



**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
FY 2024/2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES
MARCH 3, 2022**

Budget priorities are the highest-level objectives where the department will focus resources during FY24/25. These priorities will be used to drive FY 24/25 budget requests, FY23 budget allocation, and all department work from FY23 through FY25. They overarch ongoing work that the department conducts on a routine basis as a part of core programs and services. These priorities can be accomplished through redirection of existing funds, a budget request to the legislature for new spending authority or funding, or spending from existing funding in the next biennium. We expect to follow the priorities closely, barring emerging issues or crises such as pipeline spills, train derailments, disease outbreaks, weather events, or other unanticipated circumstances that could require the department to shift budget priorities during the biennium.

Customer Service Objective: Provide the public with the best possible experience.

Goals:

- Continue to improve our technical interface with our customers (i.e., website, XMT, MyFWP app).
- Continued implementation of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division reorganization to better serve the public.

Partnerships Objective: Improve relationships with landowners, hunters, and other partners.

Goals:

- Invest additional funding to address access and recreational opportunities.
- Assist citizen groups and committees as they develop recommendations to improve hunter and landowner relationships.

Stewardship Objective: Maintain and support cultural and historic resources, habitat, and healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations.

Goals:

- Continue to work toward delisting of recovered grizzly bear populations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem.
- Develop new approaches to support and maintain delisted populations of wolves and sage grouse.
- Complete the statewide elk management plan.
- Initiate statewide mule deer initiative to improve understanding and management.
- Address 20% of maintenance backlog for department facilities and lands.
- Increase number of maintenance visits to FWP properties by 20%.

Recreation Objective: Improve outdoor experiences for the public.

Goals:

- Improve public parking at department-owned facilities and lands (e.g., state parks, FAS).
- Develop statewide strategic plan to address increased visitation and participation. Develop specific high-need site planning (e.g., Fish Creek, Somers, Placid Lake, Missouri Headwaters, Cooney, First People's Buffalo Jump).
- Increase public access to public and private lands.
- Implement land acquisition and development directive along the Lower Yellowstone River for improved access and habitat protection.
- Expand camping opportunities statewide.
- Continue to work toward equitable access to our most used rivers.

Workforce Objective: Value our workforce.

Goals:

- Address staffing issues through housing, work-from-home, improving agency culture, and other innovative approaches.
- Ensure FWP office and administrative buildings provide a safe, healthy, and productive work environment for employees.
- Continue to provide better support and training for managers throughout the agency.
- Continue to improve onboarding and training for new employees.