

**PRIVATE LAND/PUBLIC WILDLIFE COUNCIL**  
**Helena, MT**  
**August 15—16, 2016**

**Day 1:** Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 3170 N Sanders Street, Helena, MT.

**Council Members Present:** Sen. Duane Ankney, Ed Beall, Ed Bukoskey, Cynthia Cohan, Daniel Fiehrer, Bill Geer, Denley Loge, Joe Perry, Richard Stuker, Larry Feight, John Swanz, and Carl Zabrocki.

**Absent:** Rep. Zach Brown, Lee Cornwell, Dusty Crary, Blake Henning, and Bob Ream (resigned August 2016.)

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Personnel Present:** Jeff Hagener, Director; Alan Charles, Ken McDonald, Wildlife Administrator; Landowner/Sportsman Relations Bureau Chief; Hank Worsech, Licensing Bureau Chief; Merissa Hayes and Nick Mulvaney, administrative support.

**I. Agenda Overview, EQC Meeting Report – Worsech**

**II. Trap line Reports from Council Members**

**III. Presentation on Elk Shoulder Seasons/Webpage Overview – McDonald**

Ken reviewed and discussed the shoulder season information available on the website including objectives, success criteria, hunter information, landowner information, success criteria by hunting district, and the results of the 2015 pilot project. The Elk Shoulder Season webpage will be updated regularly, and the success criteria and results will be posted as information becomes available.

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasons/elkShoulder/>

**IV. Block Management Enrollment Update – Charles**

Alan reviewed the Block Management program, demonstrated the information that is available on the website, and the 2016 Hunting Access Guide. He emphasized that the program tries to accommodate landowner needs and requirements vs. establishing a one-size-fits-all approach, which is why different BMAs have different requirements for access.

**V. License Sales Status Update – Worsech**

Hank provided a brief update of license sales for the current license year to date.

**VI. Block Management Payment Systems – Charles**

Alan provided information on background, rationale, specifics, audit issues, internal issues, and ARMs. The payment system is currently in Administrative Rule 12.2.406. He reviewed the recent audit recommendation related to compensation. The audit recommended FWP implement an alternative system such as a flat fee compensation method (e.g., a per acre payment). Alan showed and reviewed components of a draft (blank) contract showing all of the fields that are completed as part of the annual contract.

**VII. Block Management Program Delivery systems – Charles**

Alan provided information on hunting opportunities and permission as well as reviewed the background, rationale, specifics, audit issues, and ARMs related.

## VIII. Hunting Access Enhancement Program – Charles

Discussed statutory authority and conceptual framework. Pilot program intended to achieve a species-specific level of harvest to address a localized wildlife management need, working within established statutory and ARM framework, and managed in a way to avoid inadvertently undermining the existing Block Management Program.

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**Day 2:** Meeting convened at 8:00 a.m.

**Council Members Present:** Same members present

**Fish, Wildlife & Parks Personnel Present:** Same staff present.

### I. Recap/Questions & Comments from Council Members

### II. Work Session: Where Do We Go From Here?

Roundtable discussion between council members of potential goals for this council to address. Several members agreed that any improved access is a goal for this council. Discussion on using volunteers to help landowners take reservations, administer permission, and provide other assistance for the landowner. Various remarks on appropriately marketing FWP access programs to landowners, increasing FWP presence on the ground, and finding a way to address the generational shift of landowners and types of landowners in Montana. All members agreed that services are a vital part of the access program's success.

**\*\*\*Action Item:** Council members unanimously agreed to invite landowners/operators of various backgrounds to the next council meeting in order to move forward with making recommendations for access programs. Landowners/operators will have the opportunity to share their successes with wildlife management, how they are tackling the issue, what motivates them to manage access/provide opportunity, what makes their operation successful, and what unique factors contribute to their approach.

Council members will submit two lists to Worsech **by October 31, 2016** identifying:

1. Potential landowners/operators that represent diverse backgrounds, ownership types, etc.
2. Questions to ask landowners/operators that highlight successes, challenges faced, motivation for providing access and opportunity, etc.

**III. Public Comment** – Two individuals provided public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting Dates – December 12-13 in Helena**