

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:36:51 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 13, 2024 12:37:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:46
IP Address: 184.166.96.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Travis Heater
City/Town: Trout Creek
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tr_heater@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Submerged Spearing Comment

I strongly support the proposal to allow submerged spearing of pike in all region 1 waters. I live on Noxon Reservoir and snorkel in the reservoir in many different location often in the warmer months. This reservoir is very large and has many large weed beds that are full of pike.

In the hundreds of hours of snorkeling my family and I have done here, I have never had a negative encounter with a boat fisherman. I do submerged spearing for pike in the lakes and rivers in the Clearwater and Swan drainages as well as several lakes/reservoirs in the eastern fishing district that are all heavily fished and have also never had a negative encounter with a boat fisherman. I don't see how this would be an issue in any other waterbodies in region 1 that hold pike.

The other main primary target fish species found in Noxon Reservoir (bass, walleye , perch etc) are not scared at all of my presence while snorkeling and will often come closer to me and follow me around. I can't see how spearing for pike would have any negative impact on those species or the fishermen after these species. In fact, submerged spearing for pike would positively impact most other fish species by decreasing the quantity the invasive illegally introduced pike from the waterbody.

Submerged spearing is a very targeted type of angling since the fish are visually sighted prior to targeting them so there is very minimal chance of harming any other species other than pike. If decreasing or maintaining low populations of pike is actually a goal of FWP fisheries management, submerged spearing is an ideal tool to accomplish this goal.

#2

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, October 13, 2024 1:55:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:20
IP Address: 72.174.10.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Quigley
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jeffquigley@me.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I'd very much like to see this pass. Assuming the waters can biologically support the activity, it'd be nice to not be so restricted.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:31:28 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 13, 2024 4:35:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:47
IP Address: 184.167.196.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: L.Sherm Russell
City/Town: Havre
State/Province: MT
Email Address: russellmdc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I support Vice Chair Tabor amendment.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 2:57:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 3:02:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:19
IP Address: 67.2.165.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ryan Peterson
City/Town: Springville
State/Province: UT
Email Address: ryan.peterson91@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am a representative of the National Freshwater Spearfishing Association. We are in favor of this amendment, as it would increase sportsman opportunities, while aiding in control of invasive species, and not effecting any other Sportfish populations. Underwater spearfishing is both low impact and a useful management tool when practiced with proper regulation of bag limits.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 4:44:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:45
IP Address: 66.135.72.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jim Vashro
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jsjvash@montansky.us

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I was fisheries manager for Region 1 until December, 2013. There are several concerns with opening all waters in the Western Fishing District to underwater spearing for northern pike. At one point, all waters were open to spearing. It did provide some recreation and certainly increased the sales of Hawaiian slings and spear guns. But less than 1/3 of the valley floor lakes in the Western District have pike, there is nothing in this regulation to keep people from carrying spear guns in lakes without pike. Northern pike are not particularly easy to spear, spearing appeared to have no impact on abundance. The problem is that other fish, particularly bass, are easier to approach than pike. Poaching of illegal species became a problem. Perch, pumpkinseeds and sometimes trout were also speared. It is easy for a spear fisherman to surface, look around for a warden and dump illegal fish if needed. Even so, a number of poachers were apprehended. Eliminating underwater spearing in the Western District was done at the request of the Enforcement Division. Unfortunately, all those wardens are now retired and not available to comment on problems with open spearing.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:04:54 AM
Time Spent: 19:04:29
IP Address: 38.100.141.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Eric McClendon**
City/Town: **Eureka**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **reileymcclendon@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am in favor of opening up more waters in Northwestern Montana to spearfishing. I live in Eureka, MT and currently have little to no opportunity to spearfish. This is especially annoying as we have the invasive northern pike in nearly every body of water up here.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, October 17, 2024 3:00:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:22
IP Address: 136.38.145.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kurt Wendl
City/Town: North Salt Lake
State/Province: UT
Email Address: Kurtwendl@Gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

As soon to be Montana resident, I would like to express my support for the amendment presented by Vice Chair Tabor to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. This amendment would drastically increase the recreational opportunities for the diving public. Northern Pike are a direct threat to native bull trout. Increasing harvest rates of Northern Pike would be beneficial to a native species while also presenting more opportunity to the public for harvest. Increasing opportunities for underwater spearfishermen/women would put Montana more in line with Western States like Utah and Wyoming which have far more opportunities to harvest game fish. In the future I would like to see Montana continue to expand the species available to spearfishermen/women. Two species I think would make good candidates would be whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish already have a commercial harvest season on Flathead Lake and increasing recreational opportunities just makes sense. Lake trout are a non-native species in direct competition with bull trout. While harvest rates by underwater spearfishing would be extremely low, providing recreational opportunities to the diving public would be fantastic.

#8

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Started: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:03:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:04:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 104.243.48.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Hall
City/Town: Provo
State/Province: UT
Email Address: gvh574@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for Vice Chair Tabor's proposed amendment to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. This change would significantly enhance recreational opportunities for the diving community. Northern Pike pose a serious threat to native bull trout, and increasing the harvest of Northern Pike would benefit native species while also offering more harvest opportunities to the public. Expanding opportunities for underwater spearfishing in Montana would bring the state more in line with other Western states like Utah and Wyoming, which already provide more options for harvesting game fish.

Looking ahead, I hope to see Montana continue to broaden the species available for spearfishing. Two species I believe would be excellent candidates are whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish already have a commercial harvest season on Flathead Lake, and expanding recreational opportunities for them seems logical. Lake trout, a non-native species that competes directly with bull trout, would also be a valuable addition. Although harvest rates from underwater spearfishing would remain low, the increased recreational opportunities for the diving public would be highly beneficial. The FWP's concern about potential conflicts between hook-and-line anglers and spearfishers should not be a significant issue. Montana's waters are already shared among various user groups depending on the season. For example, waterfowl hunters and anglers, as well as hook-and-line fishers and wake boaters, coexist on the same waters. Sharing outdoor spaces is a responsibility for all who enjoy the outdoors.

Sincerely,
Greg Hall

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:10:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:14:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:56
IP Address: 172.59.227.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Austin Rickard
City/Town: Grand Junction
State/Province: CO
Email Address: Austindivedude@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I have been an active part of the diving community for over a decade now and would love to be able to dive and spearfish In more regions of Montana. We have a pretty strict set of regulations here in Colorado and the more opportunities to travel and be able to harvest food, the better. Thank you for considering the voice of the diving community.

#10

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, October 18, 2024 3:52:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 63.230.62.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Nicholas Johnson**
State/Province: **IA**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

As a freshwater spear fisherman, I come up and visit a friend in Kalispell and really enjoy the diving in that region. It would be awesome to offer pike as another opportunity to take with a spear gun or Hawaiian sling.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 18, 2024 7:06:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 18, 2024 7:11:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:39
IP Address: 98.97.40.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Andy Guy
City/Town: Swan Lake
State/Province: MT
Email Address: flyfishin24@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am in favor to expand the spearfishing for Northern Pike. Thank you

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 18, 2024 10:14:22 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 18, 2024 10:17:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 97.178.196.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Dawson
City/Town:	Sandy
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	mike.dawson.pro@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Love seeing that Montana is considering opening waters to freshwater spearfishing. It's a sport that has helped me make friends, find a community, and get good exercise while selectively targeting fish of certain size and species. It's a sport I've shared with friends and family, and hope to share with my kids when they're old enough.

#13

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Last Modified: Saturday, October 19, 2024 2:53:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:34
IP Address: 37.140.254.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Morris
City/Town: Salt Lake City
State/Province: UT
Email Address: dmophoto@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I fully support Vice Chair Tabor's amendment to open the western district to underwater spearfishing, which would greatly expand recreational opportunities for divers. Northern Pike threaten native bull trout, and increasing their harvest would benefit both conservation efforts and the public.

Allowing spearfishing would also align Montana with states like Utah and Wyoming, where it's already common. Expanding it to species like whitefish and lake trout makes sense—whitefish have a commercial season on Flathead Lake, and lake trout compete with bull trout.

Concerns about conflicts between spearfishers and anglers are irrelevant; Montana's waters are already shared by multiple users throughout the year. If spearfishing were allowed, I'd visit Montana far more frequently to enjoy these new opportunities.

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 19, 2024 11:03:48 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 19, 2024 11:08:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 73.20.119.253

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Evan Livadas
City/Town:	Ogden
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	elivadas@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners, I am a Utah resident but I would love to come to Montana for some spearfishing opportunities. I think it would bring some responsible sportsmen into your state. Spearfisherman have great respect for the resources and laws. I think it could be a great opportunity to get your locals in the water enjoying the wild, and maybe bringing some sustainability harvested food home for the table. Please deeply consider this amendment. Thank you very much!

#15

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Last Modified: Saturday, October 19, 2024 2:08:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:55
IP Address: 136.38.100.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Blair Thorpe
City/Town: SLC
State/Province: UT
Email Address: thorblai@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I hope the amendment passes in favor of spearfishing. I personally will travel to Montana from utah for the opportunity to spear in your beautiful lakes.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 19, 2024 10:07:05 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 19, 2024 10:13:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:01
IP Address: 75.237.70.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brady Ewing
City/Town: Gilbert
State/Province: AZ
Email Address: ewing.brady@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Howdy Commissioners,

I'm comin' at ya from way down here in Arizona, but I got my heart set on what y'all are doin' up there in Montana.

Now, I ain't no local, but I've heard tell of Vice Chair Tabor's amendment to let folks spearfish underwater in the western district. And let me tell ya, from someone who loves adventure and the great outdoors, this sounds like a golden opportunity not just for Montanans, but for all us fishin' enthusiasts who dream about haulin' up north.

These Northern Pike, they're like the varmints of your waters, right? Spearin' 'em could be a hoot and at the same time, y'all are helpin' out them native bull trout. It's a win-win, like findin' water in the desert.

Look, out here in Arizona, we got our own fishin' spots, but nothin' like what y'all got. Places like Utah and Wyoming, they're leadin' the way with more chances to fish, more ways to enjoy the water. Montana could be right up there with 'em, maybe even leadin' the pack.

Thinkin' ahead, why not consider species like whitefish or lake trout? I've heard whitefish are already gettin' harvested commercially, so why not let recreational divers in on the fun? And lake trout, they're not even supposed to be there, messin' with your native species. Spearin' 'em might not fix everything, but it sure would make for some excitin' times on the water.

Now, I know there's talk 'bout conflicts with the traditional fishin' folks. But from where I'm sittin', water's meant to be shared. Here in Arizona, we got all sorts usin' the same spots - kayakers, fishermen, even the occasional fool tryin' to water ski in the desert. It's all about gettin' along.

So, Commissioners, here's my two cents from a distance - let's make Montana the spearfishin' paradise of the West. Y'all got the water, we've got the enthusiasm. Let's do this, not just for today, but for the future of your beautiful state.

Keep up the good work,

Brady

An Arizona Resident with a Love for Montana's Waters

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 20, 2024 4:51:20 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 20, 2024 4:52:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 104.166.115.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matthew Holmes
City/Town:	Grantsville
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	holmesm7@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Vice Chair Tabor's proposed amendment to allow underwater spearfishing in the western district. This amendment would significantly enhance recreational opportunities for the diving community and address ecological concerns.

Northern Pike pose a direct threat to native bull trout populations, and increasing harvest rates of Northern Pike would be beneficial for these native species. By expanding opportunities for spearfishermen and women, Montana could align more closely with Western states like Utah and Wyoming, which offer far greater opportunities for harvesting game fish.

In the future, I encourage Montana to consider expanding the list of species available for underwater spearfishing. Two species that would be ideal candidates are whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish already have a commercial harvest season on Flathead Lake, so extending this opportunity to recreational spearfishing is a logical step. Lake trout, as a non-native species in direct competition with bull trout, also present a valuable opportunity for control through recreational harvest. While spearfishing may have a limited impact on overall harvest rates, it would offer a fantastic experience for the diving public.

The Montana FWP's concerns about potential conflicts between hook-and-line anglers and spearfishers should not be a barrier. Montana's waters are already shared by multiple user groups depending on the season. For example, waterfowl hunters and anglers often coexist, just as anglers and wake boats share the water in the summer. Shared use of outdoor spaces is a fundamental principle of public recreation, and spearfishers should be no exception.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I look forward to seeing Montana continue to expand opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts while supporting native species conservation.

Sincerely,
Matt Holmes
Former Great Falls resident

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, October 20, 2024 5:43:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:24
IP Address: 129.222.46.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brian Barbaree
City/Town: Columbia Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brian_barbaree@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I support this amendment for allowing submerged spearfishing for northern pike in all proposed open waters. I believe spearfishing is a way for sportsmen to be extremely selective and don't think any additional non-target species damage will result from this change.

#19

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Sunday, October 20, 2024 10:53:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:42
IP Address: 72.174.137.224

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Pride J Jessen
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pridejessen270@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am in support of Vice Chair Tabor's amendment. I'm a native Montanan, and an avid angler and spear fisherman. I think this amendment will expand opportunities for sportsman like myself as well as help to protect native fish species. I really don't see any downside to this proposal. Northern pike are very easily identifiable, so the chance of bicatch or spearing a misidentified fish is highly unlikely.

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 21, 2024 11:21:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:32:06
IP Address: 35.131.51.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Anna Bruckmeier**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **anna.bruckmeier22@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I writing to express support for the amendment proposed by Vice Chair Tabor to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. Northern Pike are extremely invasive and directly threaten populations of bull trout and other native fish species. Opening up and expanding methods of harvesting northern pike would positively impact these ecosystems and provide more opportunities for native species to thrive. As Montanans, we take pride in our public lands and our ability to access and recreate on them. Pushback from line fishermen is silly and greedy. We all share these spaces for various forms of recreation throughout the seasons, and line fishermen must do the same. As a diver and spearfisher I have seen some of the environmental impacts left by line fishing. Dive in any body of water and you will find snagged lures, abandoned leaders and other tackle, and rat's nests of fishing lines in the water and on the banks. There is no good reason to continue to restrict access to underwater spearfishing in water systems where northern pike remain a threat to native species - especially using methods that leave a much smaller environmental footprint. Line fishermen can share these spaces with their fellow Montanans just like the rest of us. I do think penalties for harvesting species other than northern pike should be made extremely clear. Thank you for your consideration of this amendment.

#21

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Last Modified: Monday, October 21, 2024 11:39:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:48
IP Address: 35.131.51.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sam Heffernan**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **samheff14@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am extremely happy to hear that an amendment opening the western district to spearfishing for northern pike has been put forward. I was born and raised in western Montana and over the last 3 years I have fallen in love with spearfishing. After experiencing the thrill of stalking pike through murky weed beds on the bottom of a lake it's hard to go back to casting spoons from a boat.

I understand that many traditional fishermen look down on the sport and fear competing with spearfishermen in their local waters. However, Montana waters were always meant to be open to all recreators. The idea that a spearfishermen swimming in the water is more disruptive than jet skiers and wake boats seems ridiculous to me. As long as spearfishermen are targeting an invasive like northern pike I firmly believe they have as much right to access their state waters and resources as anyone else.

Finally, spearfishing is an effective way to target a single species without causing any additional harm. Northern pike are one of the easiest fish to identify underwater and in all the time I've spent hunting them I have never accidentally shot another species. A traditional angler may catch several trout or bass for each pike they land. These fish are often released injured and unlikely to survive. The population of spearfishermen/women in Montana is very small and they are unlikely to have any noticeable impact on pike populations. However, they are all but guaranteed to avoid bycatch while harvesting.

As a born and raised Montana angler I'd like to thank you for letting me say my piece on the matter. Spearfishing has become a passion for myself and several friends in the Missoula area. I'd love to be able to practice the sport more freely if you'd allow it.

Best regards,
Sam Heffernan

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 21, 2024 11:58:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:49
IP Address: 47.47.150.117

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Marc Dean
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Info@MissoulaScuba.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Vice Chair Tabor - My name is Marc Dean and I am the owner of Missoula Scuba & Snorkel. I dive many of these western lakes (many times) and see what's really going on under the surface. That being said, I have seen an increase in pike numbers and would strongly agree with your recommendation.

Pike have few enemies and a voracious appetite. They need to be controlled. Please allow spearfishing in all of these areas. If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, October 21, 2024 6:06:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:44
IP Address: 136.36.60.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Davis Abbott
City/Town:	Provo
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	dgabbott9@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

As someone from Utah who frequently visits Montana to enjoy the outdoors, I wanted to express my support for Vice Chair Tabor's amendment to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. I love diving and spearfishing here in Utah, but Montana's waters have always had a special appeal to me. This amendment would make Montana an even more attractive destination for people like me by greatly expanding recreational opportunities.

Northern Pike are a known threat to native bull trout, and increasing the harvest of these invasive species would not only benefit the ecosystem but also provide more opportunities for spearfishers. In Utah, we've seen how opening up spearfishing for more species has been a win-win for both conservation and recreation. Montana could see the same benefits.

In fact, I'd love to see Montana go even further in the future by adding species like whitefish and lake trout for spearfishing. Whitefish already have a commercial season on Flathead Lake, and lake trout compete directly with bull trout. Expanding the list of target species would bring even more recreational opportunities for visitors like me, while also helping protect native fish populations.

I understand there are concerns about conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearfishers, but in Utah, we've successfully shared the water with different groups. Whether it's waterfowl hunters, anglers, or wake boaters, we all find ways to coexist. I believe the same can happen in Montana.

I hope you'll consider this amendment as a way to invite more outdoor enthusiasts like me to explore and appreciate Montana's incredible natural resources while contributing to the health of the ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Davis Abbott
Utah Resident

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:20:56 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:24:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 104.28.116.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brandon McHenry
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brandon_mchenry@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I highly support VC Tabor's proposed amendment. As a diver/dive professional/instructor this provides more opportunity for divers in Montana.

As a fisherman, this will hopefully help reduce pike depredations on native stocks of Cutthroat and other species and slow the spread of this destructive species.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:54:45 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 10:09:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:31
IP Address: 73.92.73.30

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

no comment

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:10:59 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:20:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:34
IP Address: 216.147.124.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mike McGuire
City/Town:	Clifton
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	anywatermike@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Looks like your trying to open spearfishing to Pike only?

We as spearos appreciate the effort and are wondering about rough fish?Carp? suckers?..... Our Goal with NFSA is to see equal use of your waters by all fishermen. Spearfishing is the most selective and smallest take of all fishing types

We would love to make the trip to your state to enjoy you waters, hike your trails, camp, do family vacations, but our fishing desires are to support states that support fair and equal use of al waters.

Good luck with the pike and if you need support or want to take the next step in opening the spearfishing, contact Nationalfreshwaterspearfisng.org

We are here to make divining great again. MM

Less than 1% are selectively take by spearos.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 9:59:41 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 10:07:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:52
IP Address: 72.174.142.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Maya Heffernan**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mayahEFF8@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

As a born and raised Montanan, I support the amendment presented by Vice Chair Tabor to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. It is important to consider the impact that Northern Pike have on native Montanan fish species (Bull Trout, Cutthroat Trout) and to prioritize their removal over the hurt feelings traditional anglers may feel about having to compete with spearfishermen. The spearfishermen I know are also eating the Northern Pike that they catch, not simply wasting fish. In addition, this amendment would drastically increase the recreational opportunities for the diving public. Montana's public waters are meant to be open to all recreators.

Sincerely,
Maya Heffernan

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:06:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:11:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 72.174.142.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kathy Heffernan
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kjohnheff@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I support the spearfishing for northern pike in western Montana. Spearfishing could be a helpful tool for controlling invasive pike. The trout would thank us. Spear fishermen in the chain of lakes have been successful in harvesting northern pike.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 24, 2024 9:02:06 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 24, 2024 9:12:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:37
IP Address: 94.140.9.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Andy Akins**
City/Town: **Pentwater**
State/Province: **MI**
Email Address: **akins.andrew.s@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am in favor of the spearfishing amendment that would open up waters in Western Montana to spearfishing. We have had great success here in Michigan with the introduction of spearfishing for select gamefish, and would like to see something similar happen in Montana. Freshwater spearfishing is growing in popularity throughout the US, and is regarded as one of the most sustainable ways to harvest fish. I know when I visit Montana next I would love to be able to bring my equipment and legally harvest some fish or work with NFSA (National Freshwater Spearfishing Association) to throw a spearfishing tournament in the region. Looking forward to hearing about this amendment passing and Montana joining the growing numbers of other states allowing this recreational activity.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 24, 2024 10:07:19 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 24, 2024 10:09:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:00
IP Address: 98.187.167.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matt Vian
City/Town:	Bella Vista
State/Province:	AR
Email Address:	matthew.vian@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for Vice Chair Tabor's amendment to open the western district of Montana to underwater spearfishing. This initiative would significantly enhance recreational opportunities for the diving community in some of the clearest waters in Montana.

Northern Pike pose a serious threat to native bull trout populations. By increasing the harvest rates of Northern Pike, we can help protect these native species while also providing more recreational opportunities for the public. Aligning Montana's regulations with those of other Western states like Utah and Wyoming, which offer more opportunities for game fish harvesting, is a positive step forward.

In the future, I hope to see Montana expand the species available for spearfishing to include whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish already have a commercial harvest season on Flathead Lake, and increasing recreational opportunities for this species makes sense. Lake trout, being non-native and in direct competition with bull trout, would also be a suitable addition. Although the harvest rates by underwater spearfishing might be low, offering these opportunities would be fantastic for the diving community.

Concerns about conflicts between hook/line anglers and spearfishers should not be a barrier. Montana's waters are already shared by various user groups throughout the year, such as waterfowl hunters and anglers, or boaters and anglers in the summer. Sharing our natural resources is something we all must do.

Thank you for considering this amendment. I believe it will greatly benefit both the environment and the recreational community.

Sincerely,

Matt Vian

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 24, 2024 4:26:03 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:47:07 PM
Time Spent: 01:21:04
IP Address: 97.139.247.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen Roth
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ladsroth1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Commissioner Vice Chair Tabor;

I'm writing you to express my opposition to the spearfishing proposal. As I understand it and correct me if I'm wrong but a similar proposal was tried years ago and FWP stopped it because game and non game fish were reported to be speared substantially more often than the intended species. As many game and non game fish are often curious of divers in the water and approach within several feet this in turn provides a tempting target when the intended species (Northern Pike) is not available or is more elusive, this is very concerning. That's only part of what I see is a problem with the spearfishing amendment. The other would be the increased difficulty in enforcing the law, as many bodies of water have been added in this amendment. I would assume that most spearfishing persons don't travel to public areas to spearfish but instead enter the water via personal docks, swimming platforms, boats and piers. This makes it virtually impossible check them or monitor their harvest, as everything practically takes place underwater and out of view. No way this proposal is a good idea! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 27, 2024 11:50:29 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 27, 2024 11:54:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:37
IP Address: 72.174.137.224

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brooks jessen
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtflyfishguide@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I'm a native MT and I have fished in western MT for 40 years. I think more spearfishing options for northern pike would be an excellent option. I see Northerns in the lower Bitterroot and Clark Fork, spearfishing opens an option for harvesting these invasive fish

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:15:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:18:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 174.201.31.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Aurelia Zeeck
City/Town: Stevensville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: aureliazeeck@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am a Montana resident and have been my whole life and I am in full support of this amendment as I believe it'll help expand fishing opportunities in the western district. As northern pike are considered an invasive species I think expanding the opportunities of anglers to spear fish would allow for even more population control.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:47:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 2:49:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 192.58.125.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brett Leable
City/Town:	Shallowater
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	brett@hammerheadops.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am in support of this amendment. As a former resident of Colorado, where Pike Spearfishing was legal statewide, it was a very successful tool of the Department of Fish and Game to control the Pike foraging on native species like trout. Spearfishing is very selective, with no by catch.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 28, 2024 6:29:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 6:47:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:28
IP Address: 98.127.64.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Luke scholer**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lukescholer@live.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am opposed to this change in regulations, I don't think pike should be targeted by fwp the way that they are, this proposed change will destroy the northwest trophy pike fisheries very quickly. There are many who enjoy and would rather fish for/eat non-native pike than non-native rainbows.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 5:54:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 6:02:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:07
IP Address: 174.45.84.0

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Scott A Vollmer**
City/Town: **Gallatin Gateway, MT**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vollmerscott@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you today in full support of the amendment by Vice Chair Tabor to expand spearfishing opportunities for northern pike. Northern pike are a voracious and invasive predator and anything we can do to control their populations will be a benefit for salmonids, especially threatened species like cutthroat and Bull trout. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Scott Vollmer
MOGA Vice-President
Gallatin Gateway

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:14:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:48:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:13
IP Address: 165.225.11.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Todd Ramaeker
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ramaekertodd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to express my support for the amendment proposed by Vice Chair Tabor to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. This change would greatly increase recreational activities for the diving public and would allow greater harvest of invasive Northern Pike. This change would allow for more recreational activities for divers, while promoting conservation of native Bull Trout species. Vice Chair Tabor's proposed amendment would align Montana with other western states like Utah and Wyoming in allowing spearfishermen and women greater opportunities to harvest game fish. Public waters must be shared by all recreational activities and the diving public should have access to harvest game fish as well. Additional harvest would be extremely low/minimal and there is no reason that current rod/reel fishermen and women should have complaints with the diving community. Montana waters are a shared resource and as such should be available to the diving public for access as well. Waters must be shared for other recreation (boating, hunting, fishing, etc.) during various seasons already, allowing spearfishing should be no different.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:49:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:16:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:15
IP Address: 97.139.212.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Andrew McIntyre
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	am2rv3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am in favor of the spearfishing amendment. I have heard the counter arguments concerning species identification and increasing boating injuries including potential collisions with divers.

The difference between northern pike and other Montana fish species is stark. Even novice anglers can tell the difference between pike and Montana's other aquatic species including bull trout. The Northern Pike's body shape and movement are unmistakable even in murky water.

Second spearfishing would occur mostly on small bodies of water. These areas see less summertime pleasure boating, water skiing, and have less surface turbulence/wave action. Long story short, if someone tells you they are worried about running over a diver (with dive flag and buoy) in their vessel, then they should have their eyes or BAC checked.

I think the real reason traditional hook and line anglers do not want expanded spearfishing opportunities in the Western District is because they either fear change or think it will compete with their own ability to catch large Northern Pike. These arguments do not hold water because per MT FWPs own statements we are trying to eradicate this species in the region. Spearfishing is an effective way to at least control this population. Finally, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana's eastern district all allow greater spearfishing access. So provide some more recreational opportunities for NW Montanans and pass this amendment.

Thank you,

Andrew

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 6:17:55 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 6:50:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:32:24
IP Address: 199.19.248.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim Jacobs
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mrtimrj@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I am AGAINST opening up the western district to spearfishing for pike for these reasons. 1) There are a number of trophy pike lakes in the western district and those lakes will be decimated of those trophy fish. 2) Western district lakes often see large numbers of recreational boat use. Allowing individuals to spear "by person swimming or submerged" will be putting those individuals in danger. 3) Who is going to enforce these regulations when wardens are to busy enforcing the recreational boats on lakes in the western district.

I think this is a total miss use of power by Region 1 Commissioner Pat Tabor

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:10:51 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:12:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 184.167.54.184

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Weed
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	markweedauto@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Against spearing of Northern Pike.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:56:01 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 9:12:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:57
IP Address: 98.125.198.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mac Vinnedge**
City/Town: **Bigfork**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mac@glacierflyfishing.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Spear fishing is an effective way to eliminate illegally introduced fish. For other fishermen to bucket in a different species to a body of water that contaminates hundreds of miles and creates problems for other resource managers. Illegal introductions across the US have been a major problem. Region 1 has the highest incident of illegal introductions in the lower 48. There are over 200 plus illegal introduced species of warm water fish and it continues. When you separate people by the fish they want to catch it creates a social problem being a commissioner you have to be polarized to come a 50-50 balance in order to protect a resource and more than likely an opportunity. In my opinion, illegally introduced species take opportunity from everyone but if there is a way thought process that wants the flip side of the coin it creates bad relations. I support the amendment based on the fact that I took a hunter safety course when I was 12, hunting and fishing is a privilege not a right. Illegally introduced species is not a privilege nor it is a right, it takes opportunity from other people.

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 7:02:42 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 7:07:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:42
IP Address: 70.188.243.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Samuel Laub
City/Town:	Stockton
State/Province:	MO
Email Address:	samuellaub22@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I support Vice Chair Tabors amendment, allowing for spearfishing of pike would be a good move, I would love to travel to Montana and participate in some underwater spearfishing

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:38:15 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:54:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:23
IP Address: 66.135.72.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jim Vashro
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jsjvash@montanasky.us

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. is opposed to expanding spearfishing opportunities for northern pike through the ice and with underwater spearing based on having little impact on pike abundance, conflicts with other users and poaching of other fish species. We have previously opposed expanding opportunities for pike spearing through the ice based on safety since spearers often make large holes in the ice but are not required to mark those holes when leaving. Once those holes skim over, they become real hazards for people walking or driving snowmobiles or ATVs on ice.

In terms of underwater spearing, it was legal in the Western Fishing District maybe 20 years ago. Pike are not that easy to spear, spearing had no impact on the abundance of pike. However, other species such as bass and perch are more approachable and were often poached. It is easy for a spearer to surface, look for a warden presence and to discard illegal fish if needed. Despite that, illegal spearers were apprehended. In addition, pike exist in about 70 waters in the Western Fishing District. The proposed regulation would allow spearing in hundreds of waters, whether pike are present or not. That would be an enforcement nightmare. The present spearing closure was done at the request of the Enforcement Division, unfortunately all those wardens are now retired so the existing wardens don't have that institutional experience.

Jim Vashro, FWI President

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:17:48 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 12:12:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:54:11
IP Address: 136.48.6.219

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lizzy Wendl
City/Town:	North Salt Lake
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	Egerdis@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

Dear Commissioners,

I want to express my strong support for Vice Chair Tabor's proposal to open the Western District to underwater spearfishing. As a soon to be region 1 resident, this amendment would open more recreational opportunities for myself as well as the public while keeping conservation a priority. The Northern Pike is not native to the region and while a population could exist within target goals but the bull trout populations should be the priority. Other Western states like Utah and Wyoming allow spearfishing within the standard bag limits and they have not seen an impact on harvests large enough to matter, despite the criticisms of the rod and reel community. I hope Montana continues to expand recreational underwater spearfishing within the state. More opportunity means more people in enjoying everything Montana has to offer. Spearfishing may not be the way some others enjoy catching fish, but opportunity for everyone that provides a sustainable population should be the goal.

#45

COMPLETE

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Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 12:34:18 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 12:41:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:41
IP Address: 174.247.144.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Spencer Dallas
City/Town:	Farmington
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	spencerdallas@me.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

The opportunity to spearfish in Montana would be such a great opportunity for bringing new people to the state. Not only bringing in fishing license money but also money to towns around bodies of water spearos are some of the most conservation minded people on the water. We shoot on average 1 game fish for every 8 carp or whatever other trash fish are in the water. I love fishing Montana and would love to have another reason to go there and enjoy your bodies of water. A lot of rod and reel guys judge us at face value because it looks easy or they think we shoot everything we see. We work just as hard if not harder than they do for the same catch. I've done every kind of fishing one can imagine and this is by far the most difficult way to catch a fish. There are so many more factors that affect a day of diving. I would love to see more opportunities open up in Montana and I would be sure to make at least 2 trips there a year to enjoy your beautiful state.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:15:37 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:19:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:32
IP Address: 192.156.215.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bryson Mumford
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brysondmumf@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fishing Regs Amendment - Vice Chair Tabor

I would like to express my support for Vice Chair Tabor's amendment to open the western district to underwater spearfishing. This change would significantly enhance recreational opportunities for the diving community. Northern Pike pose a serious threat to native bull trout, so increasing harvest rates for Northern Pike would not only help protect native species but also offer additional harvest opportunities for the public. Expanding access for underwater spearfishers would align Montana more closely with Western states like Utah and Wyoming, where more options exist for game fish harvest. Looking ahead, I hope Montana will continue to expand the species available for spearfishing. Whitefish and lake trout would be excellent additions, as whitefish already have a commercial season on Flathead Lake, and allowing recreational harvesting aligns with current management practices. Lake trout, a non-native species, compete with bull trout, and although spearfishing harvest rates would remain low, it would provide a valuable opportunity for recreational divers. The FWP's concern over potential conflicts between hook-and-line fishers and spearfishers should not be a deterrent, as Montana's waters are already shared by various users at different times of the year—just as waterfowl hunters and anglers, or wakeboarders and anglers, share the same spaces. Sharing these resources is essential for everyone to enjoy our public lands and waters.
