

**ELK MANAGEMENT CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**FWP STAFF ASSESSMENT**  
**AUGUST 31, 2022**

**Expanded Hunter Education**

Division/Unit/Bureau	Staff Assessment
Accounting Bureau	No comment.
Comm Ed	The recommendation seems focused on improving hunter behavior on private property and fostering more respect for private landowners. Current efforts underway to address this include: revamping hunter education course content with more specific landowner relations material, updating the current hunter/landowner stewardship project with the PLPW, partnering with other hunting organizations like Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Montana Wildlife Federation, Montana Stockgrowers Association, and Pheasants Forever on a marketing campaign to promote hunter ethics. FWP works with One Montana on their Master Hunter program and will continue to serve on their advisory committee. Department staff could also serve in a similar role with other groups focused on hunter ethics and behavior as requested. We could also evaluate the need to organize and coordinate a standing committee with representation from a broad cross section of hunting organizations to support private and public efforts to improve landowner/hunter relations and improve hunter ethics.
Enforcement Division	Currently Enforcement attends hunter education programs and provides instruction on rules/regulations. If the expanded hunter education requires presentation by Enforcement, this would be an addition to the workload.
Legal Unit	No comment.
Licensing Bureau	No comment.
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division	Currently one of our division employees regularly teaches for one the non-profit courses identified in this recommendation. The courses are good but are intensive and restrictive in their reach. If FWP offers a similar course, it could not discriminate or self-select based on ability to pay and could not provide exclusive access. Maintaining a list of landowners interested in providing opportunity to those who complete the course and connecting eligible hunters with them would be an addition to workload. It's unclear if
Technology Services Division	Similar to what we do with Kalkomey now, if we're planning to offer a new suite of courses and we'd like to associate a hunter's completion status with their customer record, we'll need to do some development work to ensure that they are imported correctly into our database. Storage of certificates would need to be addressed, also the security wrapped around authenticating every person getting a certificate.
Wildlife Division	Good concept. To be effective at a large scale, especially if it comes with increased opportunity, the opportunity to take the expanded hunter education must be broadly available. The opportunity to exercise the expanded opportunity would also need to be substantial to garner interest of participants and reduce elk numbers. Likely not applicable statewide (i.e., this recommendation may not be as applicable in all places like R1, where public lands largely outnumber private). Would recommend a pilot project to assess feasibility.