday Inn Express – Helena, MT
April 25th – 26th, 2016

Day 1: Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Sen. Duane Ankney, Ed Beall, Rep. Zach Brown, Ed Bukoskey, Cynthia Cohan, Dusty Crary, Larry Feight, Daniel Fiehrer, Bill Geer, Blake Henning, Denley Loge, Joe Perry, Bob Ream, John Swanz, Carl Zabrocki.

Absent: Lee Cornwell, Richard Stuker.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Personnel Present: Jeff Hagener, Director; Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division Administrator; Alan Charles, Landowner/Sportsman Relations Bureau Chief; Hank Worsech, Licensing Bureau Chief; Merissa Hayes, Wildlife Division Administrative Support.

I. Agenda Overview, Review of Council Operating Guidelines – Worsech

II. Trap line Reports from Council Members

III. Information Update from FWP Staff

- 2016 Non-resident Combination License sales (Worsech)
[Attachment A – 2012-2015 NR Combo License Sales](#)
- 2016 Block Management Allocation/Enrollments (Charles)
 - Re-enrollment all current contracts will cost approximately \$4.5 M
 - New enrollments (67 potential): \$149K cost to the program.
 - Regional staff beginning contract negotiations, with deadline of July 8 for completion.

IV. Subcommittee Reports/Council Discussions

Landowner Elk Permits for Access – Report/Council Discussion

Members: Denley Loge, Richard Stuker, Blake Henning, John Swanz, and Lee Cornwell.

Block Management Landowner Payment Cap –Report/Council Discussion

Members: Ed Bukoskey, Ed Beall Larry Feight, Duane Ankney, and Bill Geer.

Day 2: Meeting convened at 8:30 a.m., April 26th

Council Members/FWP Staff Present: The same as were present for Day 1.

I. Review of the Agenda & Commission Update – Worsech/ McDonald

II. Continue Subcommittee Reports/Council Discussions

Come Home to Hunt and Native MT Nonresident Licenses – Report/Council Discussion

Members: Cindy Cohan, Carl Zabroski, Dan Fiehrer, Zach Brown, and Joe Perry.

III. **Work Sessions** Subcommittees met to develop draft recommendations, based upon input received during earlier discussions.

IV. ******Action item:** The Council adopted through consensus the following three DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS, which members will circulate for feedback prior to finalizing at the next meeting: [Attachment B - Draft Recommendations](#)

➤ **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 license/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

Staff Note: Saved for future discussion is topic of Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Program and relationship to Block Management Program.

➤ **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.*

V. Environmental Quality Council (EQC) Report Update on House Bill 2 – Charles

VI. Review of Short and Long Term Charge of the Council – Director Hagener

Long-term issues for the council to address could include:

- Block Management audit identified cooperator payment basis,
- Assessment of funding and staffing needs for block management/hunter access
- Staffing shoulder seasons and providing services to participating landowners
- Public access eligibility for game damage assistance
- Consistency in program implementation between regions.

VII. Review of FWP Access Programs, Processes, Tools, & Metrics & Goals- Charles

VIII. Public Comment: No people presented comments to the Council.

IX. Meeting Recap, Council Assignments, Administration

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for June 1st and 2nd in Helena, MT.

Council adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

[Attachment A – 2012-2015 NR Combo License Sales](#)

[Attachment B - Draft Recommendations](#)