

John Farley - Montana Resident Hunter

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Hamilton, Mt [REDACTED]

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Extend Montana Pheasant Hunting Season Closure Date:

To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commissioners;

I am proposing a modification to our current pheasant hunting season in Montana season opens in/around October 9th and closes traditionally December 31st

There are numerous positive reasons to support an extended hunting season format to end January 31st .. allowing an additional 30 day hunting opportunity for upland bird hunters.

In general hunter numbers have slowly declined over the past couple of decades in part due to our current season framework, land access, recruitment, weather, diminishing CRP lands, block mgmt lands leaving program and competition with other overlapping seasons.

There appears to be NO Biological reason to support closing season on Dec 31st

Lets Support a pheasant hunting season extension thru January 31st

1. a pheasants life span is short - maybe around 18-24 months
2. harvesting more roosters does not effect population density negatively
3. hens would not be competing with roosters for food/for food during winter
4. like ungulates a rooster can breed many hens which maintains population base
5. support for nationwide "R3" program: Recruit, Retain, Reconnect
6. more money funneled into private sector: fuel, food, lodging, tourism
7. Montanas migratory bird hunt season currently runs into January
8. January 31st closure would align us better with adjoining states (South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska)

Thank You for your consideration and could you please add this request to your upcoming agenda for discussion

John A. Farley, OTH
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