

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 12:13:53 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 12:41:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:44
IP Address: 107.77.220.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tim Billado
City/Town: Kettle falls
State/Province: WA
Email Address: dukmaster@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Hello, I don't know if this is off topic. Has there ever been any consideration of changing the sage grouse season. Most hunters in my opinion that target sage grouse are looking for a trophy bird. In September most birds are still not fully plumed out, causing hunters to take more birds in the hopes of getting a good specimen. If the sage grouse season dates were changed to September 15 to October 15 or October 1 to October 31, maybe this would lessen the pressure on sage grouse in Montana.

Thank you

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 9:56:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, December 26, 2023 10:02:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:51
IP Address: 174.234.20.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joseph R Stefek
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ryan.stefek@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

8 partridge/day is too many!!
5 or 6 seems more appropriate.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 9:30:58 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, December 27, 2023 9:41:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:43
IP Address: 216.47.60.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Thomas Mccloskey
City/Town: Superior
State/Province: MT
Email Address: thomasjmccloskey@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

i think the region 2 tag should be valid in mineral county also! the population in the county is exploding. you see them everywhere in large numbers!

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, December 29, 2023 11:38:16 AM
Last Modified: Friday, December 29, 2023 11:48:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:02
IP Address: 98.97.5.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tom Lipko
City/Town: Poplar
State/Province: MT
Email Address: thomas.lipko@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

request that FWP consider a region 6 additional turkey license. Two years ago the boundary for region 7 was changed and removed the south side of Missouri river from region 7 license, reducing opportunity from 2 turkeys to 1. Could make the region 6 license only valid south of highway 2 and Richland/McCone county only if necessary. Reason for change is additional opportunity for the limited number of hunters pursuing turkeys in region 6. Missouri river riparian and nearby agricultural area turkey population can sustain additional hunting opportunity.

#5

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 06, 2024 11:25:17 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 06, 2024 11:33:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:03
IP Address: 172.56.200.203

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Matthew Cowan
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: huntingfreak3356@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Hen tags in Region 1 should be decreased. If there needs to be more hens killed then make the tags good for only private land. As a public land turkey hunter, I see very few birds on public in areas that are prime turkey habitat. If we keep allowing people to shoot hens on public land we will never get to see the spread of birds away from private that we need to see.

#6

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:23:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:34:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:01
IP Address: 174.215.23.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rick DeVries**
City/Town: **Laramie**
State/Province: **WY**
Email Address: **woodshed@wyoming.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

We have noticed a lot of commercial hunting and dog training. Semi loads of dogs from Texas. Trucks and trailers hauling dogs from many different states. I am an old man that has hunted upland birds for 57 years. This commercial activity is a disgrace and at least unethical! I would propose as several States have, NO Commercial activity on Public access lands. If they want to train dogs they can lease private lands. The sooner MT addresses this problem the better. This includes field trials and dog breeders.

#7

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:31:30 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:35:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:19
IP Address: 104.28.85.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Fred Loe
City/Town:	South Fork
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	fred.loe1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I get these notices but your system does not allow a response. Specific instructions on these upcoming meetings on January 16th or 17th to listen and watch Virtually ! What difference if you are resident or non resident on those meetings? Montana is the third largest state in the US!

#8

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:33:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 08, 2024 5:41:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:26
IP Address: 24.225.124.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joe Lesmeister**
City/Town: **Thief River Falls**
State/Province: **MN**
Email Address: **rooster.crazy@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I would like to see the non-resident upland game bird license structure changed to match SD or ND with a (2)- 5 or 7 days periods with the option to buy as many as you would like I would also like to see more restrictions on bird dog training prior to season opening. I feel it pushes birds around and makes them more wild by the time season opens. Maybe set a time limit of how many days or make them buy permits that are only good for a certain number of days.

#9

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Started: Monday, January 08, 2024 7:22:32 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 08, 2024 8:51:23 PM
Time Spent: 01:28:50
IP Address: 71.15.211.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: CHARLES MURTAGH
City/Town: bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: CHUCKMURTAGH@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I think the pheasant, sharptail, and partridge season should run until January 31st to give hunters a late season opportunity, like Kansas does...The late season is a different experience where solo hunters can work birds that are grouped up and accessible with or without dogs.while neither the birds or landowners endure excessive pressure..A unique hunt...

#10

COMPLETE

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Started: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 8:25:50 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 8:29:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:22
IP Address: 66.171.17.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tom Lipko
City/Town:	Poplar
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	thomas.lipko@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

request consideration of a region 6 turkey license valid south of HWY 2 only. This would provide additional turkey opportunity along the Missouri River that was eliminated several years ago by moving the region 7 boundary to HWY 200 in Richland and McCone County.

#11

COMPLETE

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Started: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 10:00:59 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 10:05:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:18
IP Address: 174.231.65.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Don Amboyer
City/Town:	Denver
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	amboyer@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Thank you for publishing the preliminary 2024 season information and being consistent with prior years. As a non-resident, I've hunted region 6 for more than ten years. I greatly appreciate the opportunity that landowners offer through the block management program and welcoming people in Montana. Each season I look forward to my time in the State.

#12

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Started: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 10:46:19 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 10:49:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:06
IP Address: 72.250.152.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephanie Prater**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mthuntress406@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

We need to start looking at a way to curb the pressure, particularly from non-residents on upland birds and turkeys either through limiting number of permits/tags issued or limiting the number of days they can hunt. The pressure has increased 10 fold in recent years with non-residents for both turkey and upland and many camp out/stay for weeks and weeks. Please look into limiting NR pressure. Thank you.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 11:35:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:12
IP Address: 206.127.113.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Justin Trout
City/Town: East Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: csceagle52@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Please leave the season structure the same. Having spent 40 days in the field I never once ran it into issues of non-resident hunting pressure being excessive. If non resident hunting needs to be limited please just consider upping the cost of the non resident permit as it allows for an entire season of hunting for less than the cost of 10 day permit to hunt South Dakota.

#14

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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 8:10:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 76.75.23.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Garrett**
City/Town: **Scobey**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

The amount of nonresident upland hunters that come and absolutely take over the area and hunt it non stop day in and out group after group is ruining opportunity for residents especially locals. Not only is it frustrating seeing the trash and tracks left behind, it's nearly impossible to see a bird that's not flushing 200 yards away the second you start slowing down to park at a public area. Nonresident tags need to either be raised in price or put to a drawing. Also could look into what South Dakota does for resident upland hunters to give them opportunity.

#15

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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 09, 2024 8:52:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:14
IP Address: 174.234.22.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Dirwart
City/Town:	Glendive
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kdorwart@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Non resident seasons need to be limited as they do in North and South Dakota to reduce pressure on birds and allow for a better resident hunting experience. Non resident trainers bring numerous dogs to Montana to train due to access and the length of the season. This has resulted in extreme pressure on birds in many areas.

#16

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 1:06:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:26
IP Address: 70.33.47.177

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brady Burgess
City/Town: Glasgow
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brady.burgess@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

The regulations need to be amended to limit non-resident upland game bird hunters to a set number of days. Much like to North Dakota system. As we saw on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation this year conflict is arising from the number of non-resident hunters as well as the number of non-resident hunter days. We are the only state in the region that allows non-resident hunters to hunt from season opening to season close and it has not only taken a toll on our bird numbers but also the overall view of hunting from landowners. A number of BMA participants have removed their land from the program because of the number of non-resident hunting pressure their property sees. This is our opportunity to stop the recession of BMA participants and limit the non-resident hunters to 2 weekends

#17

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:10:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:59
IP Address: 216.213.86.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris Swanson
City/Town: Menno
State/Province: SD
Email Address: ac104cs@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

There are many people spending many weeks if not months training dogs and hunting, would like to see a 5-7 day license option instead of a entire season, can buy multiple licenses per season but each license is only valid for 5-7 days. Training dogs prior to season should be treated a similar way.

#18

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Last Modified: Thursday, January 11, 2024 7:59:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:57
IP Address: 66.171.28.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Arlin Kaul
City/Town:	Plentywood/Flaxville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	akaulme@gmaik.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

PLEASE restrict the number of out of state hunters and the number of days they can hunt. These numbers are not only ruining the way of life for our resident youth hunters but are a nuisance to us farmers! Please make out of state hunters choose a hunting district and limit the numbers in each district. Please choose to allow us residents to continue our way of life instead of choosing the money from these outrageous numbers of out of state hunters. Thank you.

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 13, 2024 8:04:03 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 13, 2024 8:51:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:47:14
IP Address: 104.28.116.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Neal Cote
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mrpikemt1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Seasons in Western and Central Montana are too long. Populations of all species are impacted negatively by allowing a 4 month season and pushing many species onto private land where trespassing citations have exploded. Add to that a huge influx of inexperienced new hunters that have very low hunter ethics when coming in contact with other hunters pursuing big game and waterfowl. Just this last season, I personally have had many more negative interactions with upland hunters especially pheasant hunters this last 2023 season. I have personally been put in several situations where upland hunters have shot at myself and people in my group while we were waterfowl hunting. We were set up with large decoy spreads, so it is pretty obvious that other hunters are present and upland hunters just push right up. In many cases they have walked right by our parked vehicles knowing that we are there, expressed to us in parking areas that they are going to hunt even though they know or should reasonably know that we are there. When having interactions with these individuals they have expressed that they have every right to hunt wherever they want and most actively will harass and place themselves to interfere with waterfowl that approach our decoy spreads.

Also, populations of pheasants in particular as well as partridge have been dropping in many of the areas which has been documented both in FWP studies as well as my personal observations. Examples include CSKT lands, Freeze Out Lake, Fresno Reservoir, and Warm Springs near Galen.

I have spent many hours in the field in all of these areas and have observed some of the lowest number of upland birds and a huge increase of new hunters. FWP needs to look at bird populations, hunting access, hunting pressure, and hunting ethics much better than they are currently. By having such a long season, populations are trending down due to harvest. In the past, shorter seasons allowed for better hunting opportunities and did not have a larger impact. Add to this poor nesting survival rates and increased predation from exploding populations of raptors, foxes, coyotes, and skunks.

At the current levels, by using an over simplified set of regulations that don't address specific populations, the current regulations will continue to negatively impact upland game hunting for pheasant and partridge just like it has for the native sharp tail and sage grouse populations which FWP has done extensively over the past several years.

#20

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Last Modified: Sunday, January 14, 2024 5:35:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:30
IP Address: 174.195.116.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **GLEN C DICKENS**
City/Town: **TUCSON**
State/Province: **AZ**
Email Address: **gbdickens@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am a non-resident annual central Montana Pheasant hunter. It is a full family event we do every year. I understand this meeting is to discuss Upland Bird issues and I would respectfully ask that no restrictions be placed on Non residents to hunt pheasants on the standard opening weekend. I understand that it has been suggested that we not be allowed to hunt pheasants on the standard opening weekend. If that were to occur it would prevent us from coming up on the weekend following due to other family obligations.

Best,
Glen Dickens, Tucson Arizona

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 15, 2024 1:48:56 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 15, 2024 2:06:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:11
IP Address: 216.228.52.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bill Nankivel
City/Town:	Sidney
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wnankive@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

The number of out of state upland bird hunters needs to be regulated as access to hunting opportunities in northeast Montana has become competitive. I would suggest using either the north or South Dakota models. In general, non-residents are restricted to the number of days they can hunt. In South Dakota, it is two non-contiguous five day periods. In conjunction with the season restrictions the wanton waste law needs adjustment. Apparently out of staters and professional trainers can get around the possession limit by feeding game birds to their dogs. Apparently, professional trainers who contribute little or nothing to the overall upland bird hunting have no qualms about feeding game birds to their or their clients dogs. They can come to Montana, earn money and leave all at expense of those of us who live here, pay taxes and wish to keep Montana the last best place.

#22

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Last Modified: Monday, January 15, 2024 2:37:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:06
IP Address: 216.228.40.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dale Tribby
City/Town: Miles City
State/Province: MT
Email Address: dtribbyt@middrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Greater sage-grouse (sage-grouse): I would ask you consider two changes to sage-grouse hunting; 1) please consider allowing a hunting for all or a part of December. For many, the desire to hunt sage-grouse is in the opportunity to shoot an older, well feathered bird. This just doesn't happen in September. Young birds have not grown a complete set of feathers and the older birds are replacing feathers, molted in the previous months. Shooting a bird worthy of mounting is at best difficult. In December, the birds are better feathered and have the potential to become specimens worthy of mounting. It is my belief the numbers of hunters wanting to pursue sage-grouse at this time, would be limited, but the opportunity would be available; and 2) consider changing the early season dates from September 15-30. So many broods are in the road ditches, alfalfa fields or near water during the early part of the season, and as such are relatively easy to find and harvest. Most problematic is the impact on adult hens. Sage-grouse are not like other upland game birds in that they live longer, have smaller brood and respond less rapidly to positive changes in habitat conditions. Sage-grouse hens have learned how to survive and more efforts needs to be made to protect these successful nesters.

Gray Partridge: Considering lowering the bag limit from 8 birds/day to 5/day. Being able to harvest 8 is excessive. Montana and Idaho are the only states in the northern Great Plains to allow a hunter to harvest 8 birds/day. North Dakota, known for their robust Gray Partridge populations allows 3/day. Biologically, the current limit may not have an impact on long term populations, but the same could be said of pheasants. Part of the justification is to spread out the opportunity for take.

Thank you for your time.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:00:49 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 69.146.110.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ian Wargo
City/Town:	KALISPELL
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	iwargo@rpa-kal.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I encourage the Department/Commission to give upland bird regulations the attention they deserve prior to the 2026-2027 season setting. The large scale changes that are likely needed to address the issues that are being experienced regarding upland bird hunting are probably beyond the scope of this February meeting. However, I highly encourage the Department/Commission to be proactive and figure out a better path forward prior to next season setting. Upland bird regulations go way beyond only impacting upland birds populations. Upland bird hunting along with the dogs that are required for it, put extreme pressure on not only birds but also the deer, elk and other wildlife that share the prized upland habitat. We need to go back and look at this issue from a 10,000' level and see what how opportunity can be better allocated so we do not damage/exploit the resource. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

#24

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Started: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:11:44 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:44:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:42
IP Address: 130.51.30.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brett Edmisten
City/Town:	Idaho Falls
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	brettedmisten@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Thank you for a great meeting Jan. 16 in Glendive. My comment pertains to region 7 hunt start date being pushed back to Sept.15. First let me say I have hunted region 6 and 7 for more than 20 years. Both as resident and non resident. And in my experience have seen very few to no other upland hunters while out in the field. It's why I decided to buy property in Prairie County. Lack of pressure. Big game is a different beast but not upland. So it seems pointless to move the season start. I'm all about moving dog training back. The guys that show up in Aug. run the birds hard. They don't shoot them but sure make the birds jumpy. Which makes them harder to hunt. The birds have their wheels on starting opening day. Region 6 is definitely higher pressure. Let me say I'm good either way. I don't push my dogs that hard in early September because it's usually too hot. I spent 3 weeks bird hunting in region 7 this season and only saw a small handful of other bird hunters between 3rd week of September to 1st week of December. And I can say the local bar owners appreciated my small group of 4 hunters. Hope this gives some insight.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:03:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:12
IP Address: 174.212.224.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	William Shope
City/Town:	Drummond
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	shopewilliam52@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I have been hunting turkeys in R7. For over 25 yrs and I believe we need to limit out of state hunters. Last year was out of control and relentless pressure on this game bird. Turkeys numbers are declining all over the nation. Hunters looking to harvest a Merriam's are coming into Mt. because other states have now put limits on out of state hunters. Nebraska comes to mind. I know several landowners in carter county that are concerned about the hunting pressure on these birds. There is way to many nest predators out there that need to be trapped and eliminated. Raccoons Skunks take allot of nests every year. I have seen it myself firsthand. Something needs to be done now not later. I hope that the money grab of out of state licensing does not trump that of Montana residents. I would be willing to pay more for tags. Thank You Bill Shope

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:28:52 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:32:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:26
IP Address: 174.213.241.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ben Brickey
City/Town:	Zahl
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	ben.brickey1986@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I'm a non resident that lives very close to the border. You need to limit non residents coming from around the country and staying for weeks on end training dogs and staying the entire hunting season. Yes I know this will limit my time in Montana but as of now I can't find a cover after the first weekend that hasn't been ran through a dozen times. I'm a weekend warrior and when guys come and hunt all week long, by the time I get an afternoon free, everything is busted up and spooky already. I hunt for pleasure but I do count on birds to eat as well, they make up a big part of my families diet.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:54:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:58:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:56
IP Address: 184.166.98.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Charles park
City/Town: Stevensville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: timpark12345@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I think we need to put a cap on the amount of nonresident turkey tags. We are selling in Montana. There's getting to be way too much pressure from nonresident coming to the state and hunting. Wyoming has limited tags. Nebraska has limited their tags we need to start following suit because all these people are coming here now the other thing that might help turkey populations is stop a fall season Stop killing the hens The problem overall is getting out of control in this state with the amount of non-residence. Coming here to hunt because other states are starting to charge more money licensing so now they're all coming here and the people that lived here pay taxes and support. Everything are getting forced out of areas to hunt because they can't find anywhere to want it because of the amount of nonresident coming here.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 6:59:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:05
IP Address: 76.75.23.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Garreyt**
City/Town: **Scobey**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **garrettbackman@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I agree with the amendments for pushing back the non resident dog training and upland bird seasons. I would really like to see the pheasant season for non residents pushed back too. The start date for that is a miserable rat race for us residents to beat non residents to public and a lot of private land. Atleast a resident only week to start the pheasant season would be great. 2 weeks would be even better

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:05:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:07:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 76.75.23.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Garrett Backman**
City/Town: **Scobey**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **garrettbackman@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Another thing to look into is capping nonresident upland game bird license numbers and putting them into a drawing instead allowing anyone in. The pressure specifically here in region 6 from non residents needs to be curbed

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:00:21 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:09:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:17
IP Address: 174.198.145.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nick Hagan
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: spottree@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Turkeys in R7 are getting hammered by NR hunters. I hunt down there every year with guys who live down there and have hunted the same public lands for 20-30 years and they say they've never seen so much pressure. Even in my 10 years of hunting R7 I've noticed the increase -mostly out of state trucks. Maybe it's time to cap the tags or set the NR season later. Maybe the entire season structure should be pushed ahead and shortened to allow more dominant Tom's to breed more hens. Many other states are beginning to do this. I know it's already been pushed to the 15th but when WY is the 20th, traveling NR's can hunt here and then WY. If we were to match surrounding states, we may see less pressure plus more hens bred. Please consider this-it breaks my heart to see the turkeys under so much pressure. Thank you!

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:13:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:28:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:41
IP Address: 162.213.185.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Wolfe
City/Town:	Scobey
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	wolfey59263@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Please try to do something about the insane number of out of state hunters in Daniels County. I am afraid there will not be any birds left on state land and block management in a very short time. Raise the price, shorten their season, something needs to be done!
Thank You

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:25:51 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:27:55 AM
Time Spent: 02:02:04
IP Address: 199.155.87.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan W Young**
City/Town: **Froid**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **backwrdr@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am really happy to see the latest proposal to adjust the start date of the upland season for nonresidents to September 15th. With this change it will take off the early season pressure from the young birds. With that being said it would make sense for the bird dog trainers to follow the same dates. Resident trainers can start 9/1 and nonresidents can start 9/15. I believe this will alleviate confusion in the field if a non resident is spotted "training" but he is accidently turned in as a hunter out of season. Our game wardens in region 6 are spread thin as it is. They do not need to be making unnecessary stops trying to decipher if a nonresident is training or hunting prior to the proposed September 15th date.

Another change I would like to see is an upland season similar to North Dakota. Nonresidents in ND are only allowed to hunt two 7 day periods and they are not allowed to hunt the first week of pheasant season, unless they own land in ND. I would like to see the opening weekend in Montana as a resident only opener. Being from and still living in Froid, one of the hot spots for pheasants, the opener is usually total chaos. If the opener was limited to only residents the pressure on the young birds would be spread throughout the rest of the season.

Depending on what the local reservations determine with their upland season, the counties bordering the reservations could see another increase in hunter numbers as well as more pressure on our local birds.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan W Young

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:53:37 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:39:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:45:39
IP Address: 163.116.138.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Terry Farver
City/Town: Scobey
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tsfarver@nemont.net

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Good morning, I would support both amendments that have been proposed to the Upland Game bird season. I would also propose that the out of state hunters are limited to only being able to hunt in a 10-14 day hunting season. Having the season open for 4 months may be ok, but each hunter can only purchase a 10-14 day ticket. Letting anyone buy a license to be able to hunt for 4 months is insane. I would agree that most people don't hunt for nearly that long, but there is a possibility. After this hunting season, our bird population is very low, even lower than it was the last two years after suffering severe drought. The hunting pressure this season was higher, and the trespassing was at an all time high. To say me and my family hate and dread hunting season, would be a massive understatement.

Law Enforcement- To ask one FWP officer to cover from Bainville, MT to roughly Frazer, MT and north all the way to Canada, is insane. That is the size of a small state back on the east coast. Officer Linder needs help to cover such a large area. My proposal, obviously, more officers, and, anyone caught trespassing and hunting should forfeit their current hunting license and be banned from purchasing a license for the next 3 years. Give the agents some teeth to work with for law breakers. The \$85 fine is a joke to a person that is spending thousands and traveling from literally thousands of miles away. I honestly saw every license plate in our nation, except Hawaii, this year during either the bird or deer season.

Personal Safety- I've now had 2 different hunters swing a shotgun in my direction as i was telling them that they were trespassing and that they needed to get off my property. I consequently now carry a pistol with me anytime I'm going to talk to a hunter.

Lost Income- Our farm has been using Land Trust for the past 3 years, this year, we refunded 3 groups over \$1500 because when our hunters showed up on our land to hunt, someone was already there trespassing and hunting, so we felt it was the right thing to do in refunding them their paid access money.

Hunting season has now become a 'cash cow' for FWP up here in the Northeastern corner of MT, you better start taking our problems seriously, or there will be thousands of acres shut down to all hunting, and eventually, there will be very heated, and armed conflicts, if these issues aren't addressed. I listen to my friends and neighbors in our local businesses, the tolerance for these hunters is getting very low. It is not uncommon for pickups to be parked right on the road, that doesn't work very well when farmers are trying to move large combines down the road to harvest the next field, and there sits a pickup, right in the way. I know one farmer that told them to move, or his semi was moving it, when the semi got closer, the hunter finally moved, but not willingly.

Like it or not, John Dutton's attitude and methods of protecting his land are going to be adopted up here in the corner, if Helena doesn't get off it's ass and listen. We own the land, you work for us!

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:40:57 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:59:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:16
IP Address: 107.77.196.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Scott Taylor
City/Town:	Wibaux
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tayman62@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

The number of out of state bird hunters in Eastern Montana in recent years has dramatically increased. Those that stay for extended periods of time has increased too.

I only think it should be fair to set up licensing for non residents in a fashion similar to our neighboring states of ND and SD. 10 day license either 10 consecutive days or 5 days split with a cost similar to our neighbors.

I also believe that it is a disgrace to our state to allow bird dog trainers from other states to bring in trailers full of dogs to train on wild birds before season opens. I'm sure many young birds are killed or wounded during this practice.

The mule deer population is in dire trouble. Let's not do the same to our bird population.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:04:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:12:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:36
IP Address: 107.77.206.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ron Hoffman
City/Town:	Aitkin
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	birchviewbeach@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I have hunted I.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:15:18 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:31:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:05
IP Address: 64.237.105.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ron Hoffman**
City/Town: **Aitkin**
State/Province: **MN**
Email Address: **BIRCHVIEWBEACH@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

AS a nonresident hunter I have hunted MT most years since 1984, since then I have seen costs increase & opportunities decrease & some increase. (Block Management is a great program) MT already charges Nonresidents 10 to 50 times as much as residents, now some want to restrict opportunities based upon residency? NR (nonresidents) fund the lions share of FWP's budget & I believe this should be taken into consideration when voting on these proposals. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion..

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:34:47 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:44:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:13
IP Address: 174.198.151.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephanie Prater**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mthuntress406@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I'm writing in strong favor of the two proposed amendments to the upland bird season & dog training seasons.

Moving the start of upland game bird season from Sept. 1 to Sept. 15 for nonresidents & adjusting the bird dog training season start date for nonresidents from Aug. 15 to Sept. 1 will allow residents "first crack" especially on public lands at wild birds. It also will keep the influx of bird dog trainers bringing truck loads of bird dogs and blowing out every bird and antelope (archery season is open and I've had tons of hunts ruined on public from non residents running dogs since they share the same habitat) I personally would like to see it pushed out to coincide with non-resident upland start on September 15.

I very much appreciate the commission & FWP working to help reduce the overcrowding & exponential increase in pressure on our resources. I would love to see some non-resident turkey tag limits put in place as well as turkey tag sales has gone up a ton in the last few years.

Thank you,
Stephanie Prater

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 3:38:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 3:43:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:17
IP Address: 216.147.122.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Garth Flaming
City/Town:	LAUREL
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	garthlisa@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I would propose that MT limit the number of days non residents are allowed to hunt MT, as ND has a 2 week limit. Then number of dog trainers running large numbers of dogs of dogs pre season make no sense from a resident hunter point of view. Don't sell a upland bird tag with big game permits.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 11:33:21 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 3:52:46 PM
Time Spent: 04:19:24
IP Address: 174.234.145.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jim Taylor
City/Town:	Culbertson
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jimtaylor62276@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I'd be in favor of making nonresidents not hunt the first week of season. And only have 14 days hunting tag, NOT all season.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:33:27 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:41:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:34
IP Address: 216.211.107.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Paul Peterson**
City/Town: **Thunder Bay**
Email Address: **speycaster@tbaytel.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Good evening,

This comment is for amendment #1. I am from out of country in Canada

I completely understand pushing the season back to the 15th of the month, and actually agree with the season change and the training change for Non- residents. My question to the commission is: will this actually help or just defer the mad rush to hunt for everyone to the 15th of September instead of the 1st of September.

I understand how "packed" it was in fall 2023 and the resource cannot likely handle the current and increasing pressure if this continues.

thanks for allowing the comments for all of us that use the resource.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:06:19 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:07:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 174.234.13.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cameron mayo
City/Town:	Big timber
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	csmayo82@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support keeping upland bird season Sept 1 state wide

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:51:55 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 8:56:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:40
IP Address: 155.254.9.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chad Hoover
City/Town:	Whitehall
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	chad@hooveroutfitting.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

The early September 1 bird season is critical for income in this state. The weather changes quickly causing most people to change plans. There is an enormous amount of dollars that count on that specific time to vacation in Montana and bring income to the state. Alternatively it would destroy 1/3 of my business.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:03:47 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:10:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:52
IP Address: 199.152.173.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	STEPHEN FISHER
City/Town:	LIVONIA
State/Province:	MO
Email Address:	stellar.vista@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I do not agree with moving the nonresident upland hunting start date from September 1 to September 15. This is an inconvenience to many nonresident hunters who support Montana fish and game efforts through license sales and spending funds at local businesses. In the 16 years that I have hunted upland birds in Montana as a nonresident, many residents have told me that they don't care to hunt Sharptails and Sage grouse, so they wouldn't necessarily care about the season opening date. For me, it would limit my Montana hunts to 1 hunt per year instead of 2, which also limits the amount of money I spend locally in Montana communities. As a biologist, there may be a need to move the season to protect younger broods of upland birds...so if that is a reason, and we are seeing less recruitment and breeding populations the following spring...then by all means, maybe the season opener needs to be moved. However, don't justify it by just discrimination against nonresident hunters. Publicly disseminate accurate biological species information and make the decision accordingly - not due to politics.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:58:36 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 10:02:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 104.28.50.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Sylvestre
City/Town: Medicine Lake
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tacks41@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I absolutely support a later start for nonresidents. I would also like to see the bird dog training season pushed back to Sept 15 for nonresidents.

The game birds here in Montana are a valuable resource and I believe the cost of bird licensing should be much higher for both residents and nonresidents. Please consider increasing the license fees.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:03:47 AM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 11:10:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:51
IP Address: 199.58.112.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Eddie Grizzle
City/Town:	Lavonia
State/Province:	GA
Email Address:	eddiegrizzle@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Yea, let's charge nonresidents millions of dollars and then treat them like trash. Evidently the customer is not a priority in Montana. To many regulations are in place with so much crap added in you need a lawyer to interpret them. Sounds like you have some one from Alaska writing your regulations.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 6:24:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 6:30:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:02
IP Address: 174.31.11.41

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Matthew McCauley
City/Town: Spokane
State/Province: WA
Email Address: mmccauley57@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am against moving the nonresident season date later. I would like the opportunity to visit Montana first week of September this year to upland bird hunt.

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, January 19, 2024 7:27:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, January 19, 2024 7:28:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:16
IP Address: 209.181.27.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeff Jackson
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jejackson

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Comments submitted

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 5:33:28 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 6:23:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:50:18
IP Address: 155.254.9.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Hoover
City/Town: Whitehall
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 51 Parrot Ditch Road

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Commissioners, Please reconsider adjusting dates for nonresidents from September 1.

This quick and devastating change was added as an amendment with very little time for the public to respond. This decision immediately costs my business \$70,000. Employees, leases and local expenses all are affected. The season is short due to inclement weather conditions. You cannot get those two weeks back. The interest is not there. Please consider the listed options.

1. Use the 2024 season to research the problem. Most people have already made plans. My clients are booked.
2. Consider which area actually had problems. Private land is not seeing this problem. State land seems to be the area with crowding issues.
3. Make the 3 day hunt available for nonresidents in 2024. See if this fixes the problem. Let's not destroy state income that might choose to never return prior to deciding whether it is the problem. "Cut off our nose to spite our face."
4. The problem begins in mid August. Harvesting birds is irrelevant. The same is true for lion hunters training their dogs during the chase season. Implement a scenario that would affect training dogs on wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to a very serious decision.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 6:24:30 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 6:24:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:05
IP Address: 155.254.9.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Hoover
City/Town: Whitehall
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 51 Parrot Ditch Road

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Commissioners, Please reconsider adjusting dates for nonresidents from September 1.

This quick and devastating change was added as an amendment with very little time for the public to respond. This decision immediately costs my business \$70,000. Employees, leases and local expenses all are affected. The season is short due to inclement weather conditions. You cannot get those two weeks back. The interest is not there. Please consider the listed options.

1. Use the 2024 season to research the problem. Most people have already made plans. My clients are booked.
2. Consider which area actually had problems. Private land is not seeing this problem. State land seems to be the area with crowding issues.
3. Make the 3 day hunt available for nonresidents in 2024. See if this fixes the problem. Let's not destroy state income that might choose to never return prior to deciding whether it is the problem. "Cut off our nose to spite our face."
4. The problem begins in mid August. Harvesting birds is irrelevant. The same is true for lion hunters training their dogs during the chase season. Implement a scenario that would affect training dogs on wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to a very serious decision.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:58:57 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:06:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:01
IP Address: 107.191.166.238

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Shawn**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **shawnkray@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I do not support the proposed changes to the upland game seasons. Keep it the way it is.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 11:59:22 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 12:55:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:56:19
IP Address: 50.169.143.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen J Christian
City/Town:	Colstrip
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtduckhunter@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the season dates.

I fully support the proposal to start the general upland bird hunting season for non-residents to Sept. 15.

There is tremendous pressure from non-residents those first 2 weeks of the season. Please let Montana residents have some quality bird hunting before the influx of non-residents.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 3:26:25 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 3:36:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:30
IP Address: 67.158.169.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David F McCarthy
City/Town: SEBAGO
State/Province: ME
Email Address: ffomac@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Dear Sirs and Madams, I have read your proposed changes to the MT upland season dates for nonresidents. I have been planning a month long trip to your state for the purpose of bird hunting. Should the dates be changed I will not be going to your state for my hunting. The reasons are several: with the season beginning on the 15th that would leave me only two weeks to hunt until I would return to Maine for the start of our upland season. Secondly I do not care for states that deliberately discriminate against people from away. FWIW, I would estimate that my spend in MT for hotels, meals and entertainment would conservatively be \$7,000-\$9000. Not a lot but if you don't consider leaving the dates alone then I would suspect that your upland revenue would be much less this year. Many people I know who go to MT to hunt use their time there as a tune up for their dogs. I would suspect that many will rethink their travel plans to MT. Thank you very much for reading my comment. Best of luck with your decision.

Regards,
Dave McCarthy
Sebago, ME
207-653-4635

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 4:12:24 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 4:15:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 108.174.117.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **mike hattlestad**
City/Town: **Hamilton**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mhattlestad@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Totally agree with this proposal. Would also push the idea the Montana Pheasant opener back at minimum 1 week for non-residents and the BMA's are totally run over in region 6 for the first week by non-residents, lots of license plates line these access points for the good habitat BMA's and thank you for your consideration, I have been a Montana hunter for 18 years and our "secret" is out from the internet info boards and something must be done.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 6:33:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 6:49:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:51
IP Address: 166.198.116.236

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike Holloway
City/Town: Princeton
State/Province: KY
Email Address: gmhw@bellsouth.net

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

From a non resident perspective

the proposed amendment to move our hunting date from 9-1-24 to 9-15-24 seems to bit the hands that help feed the states economy. Also this proposal if amended would allow residents the opportunity to hunt public areas until the 15th then move to their private land access.

I also wonder about the reasoning behind these proposals as I've hunted the NE region several years and have not seen one resident hunter in a public access area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

MH

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:13:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:27:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:16
IP Address: 216.228.54.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Resident hunter
City/Town: Sidney
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

This does nothing to address the non resident over crowding for pheasants. Nor does this address the commercial use and abuse on BMA's. Why is a non resident three day upland license not valid for pheasants opening week but a seasonal valid? Why does a \$60 difference make it valid? Does the department care about wildlife or money. Here we are again making changes that are not beneficial for the wildlife. Non resident should only be allowed to hunt two weeks max's and the price of a license should double if not triple and match the states around Montana

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, January 20, 2024 10:40:59 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, January 20, 2024 10:46:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:00
IP Address: 205.233.46.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Brian McCarty**
City/Town: **Harrison**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rams.mccutcheon@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I agree with the proposed amendment to adjust the start date for non-resident hunters. In fact, I would propose moving it to October 1. I see way too much non-resident pressure even in SW MT which wouldn't be considered the 'go to' upland hunting area. Just as an added note, the partridge limit for SW MT area is way too high as well. Our Hun populations won't sustain this for long. Thank you for the chance to comment on these proposals.

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:28:07 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:32:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 35.150.71.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Watkins
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeffwatkinsmt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the new proposed dates of non-resident bird hunting of September 15th and Non-resident training on September 1st. These are a good start to addressing increases pressure in the state by non-residents.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:04:43 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:41:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:36:50
IP Address: 174.215.19.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Daggett
City/Town: Glasgow
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jdaggett435@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the Bird Dog Training Amendment to move nonresident dog training start date from August 15th to September 1st. Here in NE Montana, there has been a steady rise of nonresident professional Bird Dog Trainers. They home in on all the state and Federal lands where a good share of the public also hunts birds. Young birds are still developing, and these professional trainers are relentless.

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 12:48:31 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 1:28:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:49
IP Address: 184.100.48.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **J Mark Wendling**
City/Town: **Bayfield**
State/Province: **WI**
Email Address: **mark@superiorpointers.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

- A 4 month UGB hunting season is too long. Shortening to three months by opening on September 15 and closing on December 15th would reduce the harvest, and stress on potential spring breeders in the winter, thereby enhancing hunter success and protecting the resource.

- Prairie bird bag limits are excessive, and unsustainable in the long term. STG daily bag limits should be reduced to 3, and partridge to 6 or less. Possession limits should be reduced to 3X daily bag limits. The department should emphasize a quality outdoor experience, as opposed to harvest numbers. Claims to the contrary, no one hunts UGB's for sustenance when the purchase of an organic chicken at their local market is much more cost effective. Currently some UGB hunters are shooting limits daily, and feeding birds to their dogs.

_ Dog training for residents currently starts too early and negatively impacts UGB populations by prematurely dispersing late and second hatch family groups. Dog training for both residents and non-residents should start no earlier than August 15, and September 1 would be preferable. Non-resident commercial dog trainers stress, and increase the wariness of, UGB's, thereby negatively impacting hunting opportunities, yet their contributions to local economies is comparatively miniscule.

- Restrictions/seasons for dog training on public land should also be applied to private lands for these properties to qualify for enrollment in the Block Management program.

- Montana small game licensing fees should be increased for both residents and non-residents, and brought in line with those of North Dakota and South Dakota. The longest term non-resident license should be no greater than 14 days, with 10 days preferred. Non-resident UGB hunters desiring to hunt longer should be required to purchase multiple licenses.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 1:14:07 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 1:33:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:14
IP Address: 47.5.52.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Diane K Boyd
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: dianekboyd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the proposed amendment for later start dates for non-resident upland game bird hunters and for non-resident bird dog trainers. However, it would be even better to see the start dates for non-resident bird hunters and bird dog trainers to be the same day, that is September 15. And for resident Montana hunters to begin September 1, giving us a 2-week advantage.

I am a Montana resident and have been hunting birds here for 45 years, mostly in Region 6, but also in the Sweetgrass Hills. I have seen a drastic increase of the number out of state bird hunters in NE and central MT, with an appalling lack of respect and ethics in the killing and harassment of upland birds BEFORE us resident Montanans can begin hunting. And these out of state hunters often are inhumane and unethical in the treatment of their dozens of dogs they are training for clients. The only one who benefits from this atrocious practice is the trainer. The dogs suffer, the upland birds are killed and coveys broken up and scattered, ruining the hunting for us Montanans two weeks or a month before hunting season begins. I saw a trainer last year with 54 very skinny dogs, living in appalling conditions in the Plentywood public campground. He then moved on to the Scobey area. They should be charged exorbitant fees for training permits to discourage them from coming up from the southeastern US to train here in Montana where the weather is cooler early season.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. These amendments are heading in the right direction, but I would strongly support efforts to curtail non-resident hunters even more. Like maybe limited number of non-resident licenses sold, and severely limiting the number of non-resident training permits sold.

Thank you,
Diane K. Boyd
Kalispell, MT

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 4:38:55 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 4:40:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:06
IP Address: 73.87.133.87

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Armao
City/Town:	Jefferson
State/Province:	MD
Email Address:	marmao@verstand.ai

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

To the MT Fish and Wildlife Commission:

With respect to the proposed amendment that moves the start of the season for non-residents to 15 September, I would like to request the proposal be withdrawn/dismissed. The rationale behind the request is that there is very little (if any) hard evidence linking resource constraints, habitat damage or depleted bird populations to the presence of non-resident hunters in early September (any correlation is likely to be spurious one). As a data professional, I can only surmise that anecdotal and statistically invalid observations are being used to support such a proposal. If the proposal is accepted, the state of Montana can expect significant economic damage from a drop in tourism revenue—impacting Montana resident owned outfitters, restaurants, hotel/motels, gas stations, sporting goods stores, etc. Specifically, the commission and Montana's economic authorities should expect significant reductions to non-resident hunter licensing revenue since a 15 September start will put the state in direct competition with the openers of states such as North Dakota and Idaho.

While I understand the concern regarding professional dog trainers bringing in numerous dogs and the disruption that can cause to native bird species, this amendment does not do anything but negatively impact the well-intentioned non-resident sportsman and numerous Montana businesses.

Respectfully,

Michael Armao
Jefferson, MD

Michael Armao
Verstand AI, Chief Executive Officer
mobile: 202.386.2725
email: marmao@verstand.ai

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 5:46:20 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 5:51:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:00
IP Address: 209.200.195.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I agree with moving nonresident bird dog training to September 1st. Upland birds are becoming pressured too much. Chasing birds during the heat of August does not help and these bird need a break.

I agree with pushing the nonresident upland bird season to September 15th.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 6:00:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 6:09:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:57
IP Address: 174.212.224.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mery Shope
City/Town:	Drummond
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	meryshope134@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

We need to start regulating out of state Turkey hunters .Especially in Region 7.The last several years the hunting pressure on our public lands is getting out of control.Lets not ruin this great hunting opportunity for our residents.I dont think the turkeys can take the relentless pressure they have received the last couple of years.Lotsof factors high predation hunting pressure and habitat loss. Thanks Mery

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, January 21, 2024 8:03:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, January 21, 2024 8:30:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:51
IP Address: 104.153.185.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **michael Jensen**
City/Town: **Plentywood**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **michaelwjensen@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am a business owner (restaurant), an Ag Producer, land owner and lifelong hunter . I have been involved with Upland bird hunting issues for more than 25 years having served on the UGB Advisory Council for many years.
I am NOT in favor in restricting the NON-RESIDENT hunter hunting season. There is not a biological need for this nor are we being OVERRUN by hunters. Our area has in fact seen a long term steady decline in hunting.
This idea was presented back in 2000 and an analysis was done on HB478 addressing this subject to which it outlined economic damage to our economy.

The issue that seems to have precipitated this movement to limit Non-resident hunters stems from too many Bird Dog Trainers in Daniels County. This issue needs to be addressed legislatively.

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:28:31 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:42:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:18
IP Address: 216.228.56.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Anthony VonRuden**
City/Town: **Terry**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **anthonyvonruden@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am commenting in regards to the proposal to move the non-resident upland opener to September 15th.

This will do absolutely nothing to reduce the number of hunters and will only increase crowding as it will consolidate all of the non-resident hunting pressure into a narrower window. Reducing hunting opportunities for everyone.

It will also impact small business who rely on out of state hunters for revenue.

Limiting non-resident upland licenses to (2) seven day licenses and increasing non-resident license fees would more than double revenue for MT FWP and greatly reduce and spread out hunting pressure creating better bird survival and more opportunities for resident hunters.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:01:20 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:02:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 98.97.34.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Stan Spoharski
City/Town: Huson
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am commenting in regards to the proposal to move the non-resident upland opener to September 15th.

This will do absolutely nothing to reduce the number of hunters and will only increase crowding as it will consolidate all of the non-resident hunting pressure into a narrower window. Reducing hunting opportunities for everyone.

It will also impact small business who rely on out of state hunters for revenue.

Limiting non-resident upland licenses to (2) seven day licenses and increasing non-resident license fees would more than double revenue for MT FWP and greatly reduce and spread out hunting pressure creating better bird survival and more opportunities for resident hunters.

#67

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:14:47 AM
Time Spent: 00:35:32
IP Address: 98.97.56.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Justin Anderson
City/Town: Paradise
State/Province: CA
Email Address: jredkanderson5@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

To whom it may concern,

I have good friend who is an outfitter for upland birds in Montana and cutting back the season would greatly impact his business and livelihood. I'm told non-resident hunting accounts for close to 90% of his business.

Evan as a non-resident, I'm surprised by the allowance of commercial dog trainers to be allowed to use your states resource's to further their enterprise especially when they are not residents!

Would you consider limiting the non-resident hunting to 3 days and no longer allow commercial dog training on public lands? I feel this would give better access to the residents and still allow outfitters to provide a service that benefits both residents and non.

I love the Montana outdoors and would hate to see the opportunity for non-residents to no longer be available due to the loss of outfitters because of this proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin Anderson

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:56:32 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 10:58:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 209.137.230.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gary Scheuch**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bigskycoug@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am in favor of the change to Upland Game Bird Season Setting amendment

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:11:44 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:20:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:44
IP Address: 174.198.141.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tyler Haddix**
City/Town: **Fort Peck**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tylerhaddix@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

No to non-residents not being able to hunt the first two weeks of September. Will negatively affect businesses in northeast Montana. Families have traditional get togethers to hunt the opener, of which many family members are not residents. Non resident bird hunters have played a huge roll in funding upland programs, we shouldn't now punish them. Thanks for listening.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:23:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:39
IP Address: 174.195.118.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trevor Haddix
City/Town: Chapman
State/Province: KS
Email Address: trevor.haddix@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

No to season opener changing for non residents. It has no bearing on the actual species hunted. A few residents complain about the number of people out hunting public land that they used to hunt and not see anyone. Truth is, there are more and more people everywhere you go in every state. Leave things as they are.

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:18:35 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:24:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:26
IP Address: 216.228.56.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jordon VonRuden**
City/Town: **Terry**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jordonvonruden@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Moving the non-resident upland hunting opener to September 15th will NOT HELP the problem. This will only consolidate all of the hunters into a smaller window of time creating even more crowding on public land and BMA's.

This proposed change would also SIGNIFICANTLY impact small business (gas stations, hotels, outfitters, etc.) who rely on hunters as a source of revenue. Numerous small business owners in our small town of Terry, MT have verbalized that this income greatly impacts their business.

I'm passionate on doing what's right for our wildlife. This proposal is NOT it.

I propose if crowding is the issue that non-residents are limited to (2) 7 day licenses per year, not to be used consecutively. Having nonresidents purchase both licenses individually the effectively doubles the licensing dollars for the state of MT.

My suggested proposal will not limit hunting opportunities for anyone it doesn't hurt small business in Montana, but it will increase revenue for FWP and it does solve the main problem which is non-resident hunters camping out in Montana for a month straight killing all of our birds.

Please consider my suggestion as a solution to the problem.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:54:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 11:55:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
IP Address: 216.47.58.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Josh Gartner**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **josh.gartner10@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

In response to crowding problems on NE Montana FWP is considering moving the non-resident upland hunting opener to September 15th.

This will NOT help the problem as it will just consolidate all of the hunters into a smaller window of time creating even more crowding on public land and BMA's. It will also impact small business (gas stations, hotels, outfitters, etc.) who rely on hunters as a source of revenue.

*I always take the side of the wildlife in any situation and this is definitely a lose/lose for everyone involved. It is a narrow minded ("I need to get mine before someone else does") approach to wildlife management.

If crowding is an issue then propose that non-residents are limited to (2) 7 day licenses per year not to be used consecutively. Make them purchase both licenses individually which effectively doubles the licensing dollars for the state. This proposal will not limit hunting opportunities for anyone it doesn't hurt small business in Montana, it will increase revenue for FWP and it will solve the main problem which is non-resident hunters camping out in Montana for a month straight killing all of our birds.

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:43:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:32
IP Address: 98.54.190.244

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Blackwell
City/Town: Millington
State/Province: TN
Email Address: rob.blackwell@shea-noel.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I oppose moving the date back for non resident hunters, this will have a major impact on small business owners. Not only will outfitters see reduced business but local supporting businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and supply stores will be impacted as well. I have hunted upland bird in Montana for multiple years and this will only create more congestion on public land as more hunters will come in to hunt in a shorter window creating additional issues.

#74

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:45:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 174.197.130.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Justin Cariello**
City/Town: **Commack**
State/Province: **NY**
Email Address: **jcariello12@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

This proposal will cause congestion on public land and negatively impact small business in MT

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:08:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:51:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:39
IP Address: 174.228.34.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Armile
City/Town:	Cedar Falls
State/Province:	IA
Email Address:	michaelsarmile@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non resident hunter who has come to Montana to upland hunt I fear that pushing these season dates back will not only negatively impact non residents, but also your resident hunters. I can imagine that this change will increase crowding on public lands and ultimately take away from the enjoyment from both resident and nonresident hunters.

I do not agree with the change to push back the season dates for non residents.

#76

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:54:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:42
IP Address: 4.42.12.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Steve Anderson**
City/Town: **Laurel**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **stevea2264@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Why is the OTC region 500 tag only valid during spring? The population of turkeys do not seem to be down. The other regional tags are valid in the fall also. This changed last year and not sure why?

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:53:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:54:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:01
IP Address: 158.222.95.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris Wavra
City/Town: Thief River Falls
State/Province: MN
Email Address: cwavra@nwservice.org

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:55:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 174.160.66.25

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Alan Truman**
City/Town: **Los Altos**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **alantruman@earthlink.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I oppose changing the date.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:58:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:00:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:44
IP Address: 158.222.95.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joe Wavra
City/Town:	RLF
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	klondikecarvings@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:15:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 165.225.242.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: FRANCIS D CONWAY
City/Town: San Rafael
State/Province: CA
Email Address: conwayfrancis@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I oppose the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal will not correct or eliminate the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident, my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time. I respectfully request that you reject this proposal.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 12:54:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:19:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:10
IP Address: 69.146.76.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Junnila**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jbjunnila@bresnan.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I like the nonresident start date for September being changed to 9-15-24. I would like the pheasant date for nonresidents also moved back to 10-19-2024.

My biggest complaint would be that nonresidents can not hunt the block management areas the first week of any season. That is how it is in North Dakota and South Dakota. This would give us residents a chance to enjoy our block management areas without getting pushed out by nonresidents.

Montana should have a license like North Dakota for nonresidents. They would get two 7 day time periods to choose from , and they could not be consecutive.

If they want to hunt longer, they have to purchase another license.

Lets do something for our Montana residents for a change. I don't think FWP should have to rely on nonresident license fees to fund their department. There has to be a better solution. I would appreciate any feedback from the commission .

thanks,
John Junnila

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:26:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:24
IP Address: 45.46.101.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Winn Brown
City/Town: Naples
State/Province: ME
Email Address: winnbrown33@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:20:34 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:28:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:13
IP Address: 64.187.198.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rob Brandt**
City/Town: **White Sulphur Springs**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **robnbrandt@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Proposed Solution: Managing Crowding Issues for Upland Hunting in NE Montana

In our efforts to address the crowding problems experienced during the non-resident upland hunting opener, the NE Montana FWP is considering a potential solution: moving the opener to September 15th. However, upon further analysis, it becomes evident that this approach may not effectively alleviate the crowding issue. In fact, it is likely to exacerbate the problem by condensing the hunting season into a smaller window of time, leading to further congestion on public lands and BMA's. Moreover, this change will have significant negative consequences on our local businesses, including eateries, gas stations, hotels, outfitters, and general stores, which heavily rely on hunters as a source of revenue.

As someone who prioritizes the well-being of our wildlife, I must emphasize that this shift in the hunting opener date does not represent an appropriate approach to wildlife management.

If crowding remains a pressing concern, allow me to propose an alternative solution: limiting non-residents to purchasing a maximum of two 7-day licenses per year, with the condition that they cannot be used consecutively. By requiring non-residents to purchase each license individually, we effectively double the licensing revenue for the state. This proposal does not restrict hunting opportunities for anyone and it does not harm small businesses in Montana. On the contrary, it actually increases revenue for the NE Montana FWP and addresses the root of the problem: non-resident hunters camping in Montana for an extended period of time.

Thank you for considering these insights.

Sincerely,
Rob

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:28:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:29:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 173.21.185.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: MICHAEL DELVECCHIO
City/Town: GULF BREEZE
State/Province: FL
Email Address: mdelv0@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not, not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:05:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:32:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:30
IP Address: 204.93.113.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Randal Redberg
City/Town:	Lookout Mountain
State/Province:	TN
Email Address:	randal@e-e.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am strongly against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. This proposal does not correct the main issue which it seems to be is, overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will now have smaller windows of time, which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time. I would more than likely choose to skip Montana and hunt in another state such as Wyoming and South Dakota. This is will also have a direct impact on local small business that we frequent such as restaurants, gas stations, hotels, etc... Why not limit the amount of consecutive days you can hunt to a couple of two week windows with a minimum amount of days off in between the two week periods. Stop letting a non-resident buy a license for the whole season? You can also increase your license fee as well. Charge the same amount for a two week license as you do for a whole season. Hunting for two weeks twice in a season is plenty of time. This seems like an easy win for everyone.

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:01:56 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:33:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:04
IP Address: 204.93.113.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Thomas Bernal
City/Town:	CHATTANOOGA
State/Province:	TN
Email Address:	tbernal@experts-exchange.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As an out-of-state hunting enthusiast, I must express my opposition to the proposed shift of the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. It is my considered opinion that this adjustment fails to address the fundamental concern of overcrowding. This change will unduly limit the availability of dates for my annual hunting excursion to Montana, potentially resulting in a higher concentration of hunters vying for access simultaneously. Such a situation not only compromises the quality of the hunting experience but also raises concerns about sustainable wildlife management and safety.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:34:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:45:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:29
IP Address: 66.76.72.151

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: De Maeyer Robert
City/Town: Harrow
Email Address: rtexican@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am against the proposal to limit nonresident to a September 15 opener for upland birds surely as big as Montana is we can all find a place i fell the crowds will be worse in September after the 15 th

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:36:20 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:51:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:35
IP Address: 98.186.133.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **BRIAN RADULOVICH**
City/Town: **Columbia Station**
State/Province: **OH**
Email Address: **radulovich1@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am an out of state hunter who has been enjoying yearly family trips to Montana to hunt sharptail and huns. Contracting the season would limit my ability to schedule hunts in your state as I travel to several states each year for upland hunting. Shortening the nonresident season will make it more difficult to arrange my schedule to include a stop in Montana and make the available dates more crowded with hunters. Neither of these consequences are desirable to nonresident hunters. We may be forced into bypassing our Montana hunt because of this change. Please reconsider shortening the nonresident season dates. Thank You

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:40:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:00:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:21
IP Address: 98.97.118.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jared Larsen
City/Town:	Lolo
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jared.larsen@onxmaps.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a resident, I love this and appreciate you putting our citizens first. Hopefully this means we may see similar changes for more stringent regulation on non-resident big game hunting.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:00:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:01:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:55
IP Address: 73.79.114.144

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jason Walker
City/Town: New Brighton
State/Province: PA
Email Address: nbrnr73@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:57:23 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:03:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:41
IP Address: 65.37.115.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **SCOTT MYERS**
City/Town: **LAKEVILLE**
State/Province: **MN**
Email Address: **SDMYERS221@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:07:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:26:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:05
IP Address: 100.40.67.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Phillip Woody**
City/Town: **Hope Valley**
State/Province: **RI**
Email Address: **pwamericana@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I do not support the proposal to shorten the non-resident upland bird hunting season. With declining hunting numbers overall in our nation I would appreciate seeing more specific data to better quantify the volume of non-resident upland hunters in Montana, especially on public land, and the actual interference they may be causing to resident hunters. I've observed that most non-resident hunters that make the effort to hunt Montana are experienced hunters, law-abiding citizens and good stewards of Montana's natural resources. Many of them will hunt in other states successfully those first two weeks and never return to hunt Montana again. I recommend reconsidering this proposed change and make your best effort to keep those hunters coming to Montana for the long-term benefit of the state and its resources.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:23:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:33:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:16
IP Address: 98.245.32.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Steve Kraft
City/Town:	Broomfield
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	kraftsw@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Please consider decreasing the daily/possession limit on sharp tailed grouse to 3/12 or 4/12.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 1:51:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:41:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:50:15
IP Address: 45.42.30.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alycia Nathe
City/Town: Flaxville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alycianathe@hotmail.com

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a landowner, state land leaseholder, farmer, and rancher in Daniels County, I urge the FWP Commission to consider full support of the accompanying amendments to the Upland Game Bird Seasons.

We continue to see a nearly 30% increase in Block Management sign in every year for the last 4 years. From that data we can extrapolate that Daniels County State Lands must be experiencing increasing presence and pressure accordingly. Daniels County has the greatest percentage of State Land - 26.4% - of any of the 56 counties.

The advertising by the American Kennel Club of the aforementioned fact insinuates that trainers can come any time and "train for free" on the best wild birds the country can offer. This too has led to even more vehicles and campers on the roads, camping ditches and on state land and private pastures.

Ranchers are experiencing increasing incidents of bird dog trainers running their horses/training dogs through pastures with cattle - private and state land intermixed as well as lease state land. (This style of training involves dogs running roughly 900 yards ahead with the trainer chasing behind horseback)

Contracts for Block Management acres that prohibit horse back activities are being called into question as land owners are receiving payment to be enrolled in Block but then allowing bird dog trainers to pursue birds that hunters would rather NOT be harassed. Landowners are often enrolled with CRP acres whose federal contracts are being questioned because animal traffic (horses and cows) is not permitted during certain times, yet trainers with horses and dogs are canvassing the CRP acres....

17% of Daniels County lies within the Fort Peck Reservation. Visiting with Scott Azure, Chief Tribal Wildlife officer, confirmed that events leading to the sudden closure of bird hunting on the Reservation included the unprecedented pressure of non-resident bird dog trainers AND hunters. In turn, when the tribes meet to set their seasons in February, they plan to close down all bird dog training. Their position on non-resident hunting remains un-determined.

In response to tremendous bird and deer hunting pressures, farmers and ranchers have enrolled acres with Land Trust, a business that handles the nuances and organization and booking and payment for hunting acres. One landowner returned his guaranteed fees because he could not secure an uninterrupted hunt for the clients due to trespassers from state to private land and bird dog trainers....

Flaxville MT boasts 2 popular bars/restaurants. The owner of the RY Bar kicked 4 different parties of non-resident hunters out of his establishment due to rude behavior. The owner of the Bum Steer stated, "you will never see a 'Welcome Hunters' sign in my establishment"...the non stop pressures of pre season bird dog trainers on private and state land as well as the hunting season starting TWO WEEKS EARLIER than surrounding states puts our county and Northeast MT at a large disadvantage.

Some claim that we will lose revenue and tourism. I polled Main Street businesses in Scobey and Flaxville as well as the large /only motel in Plentywood. I have pages of quotes and notes I could share, but to summarize: the hardware store is considering no longer selling licenses because it consumes employees' time and brings in marginal revenue for the wages paid/time spent (50cents/license); bars and restaurants unanimously agreed that seasons need to be shortened and that locals are who carry their business; the convenience store acknowledged that season changes may affect revenue but they are willing to absorb it for the larger good of supporting area farmers and ranchers; the grocery store cannot determine what and when to order additional amounts of groceries, so essentially the effect to them would be minimal because their business is the locals; motels relayed concerns on shortening the season and losing booked rooms, BUT upon further discussion it was mutually agreed that changes to the opener for non-residents would undoubtedly increase resident MT hunters to our area and book any available rooms.

Suggestions from the community include: limit the number of non-resident licenses for our county ; create a lottery for non-residents; close down all bird dog training completely - adopt a Quiet Season like other states to protect all wildlife and cattle operations at their most fragile; prohibit bird dog training on MT's public lands; non-residents may hunt or train for a combined 20 days a year (perhaps

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

that would shut down the big commercial trainers coming from TX and SC and GA?); mimic North Dakota's non-resident rules and allow only 7 days of hunting - maybe allow them to return 4 times?; through DNRC create a recreational road permit for counties like Daniels and Petroleum to regain local revenue to maintain roads and bridges;

If you make it this far, thank you. Please feel free to call 406 783 8004 or connect via email alycianathe@hotmail.com

I can get going ad-nauseum and know you have many comments to entertain. Bottom Line: we need change and support in Daniels County. Thank you.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:45:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:50:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: 104.28.85.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bryce Daviess
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bryce.daviess@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Please do not change the non resident season start date to Sept 15th. I guide clients on upland birds starting Sept 1st. At least make it ok for non residents to hunt with a Montana outfitter Sept 1st. Thank you

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:46:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:52:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:14
IP Address: 50.244.83.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Richard Taylor
City/Town: Rincon
State/Province: GA
Email Address: drrichardataylor@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I don't see setting the non-resident season back as a win for anyone involved. It will limit my , and other non-res hunters, window of hunting therefore leading to even more hunters trying to compete for the smaller window to hunt. Plus, local businesses will surely feel a lull in their economy.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:48:53 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:53:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:04
IP Address: 72.220.229.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Braden Huffman
City/Town:	Terry
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bradenhuffman9@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

This will hurt all the local businesses and outfitters who rely on hunters coming in! This will be a huge mistake!

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:45:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:02:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:47
IP Address: 63.153.65.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Andy Perry
City/Town:	Cascade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	andy.perry19@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Hello. My name is Andy Perry and I am a fishing and hunting guide that lives in Cascade Montana. Obviously a non-resident date being pushed back would mean two less weeks of guiding days during prime season.

While I understand residents frustration with non-resident hunters I'm assuming much of the conflict comes from the NE corner of the state. I think at the very least a PRIVATE Property only hunting for non-residents from September 1-15 is very fair compromise to allow outfitting operations with leased lands(these aren't open to residents anyway) to continue working the traditional guiding season which usually only covers September and October due to weather.

Thank you for your time and I hope a solution is found that benefits all Montanans not just the loud angry ones. Thanks.

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:03:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:07:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:05
IP Address: 174.198.144.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris McCabe**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **chris@kerleysadventures.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

This proposal will just push hunters to later dates and more overcrowding as if that isn't already a major problem in Montana for not only birds but big game as well. Bad idea b

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:09:56 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:11:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 172.58.250.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike phillips
City/Town: Staunton
State/Province: VA

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:59:42 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:11:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:59
IP Address: 45.42.30.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Curtis Arlian
City/Town:	Flaxville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	olazyy@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I urge the commission to shorten the upland game bird season allowing a quite season to align with neighboring states

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:34:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 3:40:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 174.161.174.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kenneth Grillis
City/Town:	Arlington
State/Province:	TN
Email Address:	kegrilli@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

This is a lose/lose proposal that hurts small business, out-of-state hunters, and the wildlife.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:15:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:35:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:04
IP Address: 134.22.72.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **William Faulk**
City/Town: **Savannah**
State/Province: **GA**
Email Address: **wwfaulk@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I have recently been notified of the proposal the move your season opening for upland birds to September 15. Being from the coastal city of Savannah I am fully aware of the problems associated with out-of-state visitors when they decide to visit and cause problems for the local residents.

These problems are trivial compared to the benefits provided to the local population in the form of revenue and support for local businesses. It seems that shortening the season will only decrease the number of out-of- state hunters willing to visit your state too spend their money.

Thankfully for ya'll we come and spend a lot of money and then go home. Possibly limiting the "new residents" may be a better option.

Oh well..... there is always Wyoming. Thank you,
Will Faulk

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:34:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:43:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:02
IP Address: 172.110.168.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Peter Rubin
City/Town:	Nantucket
State/Province:	MA
Email Address:	pjrubin@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I feel this proposal is detrimental to both the state fiscally and doesn't address the core issue of overcrowding. As an out of state hunter i value my time in montana and the time i spend on the public lands as well as with the incredible guide community, which will be hugely impacted by this proposal. Reducing the amount of time NR hunters are allowed to hunt will concentrate them in the later part of the season, thus creating additional crowding. This will also reduce the guiding season by almost 50%. There are substantially better ways of addressng this issue. Such as smaller limits increased fees etc. I also find it quite sad that the montana hunters are hunting on public land, land we all own, or in the case of Block management parcels land owned by other individuals and want to ignore the reality of a growing world by complaining about additional users and reducing the income from block management use.

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 5:52:21 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:14:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:25
IP Address: 216.147.121.252

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Connor Flanagan**
City/Town: **Willow Creek**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **connormflanagan@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I have a few recommendations.

I believe that there should be a 2-4 bird seasonal limit on sage grouse hunting, and it should run for the entire upland hunting season or at least through November. There is no reason to have a two-bird daily bag limit for the entire month of September.

The decline in the Sage grouse population has to do with more than hunting pressure. While I believe we should be limiting hunting on these birds, there also needs to be a serious focus on the larger issue which is habitat. I have seen the sharptail grouse population around my hometown of Willow Creek all but completely disappear historic lek areas have been developed with no consideration of these native birds or their habitat. The same is happening in sage grouse habitat across the west.

All proceeds from upland-specific tags should be pooled and spent on upland habitat initiatives. We all know that healthy habitat is the key to these birds surviving and the pressures from other land use outside of hunting is a huge issue. Restricting pressure through shorter out-of-state seasons is a start, but an uptick in out-of-state license prices as well as using these funds for habitat initiatives should be considered.

I have never agreed with the hot spotting of Carbon County Partridge. This is a fantastic resource that has been highlighted through an extended season. There has been a dramatic uptick in pressure in this small region since its highlighting through an extended season. The increase in pressure is not only pressure on the bird population but all the other animals that use this region as winter habitat. Being mostly BLM land with few restrictions, the traffic from people on foot as well as off-road vehicles impacts the landscape and the animals that call it home. This region is a special place that should not be highlighted in the way that FWP has for the last handful of years. It is a dramatic oversight and should be adjusted this upcoming season.

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:23:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:24:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:59
IP Address: 98.97.34.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jordan Spoharski**
City/Town: **Huson**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jspoharski@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am commenting in regards to the proposal to move the non-resident upland opener to September 15th.

This will do absolutely nothing to reduce the number of hunters and will only increase crowding as it will consolidate all of the non-resident hunting pressure into a narrower window. Reducing hunting opportunities for everyone.

It will also impact small business who rely on out of state hunters for revenue.

Limiting non-resident upland licenses to (2) seven day licenses and increasing non-resident license fees would more than double revenue for MT FWP and greatly reduce and spread out hunting pressure creating better bird survival and more opportunities for resident hunters.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:25:57 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:26:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:37
IP Address: 184.153.88.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jacques Cattier
City/Town: New York
State/Province: NY
Email Address: jcattier@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:56:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:57:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:38
IP Address: 96.40.40.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Kehoe
City/Town:	Benbrook
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	mkjojo11@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:03:23 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:04:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:55
IP Address: 144.86.210.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **sean strohm**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **SEAN_STROHM@HOTMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Completely support the proposed amendments. Wish they would do it for pheasant season also.

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:55:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:06:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:07
IP Address: 174.213.249.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Christian Von Ruden
City/Town:	Bainville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	christiangerad@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I disagree with the planned changes. I feel nonresidents should have equal opportunities to enjoy Montana's upland hunting. The shortage will effect many things in a negative way.

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:02:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:09:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:53
IP Address: 208.83.201.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dave Larsen
City/Town: Delano
State/Province: MN
Email Address: hdavelarsen62@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a frequent visitor with family living in MT, I'm against the new proposal that would prevent NR from upland hunting the first half of September. Consider instead a drawing that would limit the number of hunters JUST for the first two weeks. Anyone hunting after the first two weeks can just come and hunt. Lets keep it simple and inviting to participate!

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:15:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 7:18:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 184.166.78.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trevor Anderson
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trevoranderson406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I oppose the proposal to move back the non-resident upland season to 9/15. This will further crowd public land and hurts Montana small businesses. Thank You.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:15:32 PM
Last Modified: Monday, January 22, 2024 8:56:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:40:29
IP Address: 66.31.106.166

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **greg garland**
City/Town: **Sherborn**
State/Province: **MA**
Email Address: **gtgarland@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I have already paid for my hunt in September 2024. \$1200 per day. What happens to my \$\$ if you close the season? What happens to my Montana resident outfitter? The season, due to weather in October is functionally only 6 weeks long. Leases have been paid. 2 weeks off of a 6 week season could put my outfitter out of business. Private land, by definition, can't be over crowded unless approved by the landowner so why would a delayed season apply to that privately owned land? Further, it seems inconsistent to restrict access to Federal land during an open hunting season. BMA land owners that get paid based on each hunter that signs in will suffer a huge loss in revenue. Isn't that what the BMA program is for...increased public access? State owned land is only publicly accessible land that seems reasonable to restrict access to by non-resident hunters. Is overcrowding a real problem? How is overcrowding defined? How will you measure whether a solution is successful? I have been hunting in NE Montana for 6 years. One man and one dog. I have spent money on hotels, campgrounds, restaurants, gas, grocery stores, veterinarians, auto repair, and hardware stores. I suspect that two weeks of missing this revenue will have a meaningful impact on local businesses. This past year I DID see more people than in years past but it was in the order of several trucks/hunters a day compared to none in the past. More people have discovered my secret but i wouldn't call it over crowded by any means.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 2:52:18 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:14:42 AM
Time Spent: 15:22:23
IP Address: 97.121.221.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Shannon Taylor
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: svtaylor55@gmail.com

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

January 23, 2024

Dear Chair Robinson and Commissioners,

I am the secretary of the Headwaters Sportsman Association (HSA) which is a grassroots organization started in 1996 dedicated to promoting increased opportunities for Montana resident hunters and anglers. We have over 100 members who are Montana residents.

Thank you for recognizing the negative impact that increased nonresident hunters have had on the quality of bird hunting in Montana. As you know there have been unprecedented increases in nonresident hunters during the past few years.

Resident hunters tried to get legislation passed last session that would help improve their quality of hunting that has been lost due to increase pressure from nonresidents. Our efforts were well received but new legislation did not get enough votes to become law.

We are grateful that the Department and now our Commissioners have heard our concerns. We support your proposal to limit nonresidents at the beginning of the bird season. However, the reduction in nonresident pressure will be relatively small during those first two weeks.

We suggest you also restrict nonresident participation during the first week of pheasant season too. That will have a much stronger impact. The quality of the hunting experience will be significantly improved for the resident hunters. North Dakota has had this restriction on their nonresidents for the past couple of seasons. We should do likewise.

When nonresidents are not allowed to bird hunt, you may want to allow them to hunt on private property not enrolled in block management. They should certainly not be allowed to hunt any public land or publicly accessible land during blackout periods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Taylor, PhD
Secretary Headwaters Sportsman Association

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:46:42 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 6:53:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:06
IP Address: 108.93.239.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	William E Wilson
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bigskywm@montana.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Even though I am a resident hunter I fail to see the issue here. Fundamentally, there seems to be no threat at all to the resource so the only issue at hand is what impact it will have on other aspects of the outdoor economy. Namely, has anyone considered the economic impact on motels, restaurants, sporting goods vendors, restaurants, outfitters who serve the NR hunter, etc., etc. This proposal seems to be a knee-jerk reaction which needs better and more in-depth analysis before implementation.

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:14:31 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:15:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 107.77.204.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brian B Senn
City/Town:	BONIFAY
State/Province:	FL
Email Address:	brianbsenn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be narrower which will likely lead to even more hunters competing for the same access at any given time.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:05:01 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:06:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 172.56.81.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Luke Updegrave
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lukeup@live.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am commenting in regards to the proposal to move the non-resident upland opener to September 15th.

This will do absolutely nothing to reduce the number of hunters and will only increase crowding as it will consolidate all of the non-resident hunting pressure into a narrower window. Reducing hunting opportunities for everyone.

It will also impact small business who rely on out of state hunters for revenue.

Limiting non-resident upland licenses to (2) seven day licenses and increasing non-resident license fees would more than double revenue for MT FWP and greatly reduce and spread out hunting pressure creating better bird survival and more opportunities for resident hunters.

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:42:02 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:56:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:15
IP Address: 76.147.130.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ron Guerra
City/Town:	Mercer Island
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	ronaldgguerra@binghamton.edu

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

If enacted I would redirect potential MT revenue to another state (ex. OR or WY).

This is a lose/lose proposal that hurts small business, out-of-state hunters, and the wildlife.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, January 22, 2024 6:54:51 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:26:15 AM
Time Spent: 15:31:23
IP Address: 216.228.56.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Carly VonRuden**
City/Town: **Bainville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **carlyvonruden@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am opposed to the proposal to shorten the upland season for non-residents. I feel that it will increase crowding on public lands after September 15th.

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:31:14 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:57:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:04
IP Address: 24.119.202.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Garret Visser
City/Town:	Boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	fishervisser@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. I am a former Montana resident and am now an Idaho resident, but take 10 days each year to travel and hunt for sharptail grouse in Eastern Montana. I am an avid upland hunter and hunt over 40 days each season. I have witnessed an explosion in pressure from nonresident hunters over the past five years and am concerned with the pressure put on this sensitive resource in Eastern Montana. In addition to the pressure put on the birds, I am concerned with perceived hunter crowding, particularly on properties enrolled in Block Management, state, and federal land. I do not believe the answer to the problem is to adjust the starting date for nonresidents from September 1st to September 15th. This will only exacerbate the perception of crowding, as nonresidents will be lined up on the morning of September 15th to get onto the best BMAs and other publicly accessible land. If the nonresident start date was moved to the 15th, resident hunters would feel the need to hunt during the first half of September and hit it harder than usual. Likewise, once nonresidents were permitted to hunt starting on the 15th, they would feel the need to fill their bag limits every day and put unnecessary pressure on the coveys they have contact with, potentially wiping whole coveys off the map. It will be a race to the bottom for both residents and nonresidents, and ultimately hurts the birds the most. I respectfully ask that the Department and the Commission pursue alternative means to this very real issue- Montana needs adjustments to the upland bird seasons that only allows nonresidents to hunt for two 7 day periods, not to be used consecutively. This would allow hunters to self-select the dates they prefer and break up the pressure they put on the resource. I understand similar proposals have been brought up in the Montana legislature without moving forward, but agency staff and commissioners should begin conversations with legislators now to educate them on the challenges that are in front of upland bird hunting.

I ask that MFWP consult with upland bird outfitters and local communities in the area to better understand the potential financial impacts the season date adjustment would have on those so reliant to survive in such a short timeframe.

Finally, I believe MFWP should look to Idaho Department of Fish & Game for sage-grouse harvest regulation. A two bird limit per day represents harvest that is too high. Idaho Department of Fish & Game implemented a tag-based system for sage-grouse hunting, broken up by zones, where hunters can purchase between 1 and 2 tags per zone per season, offered at a first come, first served basis. This has allowed for increased harvest data gathering, fine-tuned harvest management based on yearly lek counts, and a reduction in hunter crowding in popular areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:16:56 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:39:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:31
IP Address: 70.95.76.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Violett
City/Town: San Diego
State/Province: CA
Email Address: Chillaxnwu@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident hunter I am against the proposal to move the upland hunting season opener to September 15th. I believe this proposal does not correct the core issue which is overcrowding. As a non-resident my options for my annual trip to Montana will be less productive and I am afforded unequal time in the field. This will not improve the situation. I would like to note for the record I spent in excess of \$20,000 each year hunting in Montana for the past three years. I realize I am very fortunate to have this level of discretionary income and time off. I hunt in Montana as I find value in the state's land management practices and public access. Degrading this value, I would spend my dollars elsewhere.

I agree there are sections of the state that can become very crowded during opening week. However this is primarily due to lack of RV access or places to stay and board dogs. This season was particularly bad, I agree. I hunted up in Medicine lake area and was pushed out of several block management areas due to hunter pressure more than years prior. The RV access in Froid and one in Brush Lake were over run with trailers. Naturally areas with 45 minutes drive had for too much pressure. Yet, there were not many locals out I would like to note. I drove 2 hours from my RV access in Culbertson and found virtually unused block management sites with the local farmers grateful to have someone finally show up. The challenge is spacing hunters out better to avoid conflict.

Denying non-resident hunters two weeks of the season only serves to make us take our dollars elsewhere and that impacts a lot of your small business that count on that income. If you choose to do this for upland, we can only assume you will do this with big game and waterfowl as well at some point in the future.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:23:53 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:47:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:18
IP Address: 172.56.200.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jason O Rear
City/Town: Laurel
State/Province: MT
Email Address: j7.orear@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I believe the bird dog amendment falls short of the action needed, I would like to see a ban on training of dogs on public lands, if a private landowner allows it fine, but to harass these birds for 2 weeks or a month before the season as most of their cover crops are being harvested and raised birds are being released is not what I would like to continue.

Moving the season dates is a step in the right direction that I would be in favor of. In my opinion the state has to come up with a way to create more habitat for birds, CRP acreage is dwindling, hunter numbers of out of staters is up 1500 hunters, last Legislative session we had bills to reduce prisons from raising birds, we have the birds and hunters we need the habitat to hold these birds and provide for them.

I am also for closing sage grouse hunting in areas that a in trouble, after bird counts.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:06:08 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:21:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:08
IP Address: 174.45.250.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **MT Upland Hunter**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **02.wringer_snail@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

[Please note that I am withholding my name for fear of reprisal from colleagues. FWP staff can verify my identity using the email provided.]

I am writing IN SUPPORT of the delayed start for non-resident hunters, and IN SUPPORT of the amended dog training regulations.

In fact, neither Amendment goes far enough. The major magnet for out of state hunters is pheasant season, and the 2-week delay would do nothing to mitigate pheasant season influx of out of state hunters. I respectfully suggest that the Game Bird Amendment be modified to read, "All bird seasons open 2 weeks later for non-residents". This is an eminently reasonable position, given that some states don't even allow residents to hunt pheasant at all!

Similarly, pushing back dog training to 1 Sept is a step in the right direction, but I fear it will only drive more conflict. Non-resident hunters can simply claim to be non resident "trainers", carrying a gun to socialize the dog... This will be an added burden for already stretched game wardens. Simplify the situation and say non-residents can't train on public land until 15 Sept, just like the hunting.

No other state offers the diversity, distribution, or access to wild birds like Montana. As other states have lost habitat, I've watched the pressure on our birds increase exponentially. Protect the resource for the people who pay taxes and live in Montana. Perhaps hunters from other states will follow suit and improve their resources, rather than coming to plunder ours. Thank you.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:05:13 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 1:25:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:44
IP Address: 67.44.224.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert B. Hollister
City/Town: Ballantine
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bhollistermt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the FWP proposed changes to the non-resident upland gamebird season. I have been an avid gamebird hunter in Montana for 35 years and feel that even more needs to be done about the numbers of non-residents impacting Montana residents. Block Management areas can be funded in other ways to make up for loss of revenue. Bottom line is the wildlife in Montana belongs to us, and every year more and more non-residents crowd our block management units and public land, not to mention the "pay for play" situation that is growing on private land. This is affecting game bird populations, limits our access to the resource, diminishes the quality and success of our hunting experience, and is not sustainable. I recommend we go to North Dakota and South Dakota system for non-residents. The landscape is simply overcrowded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bob Hollister

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 11:03:40 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:28:56 PM
Time Spent: 03:25:16
IP Address: 47.12.177.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mike Humrickhouse
City/Town:	Baxter
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	mhumrickhouse@charter.net

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Being a nonresident hunter (Minnesota), I do not favor any change in the upland bird season dates. I see no scientific/management reason for change. To assume that all nonresident hunters will just move things back two weeks is not realistic. So, I do see potential negatives for those support businesses (motels, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, etc.) who will lose the two weeks. In addition, compressing the experience for all hunters resident and non will degrade it by putting more people in the field at the same time. I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities MT provides through the Block Management program and the amount of federal and state land available to all and have always bought the full season license feeling it a small way to support MT DNR although I've never made more than one 5-7day trip. Incidentally and with all due respect, MN offers the same fishing and hunting season length to residents and non-residents alike and welcomes all.

Thank you for your consideration.

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 2:51:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 3:07:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:30
IP Address: 96.3.4.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gary Masching
City/Town:	Mandan
State/Province:	ND
Email Address:	wearp@midco.net

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

As a non-resident, I totally agree with the upland game bird amendment. Maybe it should also be considered about lowering the daily bag limit for both resident and NR?? Sharptail from 4 to 3 daily, and partridge from 8 to 5 daily with the possession limit being the same-4 times the daily bag?? To me it is all about doing what is best for the resource BEFORE it is too late. Please consider this suggestion for the resource! Thank you...Gary

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 4:27:53 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 4:47:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:00
IP Address: 184.166.172.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Big Sky Upland Bird Association, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Sportsman Alliance

City/Town: Helena

State/Province: MT

Email Address: garrett@mtwf.org

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East 6th St.
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Upland Game Bird Season Setting Regulations Including Dog Training Regulations for Wild Birds on Public Lands.

Dear Commissioners,

In proceeding with the upland game bird season setting process currently before you, we respectfully request that you consider several measures to respond to significant habitat loss through declining CRP program enrollments, increased levels of non-resident dog training on publicly accessible lands and increased levels of upland bird hunting pressure. Upland game bird hunting is a significant driver of rural economies, especially in eastern Montana, but high quality hunting experiences depend on offering a superior bird hunting experience. The decision before you in the coming weeks provides an opportunity to improve both bird populations and the experiences of hunters across Montana.

Specifically, we recommend the following:

- 1) Prohibit Non-Resident dog training activities on wild & captive reared birds on public lands or publicly accessible private lands (including Block Management Areas, Open Fields and Upland Game Bird Enhancement Projects).
- 2) Continue to authorize Resident dog training activities on wild birds on public lands from August 1 to August 31.
- 3) Open Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse and Partridge hunting seasons for Non-Residents from September 15 through January 1 as recommended by the amendment proposed by Commissioner Chair Robinson.
- 4) Open Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse and Partridge hunting seasons for Residents from September 1 through January 1.
- 5) Close Sage Grouse Management Zone 3 to hunting if spring lek counts drop 45% below the long term average for a third consecutive year in 2024 as recommended by FWP staff. Season should be reopened when populations recover above this threshold.
- 6) Open the Ring-necked Pheasant hunting season the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend for residents and Non-Residents, but restrict Non-Resident hunters to private lands (excluding Block Management Areas, Open Fields, and Upland Game Bird Enhancement projects) for the first week of the season. Open public lands and publicly accessible private lands as noted above to Non-Resident pheasant hunting on the following Saturday.

We believe these changes would provide relief to landowners and lessees of public lands during the summer period, reduce conflict between dog training activities and hunters, reduce hunter crowding and associated conflicts that are occurring while maintaining hunter opportunity and associated economic benefits, and reduce pressure on upland game bird populations.

We appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to working with you to continue to improve Montana's upland game bird hunting for future generations.

Yours in Conservation,

Big Sky Upland Bird Association
Montana Wildlife Federation

Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Montana Sportsmen Alliance

Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association

Helena Hunters & Anglers

Laurel Rod & Gun Club

Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Daniels County Conservation District

Flathead Wildlife Inc.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:48:37 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:05:23 PM
Time Spent: 02:16:45
IP Address: 69.146.140.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jock Conyngham
City/Town:	Evaro
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jockconyngham@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

I fully support postponing the opening for non-resident bird hunters until 9/15, to match neighboring states, but also recommend that non-resident professional dog trainers not be allowed to train until 9/15 also. Late upland bird hatch dates and significant jumps in non-resident trainer numbers, as well as both non-res and resident upland hunters numbers, drive my request. Thank you.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:14:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:19:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:29
IP Address: 70.33.47.106

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: chris kolstad
City/Town: glasgow
State/Province: MT
Email Address: chriskolstad900@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am in support of the delayed non resident season along with bird dog training to start September 1. I have recognized a ton of nonresident pressure for upland game birds recently. moving to a mid September opener for non residents would help reduce the 30 plus dog hunting brigades that come from down south.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:23:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:27:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 67.85.50.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Aaron Kennon
City/Town: Old Greenwich
State/Province: CT
Email Address: akennon@clearharboram.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

To whom it may concern:

As a non-resident hunter who arrives in Montana without a dog and brief three day window of opportunity to hunt for sharptails and Hungarian partridge, I am dismayed by the attempt to reduce the number of days that we can spend in the field. Rather than limit days afield, perhaps policy makers should consider reducing daily bag limits or creating a maximum bag limit per season. This would limit the kill and incrementally reduce hunter traffic on public lands.

Let's acknowledge the substantial economic contributions made by non-resident hunters. When we visit your wonderful state, we are not just carrying shotguns and sporting gear; we bring vital economic support to local communities. From guides and outfitters to hotels, bars, and stores, the influx of these visitors is a lifeline. In rural areas where I hunt—just a few miles from the Canadian border—I rarely see another hunter or another vehicle for that matter over the course of three days. But I do spend money on my guide and sleep in his lodge. I also spend a bit of time at one of the few businesses in town—extending greetings to the local bartender. This establishment is one of the few remaining in the town—a place and region that has faltered significantly under the weight of commercial agricultural expansion over the last few decades.

The transformation of agriculture has undeniably reshaped rural landscapes. Large-scale farming operations have streamlined and industrialized what was once a mosaic of family-owned farms. This shift, while economically understandable, has hollowed out many small towns. Schools see declining enrollments, local businesses shutter, and the workforce dwindles. The local football team from the 1980s is no longer as families disappeared from an even more barren landscape. Now these same communities could be faced with further economic pain as some in the legislature propose changes to hunting laws change for non-residents. While I can see some merit in the proposed non-resident argument, I humbly argue that it is not a balanced view in light of the above reflections. In fact, I suspect outfitters will disappear as their already brief season will truncate further, negatively impacting the economic viability of their operations. The few remaining small business in these towns will suffer further as well.

This observation does not just speak to one community but rather a panoply of small towns checkered across this great state.

Non-resident hunters offer a counterbalance to this trend.

Rather than making wholesale changes to the bird seasons, I suggest you seriously consider a bag limit for the entire season so that non-residents can spend days in the field, perhaps lighten their game bag a bit, yet continue to have access to a landscape where we all feel most at peace.

Sincerely,
Aaron Kennon
Old Greenwich, CT

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:51:39 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 10:04:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:31
IP Address: 76.75.32.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Nathe
City/Town:	Redstone
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nathe27@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

Please limit non resident access to 640, use a lottery If necessary. I support both amendments as a step in the right direction.
Thank you

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:28:24 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:37:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 71.15.196.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Allan Gadoury
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	al@6xoutfitters.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am an outfitter who has already booked upland hunts with nonresidents for the 2024 season. This proposal to change the season with little advance notice is unfair to small business.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:18:57 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:25:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:35
IP Address: 98.97.152.12

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Don Pyrah**
City/Town: **Glasgow**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dpyrah2@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I support the proposal to defer bird dog training season until September 1. This coincides with the proposed start of the upland bird hunting season and that makes sense for enforcement purposes and reduces the impact to the bird population.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:27:28 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:29:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:45
IP Address: 216.228.44.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connie Eaton
City/Town:	Lindsay
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cle@midrivers.com

Q2

Please comment on Upland Game Bird Season Setting

I am against moving the opening day of upland game bird season to september15th.
