

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Agenda Item: Nongame Check-off Workplan

Division: Wildlife **Action Needed:** Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

Under the provisions of 87-5-122, MCA, “the FWP Commission shall review and annually approve the nongame wildlife program’s projects recommended by the Department for funding from the nongame wildlife account. The commission shall provide for public comment during the review and approval process.” While final 2018 tax year donations are unknown at this time, the average received by FWP from the 2004-2017 tax years was \$30,000-\$40,000/year. FWP is proposing some combination of the following work in FY20 dependent on the final allocation:

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|-----------------|---|
| \$10,000 | Non-federal match for State Wildlife Grants to support the statewide avian conservation coordinator. |
| \$5,000 | Inventory, monitoring, and conservation work on Montana Species of Concern and species in need of inventory as determined through a formal ranking process. |
| \$10,000 | Match to federal dollars for disease control of sylvatic plague in the interest of prairie dog and black-footed ferret conservation. |
| \$5,000 | Match to federal dollars for incentivizing private land conservation projects. |
| \$5,000 | Wildlife viewing and outreach projects that encourage more Montanans to appreciate Montana wildlife. |
| \$5,000 | Competitive graduate student stipend for nongame research. |

Public Involvement & Results:

Public comment will be solicited upon tentative commission approval.

Alternatives and Analysis:

The recommended work addresses several components of FWP’s overall nongame management program (including threatened and endangered species management), as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Tax check-off funding is used as non-federal match for federal State Wildlife Grants and other federal grant awards to address high-priority habitat, survey and inventory, and species conservation needs. Alternatives could include allocating more or less among these categories or identifying new categories.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends the commission endorse the proposed work for funding with nongame tax check-off funds.

Proposed Motion:

Move that the commission tentatively approve the proposed Nongame Tax Check-Off Workplan for Fiscal Year 2020.