



Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group

Application Packet

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is seeking 10-12 individuals to serve as a statewide citizens group to collaboratively provide guidance for the Elk Management Plan in Montana. Specifically, the group will be tasked with developing a concise issue statement about elk management and define some meaningful and enduring principles that may guide elk management into the future. The citizens group will be diverse and represent a variety of stakeholders. Meetings will be facilitated to maintain objectivity, productivity, and to guide the development process. It is pertinent to understand that the Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group is providing overarching elk management guidance for the entire state of Montana and will not be tasked with making specific decisions regarding management tools, regional/hunting district specific strategies, or writing the Elk Management Plan. Once the defined task of the citizens group is completed, the group will disband and future steps in the planning process will use broader public input to inform decisions. Thank you for your interest in serving on the Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group. It is important that you review the application materials before applying. **Applications must be received no later than May 25, 2020.**

General Information

The Elk Management Plan that FWP currently operates under was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2005. Many changes in Montana over the last 15 years have resulted in a need to update and create a new Elk Management Plan. To remain transparent and to serve the public, FWP would like to build Montana's new Elk Management Plan around principles developed by citizens who represent diverse public interests. The Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group process will kick off the development of the new Elk Management Plan. Any guidance generated by the citizens group will be directed to the F&W Commission for their consideration and potential endorsement before further plan development and specific management strategies will be considered. Future steps in the planning process include broad and extensive public scoping using public meetings, listening sessions, and online surveys.

Information for Applicants

After taking recommendations from FWP Staff, the FWP Director will review applications and make final appointments to the citizens group. FWP has assembled the following information for you to consider before applying for the Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group.

Interested individuals:

Must be able to travel and actively participate in two multi-day meetings. The first meeting will be held in Helena, MT. The second meeting location is to be determined. Mileage, lodging and meal costs associated with the meetings will be reimbursed by FWP. Dates of the meetings will be June 22 & 23 and July 16 & 17. Participants must be committed to attending both meetings.

Must be committed to collaboratively providing elk management guidance that will serve as the foundation of a new Montana Elk Management Plan.

Must be willing to recognize a model of conservation in Montana that incorporates different stakeholder values, and respects both private property rights and public trust management of the elk resource.

Must be willing to actively participate in a facilitated process that incorporates diverse inputs to identify commonalities.

Must be able to acknowledge the value of others' comments and viewpoints and create discussion within ground rules that are established to encourage a climate of respect.

In the pursuit of an effective and diverse group that is both representative and respectful, no automatic preference will be assigned any group or individual. Rather, individual nominations will be assessed for the perspective they represent and for their visible willingness and ability to comprehensively engage the discussion.

Individuals interested in participating in such a group should submit a written application to FWP by **May 25th, 2020**. The FWP Director will make appointments shortly after the May 25th, 2020 deadline.

Questions

Please call 406-594-8278 or email FWPWLD@mt.gov if you have questions about the Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group.

Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group

Application Form

Applications must be received no later than May 25th, 2020.

Mail or Email:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Elk Management Plan Initial Guidance Citizens Group
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
FWPWLD@mt.gov

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening or Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Residency Status (check one): Resident of Montana Nonresident

Please address each of the following questions. If you need additional space, feel free to use and attach additional paper.

1. Please describe your interest in elk management in Montana. _____

2. Please describe why you want to serve as a member of this citizens group. _____

3. Please describe how Montana's elk management has personally impacted you. _____

4. Please describe your experiences working collaboratively toward successful resolutions of contentious issues. _____
