

## Stockwell, Hope

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**From:** amsutey@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2013 3:06 PM  
**To:** Stockwell, Hope  
**Subject:** Fwd: Recommended HB609 Changes to Nonresident, Montana Native Hunting Licenses(SB136)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hope,

I have made a few editorial and clarification changes. Please submit this version to the Council.  
Thanks so much.

Tony

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**From:** amsutey@comcast.net  
**To:** "Hope Stockwell" <hstockwell@mt.gov>  
**Cc:** "Vincent Chas" <cvvincent@hotmail.com>, "John Brenden" <senatorbrenden@gmail.com>, "Hank Woresch" <hworsech@mt.gov>, "Montana FWP" <fwpgen@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2013 3:05:17 PM  
**Subject:** Recommended HB609 Changes to Nonresident, Montana Native Hunting Licenses(SB136)

Members of the Montana Environmental Quality Council,

Your Interim Study of Hunting and Fishing Licenses(HB609) is extremely important and has received wide scale support. As part of this review, I am sure that the provisions of SB136 which allows Nonresident , Montana Native Hunting Licenses(NMNHL) at substantially reduced prices will be appropriately reevaluated.

In particular, I recommend the following changes to the NMNHL;

- 1) A Nonresident Montana Native is verified simply by a valid Montana birth certificate documenting that the nonresident Montana native was born to parents who were residents of Montana. Eliminate the requirement that the applicant is a relative of a living Montana resident who is his/her natural or adoptive sibling, child or parent. This eliminates discrimination of senior nonresident Montana natives like me whose immediate family members are deceased and greatly reduces verification/processing expenses for FWP.
- 2) Increase the current fees for the program to generate additional revenues for the Montana FWP. Recommended increases should be left to the discretion of the Environmental Quality Council in conjunction with the overall analysis if the Interim Study and FWP budget requirements. Current NMNHL fees for elk and deer are 4 times the cost of resident licenses. The multiplier could be reasonably increased, but still be much less than the full rate of a nonresident license. Nonresident Montana Natives are very loyal to their home state and significantly contribute to the economy, and social and family traditions of Montana. Consequently, a measured reduction in the cost of their licenses is appropriate as determined by the Council and will result in increased revenues to Montana beyond hunting and fishing revenues.

I had the pleasure to work with Sen Chas Vincent sponsor of SB381 and with Sen John Brenden(Chair) and Hank Woresch(Chief FWP Licensing Division) in the formulation of the bill which passed the Senate but was tabled in the House--primarily since HB609 was in play to address

all fishing and hunting license funding issues. SB381 was developed using the "spirit" of SB136 but included Nonresident Montana Natives whose parents/immediate family members are deceased--an obvious omission/oversight in the original bill. SB381 increased the fees for the program to make it revenue neutral and added a 2 year sunset provision to coincide with the results of HB609. If you are interested you can access SB381 for reference.

I am almost 72 years young--was born and raised in Butte and have held Montana resident licenses in the past. My parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were long time continuous residents of Montana and are buried in Montana. I have numerous aunts, uncles, and first cousins in Montana and consider myself a loyal Montanan. If the NMNHL program continues, I hope that senior natives like me will be able to participate.

I want to thank the Council and the Montana FWP for considering my recommended input to this important interim study. I wish you great success.

Tony Sutey  
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Newcastle, Washington 98056  
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PS. Thank you, Hope, for your kind and professional assistance. Please provide this to the Council. If you need additional info please contact me

December 10, 2013

**Licensing and Funding Advisory Council:  
Website comments received since the last meeting**

Attention Council:

Commenting on the idea of changes for funding and licensing for FWP:

The Come Home to Hunt package has been the most beneficial package for family to come back and join other family in the fall tradition of hunting and spending time outdoors. This has also allowed many families the opportunity to come back to Montana and spend time and money which they may not normally be able to do every year. My brother alone spends on average roughly \$600 – \$800 when he is back, with meals, gas, shopping, over numerous trips back to Montana from Washington.

At the normally out of state license cost, he would not be able to apply for a license each year, thus it would be lost revenue for the state via trickle down.

As to the funding for FWP, I firmly believe it should not be as strongly tied to license sales as it is currently. Many sportsman and women believe FWP sells tags regardless of the animal population and harvest opportunities. It hurts FWP's bottom line to cut licenses available for sale, thus not a strong incentive to truly limit licenses based on what is best for the game populations. I firmly believe we should be funding FWP also out of the MT budget as other entities are. This would decouple the strong relationship of license sales and FWP's budget, opening up a true management not based on FWP license sales. This also would allow FWP to provide better salaries for game wardens and other employees, enhancing retention within FWP. I, as well as other outdoor enthusiasts would gladly pay a little more in the state taxes to support this change. The main goal is proper wildlife management and enhanced habitat, thus with this reached, more wildlife means more recreation and more money into the Montana economy.

Feel free to reach out to me with comments or replies.

Thank you for your time.

David Sommerville  
3045 Sheffield Drive  
Missoula, MT 59808  
Life resident

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I have a proposal that every Montanan that loves nature and the wildlife of this great state should be concerned about. The proposal has nothing and everything to do with permit and license pricing.

December 10, 2013

At present the in place system of tracking game taken annually has no way of being accurate. The regulations state that if you are hunting and pass a " Game Check Station " you are required to stop and give information.

A great percentage of hunters never pass a " Check Station " and thus a great deal of game is never checked and recorded as taken. I know this happens because I've personally seen it happen on several occasions while hunting.

Much of this could be eliminated simply by mandating that all game taken must be reported at a game check station. The other portion of this proposal would be that sporting goods stores, gas stations that sell hunting and fishing

Gear and business owners that deal in hunting, fishing and camping be licensed as " Game Check Stations ". This works well in other states that I've hunted in and the merchants are willing to serve in this capacity because the hunters that stop to check game more often than not purchase other items while they are at the location.

Just an opinion based on personal experience that seems to more accurately record the tracking of game. Thank you for your time.

John and Rita Gill  
jgandrg@gmail.com

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Dear Sirs,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the upcoming FWP Licenses Funding meetings. First, I have been a property/land owner and tax payer in Montana since 1997. My wife and I occupy our home in the Rock Creek area about 5 months per year. Our other home is in the state of Georgia , where we also pay taxes.

In all those years I have not had the opportunity to hunt deer, elk or other big game due to high cost of non-resident licenses. I fully understand that I am not a full time resident and do not expect to be treated as such. But, I do think that some consideration in the form of reduced license fees should be given to those of us (I would estimate only a few hundred) who pay taxes and live a significant amount in time in Montana.

I would think that the economic value I and other part-time residents provide is at least as much as those who have left Montana, but are offered a reduced license fee for returning to hunt.

I am not a Ted Turner or other absentee land owner. I am just an average guy who "discovered" Montana and decided to build a home and spend as much time as I can living here.

To be able to enjoy the Montana hunting experience would be most appreciated. I guarantee that given a reasonable license fee, I and my fellow land owners will provide a significant economic boost to Montana.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Spratlin  
14 Brewster Creek Rd., Clinton, MT 59825

I'm sure some of my thoughts are biased. But anyway:

I don't always agree with some of the youth hunts. I feel that it gives "dad" a chance to fill a tag. Illegal as it is, I know it happens, and naive to think it doesn't..

I don't agree with the drastically increased out of state license fees. Bring the fees down a bit, bring in a few more out of state hunters, increase revenue for the state.

Continue the low fees for us older folks. It's tough to live on a fixed income.

We have rifle hunting and seasons for it. We have have archery hunting and seasons for it. Create some muzzle loading seasons for the muzzle loaders. Keep the muzzleloader as simple as possible, similar to the muzzle loader requirements in Washington State i.e.: .45 min. caliber, no 209 ignition, no scope, breach load only, etc..

Continue the opportunities for the handicapped or disabled.

Keep up the good work, but give some of your time to some of my thoughts.

John Hildebrand  
3273 Sloway Frontage Rd. E.  
St. Regis, MT 59866

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I would like to comment on the process of simplifying the hunting and fishing licensing structure. As a Montana Native with strong family ties in the state I have greatly appreciated having the opportunity to return home to hunt with my father, Brian Lipscomb and my brother, Taylor Lipscomb for the past three years using a Nonresident Montana Native Hunting License.

In 2011 I brought my family home for Thanksgiving and some hunting with my dad. We were only able to hunt for two days, but I was fortunate enough to get a deer and even more fortunate to spend that time in the woods I grew up in with my dad. I returned in 2012 as well as 2013. This year I had the pleasure of hunting with both my dad and my brother. I didn't end up taking an animal in 2012 or 2013, but I got what I came home for - the opportunity to go into the woods and spend time with people I love, doing what we've always done.

Without access to the reasonable pricing of the Nonresident Montana Native Licenses the opportunity for me to come back to Montana to hunt would become a once-in-a-decade prospect. I would have to spend almost a thousand dollars on licenses for deer and elk. I could no longer justify buying a license for a few days of hunting, and would feel obligated to plan a longer trip requiring me to take a lot of time off of work. I have a good job as an engineering manager in Portland, and that kind of pricing would prohibit me from having the annual opportunity to hunt with my dad and brother. Imagine how it might impact those who are less

December 10, 2013

fortunate financially. If reasonable pricing remains for me and others in similar situations you can count on me returning home to hunt nearly every year.

If the licensing structure is simplified to the point of eliminating special opportunities for Montana Natives, veterans, youth, and folks with disabilities the demographic of the Montana sportsman will shift from families enjoying the traditions they always have to an opportunity only a privileged few can enjoy unless they are fortunate enough live in the Big Sky State currently.

While I understand the desire to streamline archaic and confusing rules such as age requirements for youth, I encourage the Advisory Council to consider the impact on those of us trying to maintain family ties as well as those with fewer opportunities to hunt. You might consider creating a single licensing framework for anybody who falls within the following categories:

-Nonresident Montana Native with family living in Montana -Nonresident former Montanan with family living in Montana -Nonresident youth -Nonresident disabled hunters -Nonresident veterans

A similar simplification of the licensing structure for resident youth, disabled, and veteran hunters could also be viable.

I appreciate Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' dedication to helping families maintain their traditions through opportunities like the Nonresident Montana Native licenses. It shows an organization with strong values when opportunities like this are placed before a desire for greater revenue per sportsman, recognizing that higher fees will prohibit more people from experiencing the bounty that our great state has to offer.

Thank You For Your Consideration,  
Ben Lipscomb

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I just wanted to submit public comment about the raising of MT hunting licenses in cost due to what other states charge. MT is not other states, we are ranked at almost dead last for per capita income per household in the US. It seems to me that FWP is constantly trying to figure out how to make more and more money instead of doing more with less like everyone else has been doing over the past five or so years in this recession. It's ludicrous to even consider raising fees and placing more financial hardship on folks who are simply trying to feed themselves for the winter. If you want to raise money shift the burden to the out of state hunters who can afford to come here and hunt in the first place, most of them wouldn't bat an eye at an increase in tags.

Name: Jason Jones

Phone Number: 406-208-5656

E-mail: [justjonesin@hotmail.com](mailto:justjonesin@hotmail.com)

December 10, 2013

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As for Mr. Tim Alderich, If he wants to be more competitive ...Raising the fee is not the answer. Residents in Montana have enough fees & rates going up already.We don't need to raise our Montana resident hunting fee! I feel we pay enough already!!So what's in it for you?

Name: tom

Phone Number:

E-mail: [montanatom42@bresnan.net](mailto:montanatom42@bresnan.net)

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I am 46 years old and have lived in Montana all of my life. Hunting is a part of our families heritage and we have lived off of wild game all of our lives thanks to a once thriving and blessed wild game population here in western Montana. I am afraid that era is coming to a close. For several years now we have been witnessing the impact of wolves throughout our area. Hunting opportunities continue to decline year by year. As I read the Missoulian article this morning titled, "Council seeks input on Montana hunting license regulations", I was bewildered. Are these people living in another state? Do they really think that Montana hunters are going to continue to support FWP and in turn support Montana's wildlife management program? Hunters fund Montana wildlife management; period. As hunting opportunities continue to decline and they will as long as the wolves are thriving, fewer residents will be contributing by purchasing hunting licenses and fewer and fewer people outside this state will be looking at Montana as a place to come and spend money for hunting. Inflationary increases are understandable; compensating for the destruction of a Montana resource is not. If Montana has any hope of correcting this disaster before it is too late it needs to assert its sovereignty over its natural resources just as Wyoming did. Funding big game management in Montana starts with appropriately managing wolves; ignore this fact and the Montana hunting heritage will be a thing of the past for my family and all of Montana.

Sincerely,  
Jon Roske

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I don't know if this is the appropriate forum to address this concern or not but, it is a starting place. Is there a way or could there be a way to eliminate dual Elk permits being awarded to John Doe as an example. Some hunters apply for an Elk permit & get none. Others apply & get more than one ? If John Does name comes up that he applied & received a permit, wouldn't it be possible to the kick that name out of any other Elk permit possibilities for that current year & therefore get another hunter a chance or opportunity at an Elk permit ? You would think the computer could certainly manage this task.

Example: Without divulging any names, I know of an individual that received two Elk permits for the 2013 hunting year, didn't go hunting, & therefore wasted two tags that certainly one of them could have gone to another hunter?

December 10, 2013

Thanks for the opportunity to voice my concern,  
Cordially, James Milligan

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I'd like to provide some comments prior to the Dec 11th meeting. I'm a non-resident hunter who was born and raised in Montana. Still have family in NW Montana that I visit frequently and moreso during the Summer/Fall. MT holds a special place in my heart.

One of the best things I've seen related to hunting in MT is the Montana Native program, which I qualify. 2013 was the first time I utilized the program which makes it affordable for me to drive 2 hours to hunt in MT and relive the good times from my youth with family. At the current prices I can justify doing this every year. The local economy benefits as well from purchasing gas, food, and if lucky enough (game processing and taxidermy), among other things. If I were required to pay full non-resident prices, well I wouldn't be hunting in MT and there be no positive impact to the local economy as a result. I also wouldn't be making lasting memories with my own young family in this great state. Attached is a picture of my 5 year-old son who I took hunting with me for the first time on a late afternoon mid-November day in Region 1. He had so much fun, we did it again the next day. This is an intangible benefit that I'm passing on our hunting heritage to my own children that will sustain or improve what we have available today in Montana. Would love to keep this going. Note, he was preparing a snowball to fire at me in this pic before we started hiking. Anyway, I do hope the council takes this into consideration. The Montana Native program gets me back to MT and for that I'm very thankful.

Thanks, Tory Fantozzi  
208/699-9916 (cell)

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It seems that this constant searching of neighboring states to see what they charge for hunting licensing is a bad deal for the Montanans that have to ante up each season. Given that the FWP is bragging up the 7.something % hunting success rate in region 1 this past season, it looks like we continue to pay more for less. Some areas in region 1 ran around 4.5 % success rate!

Maybe the fees should reflect actual opportunity and/or success, based on the performance of game management of our FWP, instead of basing the fees on what other states charge (what the market will bear) or some inflationary index.

On the positive side, I applaud your efforts to simplify the age-special consideration fee structure. Maybe anyone who wants to hunt should be ready to pay the same as any other hunter. Some people will end up paying more, but some will pay less or at least the same.  
Thank you, Frank Brown

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There should be more bison hunting opportunities and consequently more FWP funding from bison hunts.

*December 10, 2013*

Thanks,  
MT Bison Interest Group