

JOBS LISTENING SESSION PRESENTATION

• Brief History of the Problem

- Brief history of the FWP Department & FWP Commission's (FWP) reduction in archery elk permits in the face of biological surplus, which started in 2008.
 1. Prior to 2008 the 3 Missouri River Breaks Hunting Districts (Breaks) were required to apply for an unlimited guaranteed archery elk permit.
 2. Prior to 2008 the 22 Hunting Districts outside the Breaks (22HDs), in central and eastern Montana, did not require a permit to hunt these HDs.
 3. Starting in 2008 the (FWP) implemented limited permits for the 3 Breaks HDs. With formal reductions started in 2009, ~~after a year's grace period~~. Removing 247 Residents (Res) and 971 Nonresidents (NR) (see table below)
 4. In 2010 the actions of the FWP reduced 1,520 Res. & 1,869 NRs archery hunters from both the Breaks and the 22HDs. (see tables below)
 5. By doing so the FWP has reduced the economic benefits to the local communities in and around these HDs over the 2 year period by over 9.7 million dollars. (see tables below)
- ~~Discuss the fact that~~ the FWP has continued to reduce permits even though elk populations have continued to increase. Keep in mind that all the Breaks & 22HDs are at or over population objectives as established in the Statewide Elk Management Plan. The FWP can't explain their actions using any biological data for reducing both resident and nonresident hunting opportunities in the face of biological surplus

• Economic Impact of Decreasing Permits

- The permit reductions have impacted the Montana economy in two ways:
 1. It has become impossible for outfitters to make a living because their clientele cannot get permits. Outfitters have lost between 30-90% of their archery elk business. This translates to between \$20,000 to well over \$100,000 in lost outfitter income in one year!
 2. Many of these outfitters have had to let go most of their guides and other staff, due to these reductions.

The outfitting industry is a 1.67 million dollar industry & employees thousands of employees

Res & NR

3. Fewer NR hunters mean less benefit to local economies. (see tables below)

*Ryan's Geography & meat processing
LOST \$54,000*

- If you take a look at the table on the handout, you'll see estimates of exactly how much money Montana has lost as a result of these elk permit reductions. In formulating that information, I used FWP estimates of resident days afield and money spent per day. The only assumption made was that all unsuccessful applicants would have hunted if they had drawn a permit.
- The commission's biologically unfounded decision to reduce permits has created a ripple effect through the Montana economy, making it impossible for outfitters to make a living and taking valuable Res. & NR dollars out of local economies.

- **The Fix We Would Like to See**

- We come to the legislature with a suggestion/request.

1. That the legislature adopts decision-making criteria for the FWP. This legislation would require that the commission, when making decisions about hunting, fish or trapping opportunities

- State the management purpose of a decision
- State measurable objectives for that purpose
- Provide a finding of impact by considering factors like: biological status of species, R and NR who participated in an activity in the past and that can be expected in the future, the importance of the activity to the economy, and impacts to private or public lands.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of their decision in relation to the management purpose.
- Provide public notice of decisions,
- Allow public comment and allow that public comments to form decisions.
- Provide a full and complete record of the commission's process

2. We also suggest/request that the legislature move elk permits back to 2007 levels. This would help outfitters and local economies until such time as the commission can go through the decision-making criteria to set elk permit numbers.

- **Conclusion**

- In conclusion, the FWP Commission's decision to reduce permits is not biologically sound and has had dramatic consequences on economies and jobs in Montana.
- We ask that the legislature consider making the Commission more transparent and accountable in its decision-making, and that elk permit numbers be returned to their 2007 levels until such time as this criteria can be put into effect.

2009 Economic Impact of Elk Permit Reductions in Missouri River Breaks Hunting Districts

Hunting Districts	Total loss of resident hunting opportunities*	Economic loss to local areas due to lost resident hunting**	Total loss of NR hunting opportunities*	Economic loss to local areas due to lost non-resident hunting**	FWP Estimated % of Population Objective
410-15	0	0	346	\$1, 128,373	At
620-15	247	\$171, 719	581	\$1, 894,754	Over
798-15	0	0	44	\$ 143,493	Over
Total	247	\$171, 719	971	\$3,166,620	
Total lost resident and non-resident hunting opportunities	1,218		Total Economic loss to Missouri River Breaks Area	\$3,338,339	

*Assumes that all unsuccessful applicants would have hunted if they had drawn permits.

**Used FWP estimates of resident or nonresident days afield and money spent per day.

2010 ARCHERY ELK REDUCTIONS for the 22 HDs & the MISSOURI BREAKS HDs

Hunting Districts	Total Loss of Resident Hunting Opportunities*	Economic Loss to Local Areas Due to Lost Resident Hunting Opportunities**	Total Loss of Nonresident Hunting Opportunities*	Economic Loss to Local Areas Due to the Loss of Nonresident Hunting Opportunities**	FWP Est. % of Population Objective
401-15	15	\$10,428	0	\$0	At
411-15	152	\$105,673	151	\$431,004	Over
420-15	311	\$216,212	50	\$142,717	At
500-15	16	\$11,123	4	\$11,417	At
502-15	83	\$57,703	6	\$17,126	Over
580-15	27	\$18,771	8	\$22,835	Over
590-15	0	\$0	78	\$222,638	Over
799-15	129	\$89,683	180	\$513,780	Over
410-15	384	\$266,963	546	\$1,558,465	At
620-15	282	\$196,051	475	\$1,355,808	Over
798-15	121	\$84,121	371	\$1,058,957	Over
Total	1,520	\$1,056,728	1,869	\$5,334,747	
		Total Loss of Hunting Opportunities Resident-NR		Total Economic Loss to Both Areas for Resident-NR	
		3,389		\$6,391,475	
	Total Lost Hunter Opportunities for 2009 & 2010	4,607	Total Economic Loss to All HD's for 2009 & 2010	\$9,729,814	
	*Assumption That All Un-Successful Applicants Would Have Hunted	**Used FWP Estimations of Resident Days Afield & Money Spent Per Day		**Used FWP Estimations of Nonresident Days Afield & Money Spent Per Day	

*Assumes that all unsuccessful applicants would have hunted if they had drawn permits.

**Used FWP estimates of resident or nonresident days afield and money spent per day.

For more information about the economic impacts of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Department & Commission's decisions, please contact:

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