

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 5, 1985

The fifth meeting of the Senate Fish and Game Committee was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on February 5, 1985 by Chairman Max Conover in Room 402 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 255: Senator Jack Galt, District 16, presented this bill to the committee. This bill authorizes the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to allow the use of muzzleloaders in shotgun hunting areas. He stated we have allowed muzzleloaders to shoot on our ranch for several years and we have gotten along well with them and have had no problem with game damage.

Chairman Conover asked for proponents.

Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, gave testimony in support of this bill. A copy of his statement is attached as Exhibit 1.

Verle Rademacher, editor and publisher of the Meagher County News, gave testimony in support of this bill. A copy of his testimony is attached as Exhibit 2.

Robert VanDerVere, a concerned citizen lobbyist, supports this bill although he is opposed to the amendments submitted by Jim Flynn.

Tim Fay, Butte, Montana, supports this bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached as Exhibit 3.

Bill Hammer, Ronan, Montana, gave testimony in support of this bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached as Exhibit 4.

Fred Beyer, Missoula, supports this bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached as Exhibit 5.

Don Knot, Missoula, gave testimony in support of this bill. A copy is attached as Exhibit 6.

Bill Meisner, Stevensville, supports this bill. A copy of his written testimony is attached as Exhibit 7.

Chairman Conover asked for opponents.

Senate Fish and Game
February 5, 1985
Page Two

Bruce Inger, Vice President, Montana Bow Hunters Association, gave testimony in opposition to this bill. A copy of his testimony is attached as Exhibit 8.

Chairman Conover opened the hearing for questions.

Senator Lane asked Mr. Inger if he felt the bow hunters shot enough deer to keep the population down.

Mr. Inger said that is why the Department let the shotgun hunters come in. It was open to archers only but we weren't harvesting enough animals.

Senator Lane asked if many deer are wounded and not killed.

Mr. Inger said there always is a chance of that happening but it would be hard to determine how many.

Senator Severson asked the maximum range a bow hunter can shoot.

Mr. Inger said the maximum range on large game is 30 to 40 yards.

Senator Severson said bow hunters talk about a need to be by themselves to stalk game so they can get close enough to shoot. Maximum range on a shotgun is only 50 yards and the range on a muzzleloader is 100 yards. They would need to stalk their game also. Any good hunter stalks game.

Mr. Inger commented if we could shoot our bow accurately at 100 yards, we could take more animals.

Senator Jacobson said the effective date is on passage and approval. She wondered if this will be put into effect this fall.

Mr. Flynn said he would assume that if this bill passes any season that might come up that would apply to this then the muzzleloaders would be given consideration.

Senator Yellowtail asked Mr. Flynn if it is typical in a special hunting area to open it to shotguns and bows simultaneously.

Mr. Flynn said we have both. We will have a special shotgun season that does not allow archers and a special archer season that does not allow shotguns. That is the intent of the amendment, to keep this flexibility. What the special season would be open for would depend on what we are trying to address.

Senator Conover asked if it is the policy of the Department to require hunters orange.

Mr. Flynn said hunters orange is required for all hunters, shotguns and muzzleloaders included. The only exemption to that is strictly with the archers in their special season.

Senator Conover asked if there is a safety factor involved with the archers in camouflage and the shotguns and muzzleloaders allowed in the area.

Verle Rademacher said the bill pertains to special hunts where shotguns are already allowed.

Tim Fay said the archers have five weeks prior to the regular hunting season in which they can sneak around in the woods. They have no objection to this. Hunter orange is required of anyone out hunting big game. This includes the archers, muzzleloaders, whatever. We do not want to get into a problem with the archers. We are looking at the regular season. We don't want to infringe on their 5 week special season prior to the regular season.

Senator Galt closed by stating the bill has been well discussed. He wanted to emphasize that this is not asking for a special season. The archers have 5 weeks prior to the regular season which the muzzleloaders will not infringe on. This bill only pertains to areas where shotguns are allowed. He has no problem with the amendment presented by Jim Flynn.

Chairman Conover closed the hearing on SB 255.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 209: Senator Mohar, District 1, presented this bill to the committee. He provided committee members with a statement of intent for the bill (Exhibit 9). He went through the sections of the bill explaining that this would provide for a crime stoppers program with the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It is his understanding the funding for this program has been approved for \$11,000 per year by the subcommittee on appropriations. This money would come from the license fees that the sportsmen pay. It is possible this could be self-funding through gifts and grants.

Chairman Conover asked for proponents.

Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks gave testimony in support of this bill. A copy is attached as Exhibit 10.

Don Heinz, Montana Wildlife Federation, supports this bill. A copy of his testimony is attached as Exhibit 11.

Senate Fish and Game
February 5, 1985
Page Four

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, supports this bill. A copy of her testimony is attached as Exhibit 12.

Marg Green, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, supports this bill. A copy of her testimony is attached as Exhibit 13.

Jeff Welch, Trails West Taxidermy and other state taxidermists, supports this bill.

Les Graham, Department of Livestock, has been involved in a state crime stoppers programs for a couple of years and can answer questions concerning their program. The program has been very successful for us. We have found that the people that we have arrested for livestock crimes are the same people that have problems with the wildlife people. We work in the same area and have the same type of criminals.

There were no opponents.

Chairman Conover opened the hearing for questions.

Senator Severson asked how successful the toll free line has been as far as reporting violations.

Erwin Kent, Chief of Enforcement, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said he couldn't give an exact accounting. We receive 7-8 thousand calls and about 100 of those calls could have been potential violations. Out of those, 1/3 resulted in citations being issued.

Senator Severson said if something like this were instituted, do you feel that this would decrease substantially the number of calls on the toll free lines.

Mr. Erwin Kent said this type of program has been very successful in other states.

Senator Severson does not think it is right to offer a person a reward for reporting a fish and game violation. He has a real philosophical problem with this. He wonders what our civilization is coming to that if a person sees a violation happening that he will not report it unless he receives a reward.

Mr. Kent said this program maintains confidentiality for the individual and feels that some people need that assurance as they do not want to be involved.

Senator Severson has no problem with confidentiality but he has a problem with the reward.

Mr. Flynn said there is an assumption there will be a reward for every bit of information we receive. That is not the way the program is designed. There will be a communication network established that the public would be aware of and could use.

Senator Smith asked if this would be used in conjunction with the present hot line number.

Mr. Flynn said we would not discontinue the present mechanism that we have. What we will do will depend on discussion with the Department of Livestock on their crime stoppers. The present program would still be available and working, but would be advertised as the crime stoppers program.

Senator Severson asked if he picked up the 800 line would he get a reward for that.

Les Graham said the type of person that calls in, in most cases, is a person that is either related to those that are involved in the crime, or associated with the criminal violators. They usually will not step forward because of involvement. The fact that the informant is kept confidential, even if a trial is involved, is a plus for this program. We give code names to informants and do not actually know their real name. Ninety percent of the people that call are either involved or associated with the criminal. We have paid very few rewards. Most do not want the reward.

Senator Conover said then the reward system is working well in the Department of Livestock.

Les Graham said we have only paid out \$2,000 in reward money. Our program is strictly involved with theft, butchering or crimes related to livestock.

Senator Severson asked if the 800 number can be unanimous.

Mr. Flynn said yes.

Senator Mohar closed by stating that Montana is a state of vast acreage with minimal population and with a minimal amount of money for law enforcement for the Fish and Game. This bill is another tool that the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks can use to increase law enforcement.

Chairman Conover closed the hearing on SB 209.

ACTION ON THE STATEMENT OF INTENT ON SB 197: Chairman Conover asked Andi Merrill to explain the reason for the statement of intent to the committee.

Andi Merrill, Legislative Council Researcher, stated that during the discussion on this bill last week concerning the extension of rule making authority, it was suggested that a statement of intent might be required. Apparently when this bill came out of Legislative Council there was a stamp on it that stated that a statement of intent was required. The drafter of the bill was not notified that this was necessary and as a result a statement of intent was not prepared. It was felt that for the life of this bill a statement of intent should be drafted. She presented the committee with a statement of intent for this bill for their perusal and action (Exhibit 14).

Senator Smith made a motion that the statement of intent for SB 197 be adopted. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 231: Senator Conover read a letter from Senator Goodover, chief sponsor of SB 231, attached as Exhibit 15 along with a petition on SB 231.

Senator Smith stated he had received a lot of calls and a very large packet of information concerning this bill. He would make a motion to carry out the request of the sponsor to table this bill. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ON SB 209: Senator Jacobson made a motion that SB 209 DO PASS.

Senator Severson reiterated his previous statements that he had made concerning this bill. He does not feel people should be given a reward for reporting a violation. He feels this is a bounty hunter bill.

Senator Jacobson said the crime stoppers program that is in place in the Department of Livestock is working well and as the testimony states the same people who are violating in the livestock area are violating in this area. She thinks this bill is warranted and would urge a do pass.

Senator Smith said he voted against the bill the last session and agrees with Senator Severson. He has a legitimate argument. It is unfortunate that we have to do this. He questioned the amount of money required for this program. He thinks \$11,000 is a lot of money just to come up with some rules and regulations.

Senator Anderson agrees with Senator Severson on the reward but on the other hand can see some merit to the bill.

Senator Lane made a substitute motion that the committee hold the bill for a week. The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 5. Senator Lane and Senator Anderson voted for the motion.

Senate Fish and Game
February 5, 1985
Page Seven

Senator Jacobson explained to the committee that this bill will set up a board and that board will set up rules which will dictate what the reward will be given for and in what amount.

A roll call vote was taken on Senator Jacobson's motion. The MOTION PASSED WITH A VOTE OF 5-1. Senator Lane abstained from voting.

Senator Jacobson made a motion to adopt the statement of intent. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.


ACTION ON SB 255: Senator Severson made a motion to adopt the amendments presented by Mr. Flynn. The MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Lane made a motion to move the bill as amended.

Senator Jacobson said if I understand this correctly, the only time that you can add muzzleloaders is in an area that is open to shotgun. You do not have to open it to muzzleloaders but you might want to open it to muzzleloaders. If shotguns and archers are being authorized simultaneously during the regular season, then perhaps the muzzleloaders could be used too.

Senator Lane's MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.



MAX CONOVER

MC/ah

COMMITTEE ON

Fish & Game

DATE

2-5-85

SB 255/209

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Jeff Welch	Billing Chapter Satria Club Int. state of Montana Taxidermy Guild	SB 209	X	
Jan Stallman	SELF	SB 255	X	
STAN. MAIER	SELF	SB 255	X	
Garvin R. Ferguson	SELF	SB 255	✓	
Tim Foley	Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders	SB 255	X	
William P. Hamner	self	SB 255	X	
William H. Meisner	self.	SB 255	X	
FREDERIC F. BEYER	Hellgate Muzzle Loaders	SB 255	X	
Leon D. NANCE	SELF	SB 255	X	
Arnold Enhardt	State of Montana ^{muzzle} Loaders	SB 255	X	
Verle L. Rademaker	Bear Tooth Mountain Men	SB 255	X	
Robert Van Clusen	Self Helena	SB 255	X	
Les Graham	Dept - of Livestock	SB 209	X	
Janet H. Ellis	MT Audubon Council	SB 209	✓	
Oliver Price	Mowl Wildlife Fed	SB 209	✓	
Doug Morgan	Self	SB 209		
DON DUSEK	SELF	SB 209		
Mary Unifert	Print Unlimited	SB 209	✓	
Herman S. Jensen	Self, Beaver River Club			
William S. Jensen	self			

NAME: Jeff Welch BILL NO. SB-209
ADDRESS: ~~Jeff~~ 2207 Country Club Helena MT DATE 2/6/85
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT: Billings Chapter Saffra Club International
and State of Mt. Taxidermy Guild
SUPPORT OPPOSE AMEND

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

EXHIBIT 1

SB 255

Testimony presented by Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

February 5, 1985

I appear before you today in support of SB 255 which would authorize the ~~commission~~ to establish the use of muzzleloaders in areas open to shotguns for the purpose of hunting big game.

The information we have at hand would indicate that there may be situations where the use of muzzleloaders would not constitute a human safety hazard. The same information would indicate that a muzzleloader is as effective as a shotgun in the harvesting of deer.

While we support the bill, the proposed amendment is not as clear as we would prefer its intent to be. The amendment as proposed would seem to state that all shotgun areas would be open to muzzleloaders.

In order to clarify that muzzleloaders may be allowed in some cases, but not mandated in all cases, we offer the following amendments:

On page 1, line 21, after the word "shotgun," delete "and muzzleloaders (rifle or smoothbore)."

On page 1, line 22, after "deer." insert the sentence, "In areas where deer hunting is open to the use of shotguns the commission may authorize the use of muzzleloaders (rifle or smoothbore)."

With this amendment, Mr. Chairman, the commission would have the clear flexibility to consider those cases where muzzleload hunting would be appropriate and to authorize its use.

February 5, 1985

For the record, my name is Verle Rademacher, editor and publisher of the Meagher County News in White Sulphur Springs.

The shooting of black powder muzzleloading firearms is one of the fastest growing shooting sports in the United States. I personally have been involved with this particular sport for 30 years now. During that 30 years, I have built muzzleloaders, using them for both target shooting and hunting. I have taken both deer and antelope with the firearms.

Since Montana does not have a caliber restriction law, the muzzleloaders are legal during the regular rifle season. Those who use the firearms have enjoyed many hunting days afield with the weapons, pitting their hunting skills against big game with the single shot available to them with their muzzleloader. Basically a short-range weapon, the hunter must get within approximately a 100 yard range to effectively kill big game.

Those who hunt with muzzleloaders have been happy with the present caliber law for big game and the ability it affords them to hunt during the regular rifle season. In looking over the fish and game laws, we do, however, feel that an opportunity is being overlooked that would allow an increased sporting opportunity without creating enforcement or administration problems for the Fish and Game Commission. That is in the area of shotgun only deer areas.

Basically, when the Commission sets up a special hunting district for the use of shotguns with buckshot or rifled slugs, it is to limit that district to short-range weapons. Muzzleloaders fall within that category and actually would be more effective than the shotguns in the taking of deer. The muzzleloading rifle is far more accurate than the shotgun rifled slug. The single shot, or in the case of a double rifle, two shots, accurately aimed to kill a deer, is far more effective and sporting than a hunter with a magazine full of rifled slugs who relies more on the firepower of his weapon than the accuracy it should have.

The specific categorizing of muzzleloaders, both rifled and smoothbore, is to clarify that both may be used. Technically, a smoothbored muzzleloader can now be used for this type of hunt, as it is a shotgun.

In summation, this legislation will allow the commission to include muzzleloaders in shotgun only deer areas, will allow for increased hunting days afield, will not increase enforcement or administration problems and does not ask for a special season such as the archers enjoy.

For these reasons, we feel that this legislation is a reasonable request and urge your passage of this bill.



BUFFALO ROAD MUZZLELOADERS

Butte, Montana 59701

February 5, 1985

SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE HEARING ON SENATE BILL 255 : TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF MUZZLELOADERS IN SHOTGUN ONLY AREAS.

My name is Tim Fay. I'm from Butte, Mt. and I'm representing the Buffalo Road Muzzleloader Club of Butte and Wise River, Mt. We wish to go on record at this hearing in support of Senate Bill 255.

In march, 1984, representatives from the Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders, along with the Hellgate Muzzleloaders of Missoula and the Beartooth Mountain Men of Helena met with the Dept. of F. W. & P. to discuss muzzleloading hunting seasons and other options to increase hunting opportunities for muzzleloaders. The consensus was to persue enabling legislation that would authorize the Fish & Game Commission to allow muzzleloaders in shotgun only areas for deer hunting. The Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders took the lead and sent out about 130 letters explaining our proposal and asking for comment from fellow muzzleloaders across the state. We received 22 written replys. Eighteen were supportive, two of which were from organized muzzleloader clubs in Great Falls and Havre. We also received numerous verbal comments, the majority being supportive. I submit to you copies of that correspondence for the record and your examination.

I would now like to make a few brief comments in support of S. B. 255:

1. S. B. 255 is in no way intended to legislate or force a special muzzleloader big game season on the State of Montana. This bill will give the Dept. of F. W. & P. and the F. & G. Commission an additional tool for harvesting deer in areas where use of high power long range rifles is not desirable. Any proposals for muzzleloaders would have to be addressed on a case by case basis by the Commission.
2. Ballistically, the muzzleloader is a short range weapon. A .54 caliber rifle



BUFFALO ROAD MUZZLELOADERS

Butte, Montana 59701

with a hunting load of 110 grains of black powder will fire a ball at about 1800 fps muzzle velocity. Zeroed for 50 yds. it will hit 128 inches below the point of aim at 300 yds. with a velocity of only 618 fps. Compare this to a .30-06 rifle shooting a factory loaded 165 grain bullet with a muzzle velocity 2800 fps. With the rifle zeroed for 100 yds. the bullet will hit just 13 inches low at 300 yds. and retain a velocity of 2224 fps. At 500 yds. the .30-06 bullet will hit 55 inches below point of aim and still have a velocity of 1880 fps. I have used "Lyman's Black Powder Handbook", "Guns and Ammo Annual" and "Speer's Reloading Manual" as references for the above ballistic data.

3. My last comment is that in spite of its limited range a muzzleloader is very accurate and capable of grouping 5 shots in a 6 inch circle at 100 yds. This type of accuracy is very important for the efficient harvest of game animals. Ballistically the .54 caliber rifle sited before would hit about 4 inches below point of aim at 100 yds.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 255 at this hearing.

Timothy C. Fay
for
Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders
Butte/Wise River, Montana



BUFFALO ROAD MUZZLELOADERS

Butte, Montana 59701

March 25, 1984

Howdie!

The Buffalo Road Muzzleloader Club, at our January meeting voted to look into what could be done to increase hunting opportunities for muzzleloaders. Since that meeting we have talked to five muzzleloader groups and several individuals and found enough interest and support to have a meeting with the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in Helena. This meeting was held March 13, with Ron Marcoux, assistant director F.W. & P., Dale Witt, acting chief of Wildlife, and Stan Bradshaw, attorney for F.W. & P. Muzzleloaders were represented by Tim Fay, Van Stallman and Nick Jensen with the Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders, Fred Beyer and Leon Nance with the Hellgate Muzzleloaders in Missoula, and Pat McKelvey and Tony Wayland with the Beartooth Mountain Men in Helena.

We looked at several possibilities and decided that our most realistic and reasonable approach is to pursue legislation that will authorize the Fish and Game Commission to allow muzzleloaders in shotgun only areas. Current laws authorize the commission to fix seasons and designate areas for rifle, bow and arrow, and shotguns. Muzzleloading rifles are in the rifle category and cannot legally be addressed separately from modern breechloaders for establishing seasons and areas. The law specific to shotguns reads: "It (meaning the commission) may declare areas open to deer hunting where shotguns only may be used to hunt or kill deer." Our proposal would allow the commission to address muzzleloaders the same as shotguns. This would not exclude muzzleloaders from general hunting season and would not require a special stamp to hunt with a charcoal burner. Although there are only a few areas presently designated for shotgun only the trend is for more restrictive hunting seasons and more areas where rifles will not be allowed for safety or other reasons. Under the present laws this would exclude muzzleloaders also. There may also be some opportunity for deer damage hunts.

Before proceeding further with any legislative proposal, we want to hear from you. Do you, as a muzzleloader, support our proposal or would you rather have us forget it. We need your support in order to proceed.

On the other hand, we don't want to proceed if this proposal doesn't meet the approval of the majority of muzzleloaders in Montana.

The Dept. of F.W. & P. said they would not be opposed to the above proposal but could not actively support or endorse such legislation. They did say they would like to work with us on such a proposal and offered the assistance of their attorney to help write the legislation.

Please let us know if you support or oppose our proposal. We need to know so we can proceed or drop it.

Best regards,

Van Stallman

Van Stallman
President

Tim Fay

Tim Fay
Chairman

Nick Jensen

Nick Jensen
Range Officer

P.S. Please drop us a line and let us know how you feel. Also, share this with your muzzleloading friends. We would like to hear from them, too.

Please send your comments and ideas to:

Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-6701

MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF
FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS



1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
March 21, 1984

Tim Fay
Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders
3051 Josephine
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Mr. Fay:

We appreciate you coming to Helena and discussing the possibility of your introducing legislation for muzzleloader opportunities.

If you have any questions as you develop your program please contact Stan Bradshaw, department attorney at 444-4594 or Dale Witt, Acting Wildlife Division Administrator at 444-2612.

Sincerely,

Ron Marcoux
Associate Director

njk

DEAR TIM,

NICK RIGDEN
1144 CLEVELAND
HAVRE, MONTANA
59501



IN ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER DATED 3-25-84
CONCERNING AN INCLUSION OF M.L. RIFLES IN
SHOTGUN ONLY AREAS.

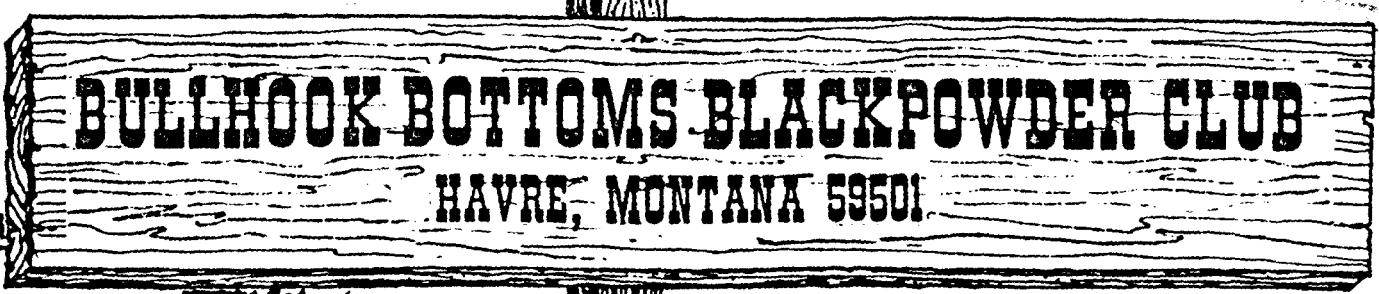
AT OUR MONTHLY MEETING 4-4-84 WITH 12
MEMBERS PRESENT YOUR LETTER WAS PRESENTED
& THE SUBJECT DISCUSSED.

WE DECIDED ~~OUR CLUB WAS IN AGREEMENT~~
WITH YOUR GOAL. THE ONE THING WE WANT ADDED IS
"A MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE SHOOTING A SINGLE PATCHED
ROUND BALL" BE ADDED.

OUR PAID UP MEMBERSHIP IS 23 TODAY & WILL BE
MORE LIKE 30 WHEN THEY ALL PAY UP. MOST OF THE
PEOPLE NOT AT THE MEETING HAVE BEEN CONTACTED &
ARE ALSO IN AGREEMENT.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF ANYTHING
THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

Richard N. Libbey
SEC. BULLHOOK BOTTOMS BLACKPOWDER CLUB



March 27, 1984

Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701
723-6701

Tim:

You can definitely count on my support. I pursued this matter several years ago and progressed to the point where you are. I made contacts with J. Herbert (biologist) and R. Marcoux and both indicated that the Dept. would not endorse legislation. They did indicate a willingness to work with us in our endeavor.

Good luck and don't let
your bore rust,

M. Crowell

P.S. Keep me posted!

P.O. Box 175
Wise River, MT. 59762-0175
March 27, 1984

Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT. 59701

Dear Tim

I support a proposal to see if the legislative would authorize the Fish and Game Commission to allow charcoal burner into shotgun only area.

thank you
Garwin R. Ferguson

Montana Plainmen
March 27, 1984

Dear Fellow Muzzleloaders,

Thank you, Tim and members of the Buffalo Road MLs, for sending the informative letter on proposed ML legislation.

At our February meeting, this very topic was discussed. We also decided that it would be unproductive, as in past efforts, to try to propose a separate season for us as long as we are third in line; behind the high power hunters and the bow hunters. And this primarily being because we (ML hunters) have never organized state-wide to any degree.

Thus, a motion was made and passed that "The Montana Plainmen would support and promote any efforts in legislation that would allow us to hunt in areas where high power rifles are not allowed." This would include present or proposed shotgun only areas and possibly archery only areas. Since some of our members are members of state and local bowhunting organizations, they in turn promised to support our motion through their bowhunting organizations since we would not be infringing on the bowhunting season, as such. We also pledged efforts to be allowed precedence in depredation hunts. We really believe that we have a just cause to ask for areas and

damage hunts which really is a small consideration," considering" what is presently available to the other two groups.

Therefore. "We" heartily support the proposal you have set forth. and would encourage you to proceed. If we can be of further help please let us know.

One of our club activities is an annual 3-day deer hunt. For years we have encouraged ranchers around here to open their land to Muzzleloaders only instead of total closure, as many have done. We have succeeded quite rewardingly as we now have secured several ranches who have closed to high power guns. One place went so far as grading a camp site for us and gave full season permission for birds and deer. He has rules, of course, but very considerate rules for both.

My whole point is that it takes work and real effort in good sportsmanship to promote this activity which certainly has a deserving portion of the hunting and shooting scheme.

I enclose some shoot schedules for our big annual shoot - last year we had 108 shooters. I pass on a special invitation to all your club. I'm sure the "Buffalo Riders" are as fierce competitors as are all other Butte residents.

Muzzleloaders for ever,
Ken Christenson.

March 28, 1984

Dear Tim

In response to your letter of the 25th I fully support any way that we can get muzzleloaders in any area be it shotgun only or deer damage hunts. You know how I feel as I explained my point of view on the phone with you the other day.

If this turns out on a positive note maybe we can get a little more recognition and in the future be able to improve our situation as blackpowder shooters and hunters.

Yours Truly

Charlie Riss

Jim Fay

We, Bob & Lynn Bell are
in full support of the
proposal for a law in the
legislation that would
authorize the Fish & Game
Commission to allow muzzle-
loaders in "shotgun only" areas.

Best regards
Bob Bell

Lynn Bell

- Mar 29, 54

The Meagher County News

Box 349
White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645
Phone (406) 547-3831

March 30, 1984

Dear Tim,

Hell Yes! Lets go for broke and get muzzleloaders written in with the shotguns for some of these hunting areas. A case in point was the Townsend Flats area a couple of years ago. They wanted to take a few more antelope out, but hesitated to let more rifle hunters in. They actually wanted muzzle-loaders in, because they were short-ranged enough to take the antelope, but did not have to worry about killing someone a half a mile away. They probably didn't tell you about that one, but a Fish and Game person told me that one.

I am prepared to help you in a couple of ways. Number One-- Senator Jack Galt is my senator over here. He is chairman of the Senate Fish and Game Committee and could be persuaded to sponsor the bill. I am sure he would if I asked him. His son Bill allows the muzzle loaders on his ranch to hunt, even when he has cattle in the willow bottoms. He knows and understands that the muzzle loaders have limited range and he is impressed with the behaviour of the muzzle-loading hunters that visit his place. We have good feelings there. Number Two--I have been legislative chairman of the Montana Press Association since 1972, so I know my way around getting legislation through and how to lobby it when necessary. You can count on me to work along those lines when necessary. I doubt if much work would have to be done, particularly if Jack introduced the bill, but I know enough legislators who would help out on it to get it passed.

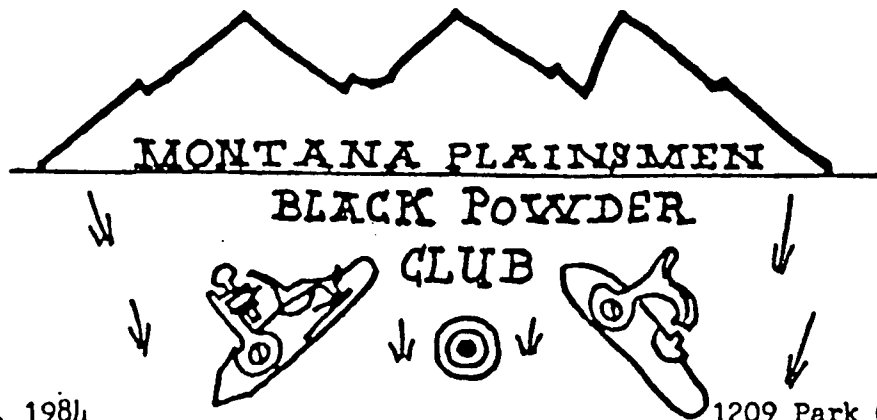
Ron Marcoux and Dale Witt are both friends of mine and I think that if I pushed a little bit, they would assist us, possibly supporting the bill.

Give er hell!

Yours truly,



Verle L. Rademacher
Editor and Publisher



March 30, 1984

1209 Park Garden Rd.
Gt. Falls, Mt 59404

Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders
Butte, Mt 59701

Your letter of March 25 is very timely and exactly parallels the thoughts of this club concerning the subject of special hunt considerations for muzzleloading guns. At our February meeting we were informed by a member of the bowhunters association that a muzzleloader group in Lewistown was formulating a proposal to put before the Fish & Game department. The proposal was that some time be shaved off the archery season and be designated as a ML season. The bowhunter, also a member of our BP club, felt the effort would surely fail but wanted to lobby for our clubs' support for the archery group's position. The discussion which ensued led to the formation and acceptance of an official MP club resolution concerning the special ML hunt issue.

I have taken the liberty to put this resolution into writing and have added a somewhat wordy explanation of the thoughts discussed and considered in shaping this resolution. A copy is attached for whatever benefit, if any, it may give. Feel free to use or amend etc. At least, you know our club's position.

In the long run, what is needed to promote the welfare and interests of ML sports in Montana is some type of a state-wide organization that would tie buckskinners, target shooters, and anyone with an interest in ML activity into one united faction. (Perhaps Black powder Association of Montana - BAM !) A nominal membership fee could provide members with the usual association patch and an occasional news letter. More importantly, it would provide funds for letters necessary to promote our ML interests. The archery people have just this sort of thing and it works well.

Your proposal aligns exactly with the thoughts of this club and we would have no problem supporting such effort. My only concern is that to the greatest extent, this proposal be given support by soliciting inputs from all the known ML groups in the state. Perhaps some version of the resolution inclosed should be used as a rallying medium. I will be most happy to help your efforts in any way I can.

Good Luck

Lee Kershner
1209 Park Garden Rd
Gt. Falls, Mt 59404
(406) 761-8771

Douglas Wigger
President
Montana Plainsmen BPC

MONTANA PLAINSMEN BPC
RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE MUZZLELOADER HUNTS
FEBRUARY 1984

The following elements establish the official and unified position of the membership of this club concerning the promotion of special muzzleloading big game hunts within the state of Montana. It has been agreed by vote :

1. To actively pursue the establishment of special considerations for muzzleloader (ML) hunting in Montana.
2. To pursue the designation of special areas, including but not limited to post-season depredation hunts, as the most viable means for obtaining such special considerations.
3. To enlist and support the efforts of all ML groups within the state in adopting a unified position relevant to the establishment of special ML hunts.
4. To strive for statewide coordination of future efforts at presenting requests for such considerations before the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Toward the goal of forging a unified position it is appropriate to explain the thinking behind the elements of this resolution.

1. Why should we strive for special ML hunt considerations?
The simple, bottom-line reasons are three: To give greater quality to the muzzleloading hunt for more people, to lessen the hazards inherent in the current combined hunts in high hunter density areas and most importantly, to insure the survival of ML sports, hunting and otherwise, in Montana.

There is no contention that ML weapons/hunters are ineffective and therefore need special compensations. The problem develops when ML hunters are overrun by high-power guns in the same area. The problem is compounded by the tendency of the high-power group

to employ vehicles and long range techniques while the ML people hunting the same area are generally on foot, trying for a shot at short range. Armoured cavalry beats infantry every time. Not only does such unbalanced competition diminish the quality of the ML hunt but it also greatly increases the hazard for the hunter who is afoot in the cover trying for a short range encounter. Greater safety and enhanced quality of the hunt are benefits which could be attained through designation of special areas for Muzzleloader Only hunts.

To appreciate the connection between special hunts and the ultimate survival of ML sports in general throughout the state, one needs look at the trend in ML sports over the past decade. During the mid-70's, advertising for ML products, sales of same and interest by the shooting public reached a high not seen since the introduction of cartridge arms. Many of the arms sold were of very inferior quality but sold because their low price was compatible with casual interest. Merchants all over recognized the sales appeal and ML arms and accessories became available in wide distribution. Low quality and ignorance of use led to some accidents and a whole lot of disappointment. Falling sales led to a glut of cheapies on the market and a stampede to drop ML items from stock. Unfortunately, the good lines were dropped with the bad. The September 1983 issue of Shooting Industry magazine ran a special article addressing the down-trend in ML sales. The article concluded by asserting that sales of quality ML arms will continue at a slower rate but more importantly ONLY THOSE AREAS WHICH SUPPORT SPECIAL MUZZLELOADER HUNTS CAN EXPECT SALES TO REMAIN HEALTHY. The threat in this situation lies in the absence of ML sport promotion before the public. It is a law of nature that what does not grow diminishes. Without new recruits - and how can they materialize if arms and supplies are not available - the ranks of ML devotees in Montana will gradually shrink to a mere handful. Look around and you will see that the high point of ML activity in this state has already started in recession. How available is black powder in your area? Why

should any merchant put up with the hassle and expense of carrying it on the odd chance that one or two lone ML shooters might buy an odd can of powder every year or so? A special hunt would bring the ML game back into focus for the public at large, would promote interest and sales, and would insure the survival of a healthy level of ML activity all year round. More than any other reason, this is why special ML hunts are needed in Montana.

2. What should be the nature of the special considerations for ML hunting? Why special areas and not a special portion of the state-wide general season? At conflict are the interests of the general hunting public, landowners, cattlemen on federal forest lands, bowhunters and finally, the muzzleloaders. The facts are these: The cattlemen and landowners typically feel the existing hunting season is already too long; they are organized, have political clout and are not about to tolerate any additions to the season. The bowhunters' position is likewise established, they outnumber us, are better organized and have the cattlemen who lease forest grazing land on their side. Designation of special areas and depredation hunts are viable alternatives in the face of these circumstances. However, there are opportunities for clubs to solicit landowners cooperation in setting aside land to be identified before the public as open to ML hunting only. The Plainsmen club hunt for 1983 was held on such an area.

3. Attempts to establish ML hunts in Montana are not a novel event. Unfortunately, too often in past efforts, discord within the very ranks of the ML fraternity itself has surfaced at hearings where proposals were to be made. Our numbers statewide are small, our voice weak. If ever our cause is to succeed we must speak with one voice from all clubs. That is not to infer one person but rather that to the greatest extent possible, all ML shooters must support the same ideas. If we can not educate, convince and enlist the support of those we count among us, how can we hope to persuade those who do not share our interests at all?

4. In this era of computers and easy communication, there is no reason for isolated and fragmented attempts by a club here and an individual there to push forth independently at what should be a common effort, a united and coordinated effort. Until this club or some other agency stimulates a coalition of all ML groups within the state, nothing will be achieved at the state level. Fragmented efforts have a clear history of failures; because of this fact it shall not be considered in the best interest of the general goal for this club to support uncoordinated efforts by individuals or isolated groups.

4-2-84

TIM FAY
3051 JOSEPHINE
BUTTE, MT. 59701

DEAR MR. FAY

I PERSONALLY AM OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES TO THE CURRENT REGS WITH REGARD TO MUZZLELOADERS

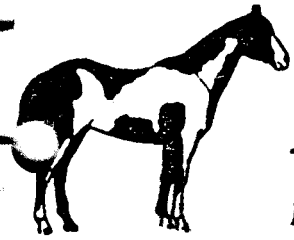
I HUNT STRICTLY WITH MUZZLELOADERS AND I HAVE ALWAYS HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE GAME. (I'VE BEEN SKUNKED A FEW TIMES DUE TO MY INADVICE TO SHOOT STRAIGHT). I PREFER THE CURRENT REGS THAT ALLOW US TO HUNT THE ENTIRE ~~SEAS~~ SEASON AND THE ENTIRE STATE WITH MUZZLELOADERS.

YOUR PROPOSAL SOUNDS FINE EXCEPT I'M AFRAID THE F.W. & P COULD AT SOME TIME BEGIN TO RESTRICT MUZZLELOADER HUNTERS. SEVERAL YEARS AGO A GROUP OF US BILLINGS HUNTERS WENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION IN HELENA WITH THE SAME THING IN MIND AS YOU HAVE. AT THE MEETING, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HAD LIVED IN STATES WHERE THERE WERE SPECIAL BLACK POWDER SEASONS. THEY ALL VOICED CONCERNS THAT MONTANA'S F.W. & P. WOULD EVENTUALLY LIMIT EITHER THE TIME OR AREA THAT YOU COULD HUNT WITH BLACK POWDER AS OTHER STATES HAVE DONE.

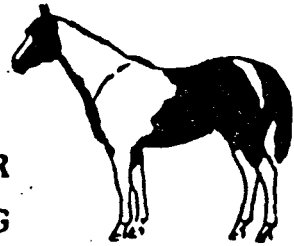
WE ARE HAVING A BLACK POWDER SHOOT ON APRIL 15TH. I WILL POLL THE REST OF THE SHOOTERS AT THAT TIME.

SINCERELY

10



BLACKTAIL RANCH



Wolf Creek, Montana 59648

TAG RITTEL

Phone: 406-235-4330

SANDRA RENNER

RANCH VACATIONS • MUSEUM • CAVERN • PAINT HORSES • HUNTING

DEAR TIM,

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SPECIAL HUNT FOR MUZZLE LOADING RIFLES. OR A SPECIAL SEASON. THEY COULD BE ~~RUN~~ DURING BOW HUNTING SEASON. THE LAW CAN BE CHANGED. A MUZZLE LOADER IS BLACK POWDER AND NOT A MODERN FIRE ARM. WE TALKED THIS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO - BUT DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH M.L. HUNTERS TO GET SUPPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE. THE FISH AND GAME - NEVER DO SUPPORT NEW IDEAS. I WOULD ADVISE HAVING YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WRITE YOUR BILL, NOT THE F.T.G. I'M ALL FOR A MUZZLE LOADING SEASON. GOOD LUCK. AND KEEP ME IN TOUCH.

YOURS TRULY

Tag



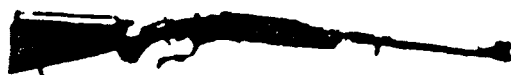
Michael L. Workman

DEALER IN FIREARMS

Gunsmithing and Quality Restorations

1200 - 32nd St. So. #96
Great Falls, MT 59405

FFL #98100701C308108



2 April 1984

Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Tim,

Thanks for your letter of March 25 asking for opinions regarding special status for muzzle loading rifles/hunting. You probably won't find my letter to be representative of the majority opinion, but I've spent a long time thinking over this particular matter and have been in the front stuffer business, building and shooting, for over twenty years.

In my early years of being associated with front loaders, I looked with envy on the colleagues in some of the Eastern states where muzzle loaders either have their own season or are lumped together with the archers. The idea of having the woods to myself was, of course, appealing. I got into it one time with John Baird, of the BUCKSIN REPORT. Later he wrote a series of articles which completely changed my mind. I am not necessarily against special consideration for front loaders, just indifferent.

First, why should we need a separate status? In general, we are probably better marksmen and hunters than centerfire shooters. We shoot more and are more familiar with our weapons. I have never felt hampered by sharing the woods with other, less enlightened, hunters. They're not very hard to avoid as you can tell from their results—usually a doe or spike.

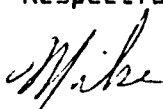
Second, definition is a nasty problem. Should round balls be the only projectile, or do we permit the myriad conical and slug designs? And how the hell is a warden going to tell what's in a barrel anyway? As if that isn't knotty enough, how about rifle design? Only "official" muzzle stuffers or do we allow aborted centerfire designs such as the Wolverine? Open sights, iron sights, or scopes? As soon as you try to codify these aspects, you'll find that a great many strong opinions will surface. I fear that any regulations resulting from the necessary compromises would be like the camel - a horse built by committee.

Third, your idea of allowing muzzle loaders into shotgun only areas was the first interesting idea I've heard on the subject and showed some thought. However, I want to pop your balloon in that area, too. This is because I am very strongly opposed to the idea of shotgun areas. I've lived in states where shotgun deer hunting is prevalent, and I gave up deer hunting in those areas rather than take chances. Tell me how it is safer to be in the woods when every shot fired launches nine ricocheting lead balls instead of one bullet. Lead balls are just like .22 imfire bullets - they bounce off of damn near anything and can veer off at steep angles. They also have tremendous cohesion, that's what makes a round ball such an astounding game killer. The ball doesn't break up. But, that's also what makes buckshot in cover dangerous. I think our

efforts would be better utilized in convincing Fish and Wildlife that shotgun areas are not the answer. If an area has too much hunting pressure, the way to solve that is to control the pressure by limiting hunter numbers rather than by putting a bunch of boobs with semi-auto twelve guages out there to wound game and each other.

So, in sum, I appreciate your concern. But I think we should forego making pacts or asking for special deals. I was intrigued by your reference to damage hunts, however. Maybe the way to approach this would be to see if maybe some landowners who don't allow general hunting might, with some negotiation, allow muzzle loading club members to use their land. If that sounds reasonable I would be happy to act as clearing center, since I've got a computer to keep track of data.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

Michael L. Workman

R. A. King
Box 295
Plains, Mt.
59859

Buffalo Road Muzzleleaders
3051 Josephine
Butte, Mt. 59701

ATTENTION: Tim Faye, Chairman

Tim,

Sorry I took so long to answer your letter. I've been pretty wrapped up with Rendezvous planning. I talked your proposed legislative efforts over with whoever was handy, and the general consensus seems to be- "Go for it". Most everyone agreed that the shot gun business would actually be very little use around here because we have no shotgun only areas. However, they also agreed that it could be a very important "foot in the door" for future muzzle-loader legislation. Anything we can get will be more than we have now! It could also be a means of proving to legislators and the F.W.P. boys that most muzzleloading people are serious sportsmen and not just a bunch of adult children playing "Dan'l Boone". Best of luck in your efforts. I'm enclosing a flyer on our Rendezvous. Please post it in your clubhouse or wherever it will do the most good. Sure would like to see at least some of you boys up here Memorial weekend. Watch yer top knot.

Russ King

April 2, 1984

Tim

As you know I am generally in favor of an increase in the use of muzzleloaders in hunting. I would hope that the limited hunting opportunities for shotgun hunting and with your proposal muzzleloading hunting don't create problems of over crowding. A large influx of muzzleloader hunters into the limited shotgun areas could very well lead to problem. I can't veto your proposal, however, because it might cause problems.

The proposal to open the shotgun hunting areas to muzzleloading hunting also sounds like a reasonable and worthwhile proposal and has my whole hearted support

Sincerely

Bruce Benedict

April 2, 1984

Bob Eva
3455 Hannibal
Butte, MT 59701

Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders
Mr. Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701

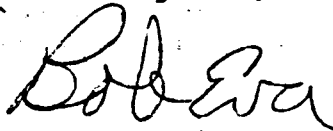
Dear Tim:

After reading your letter of March 25, 1984, I was very glad to see that a group of black powder enthust have seen fit to start talking about black powder hunting in Montana. I know in the past years, I, along with many hunters in Montana, have hunted with black powder, during the regular hunting season.

I did not know that the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission did not have the power to set regulations concerning black powder hunting. It seems like a very worth while project to introduce legislation that will address this.

Best of luck in your endeavor and if I may be of any help please feel free to call upon me.

Best regards,



Bob Eva

April 10, 1984

Tim Fay
Buffalo Road Muzzleloaders
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701

Dear Mr. Fay,

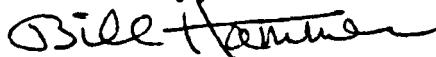
I fully support your proposal to allow muzzleloaders in shotgun only areas. I hope that the muzzleloader hunters of Montana will be successful in convincing all involved parties that allowing muzzleloading firearms in shotgun only areas will enhance game management, but not sacrifice safety.

The following are some of my reasons for supporting this proposal:

1. Most muzzleloading rifles can accurately deliver a round ball out to 125 yards. My experience with slugs or buckshot shot from a shotgun is limited, but I was unable to hit accurately beyond 70 yards.
2. Beyond 200 yards the lead round ball shot from a muzzleloader is dropping at a tremendous rate, similar to a shotgun projectile, and poses minimal hazard to distant people, livestock, or buildings.
3. The muzzleloading rifle, because of its accuracy yet poor long range carry, can improve the harvest of surplus game in areas congested with farms or homes and in many depredation hunt situations.

Please keep me informed of the progress of this proposal and contact me if I can be any help over here.

Sincerely,



William P. Hammer
Box 919
Ronan, MT 59864

Phone: 676-3823

May 13, 198

Dear Tim:

I am writing you to let you know I support your efforts for a muzzle loader season (or at least an increase of hunting areas and number of days.)

The only thing that concerns me is over-regulation of our muzzle loaders such as type of powder, use of pyrodex, restrictions on projectile and sights.

It seems like every time government officially recognizes anything it is an invitation to regulate hell out of it. Thus, defeating the original purpose.

Personally, I hunt with my smoke pole during rifle season anyhow, because I enjoy it.

Keep the regulations to a minimum and give those of us who choose to hunt with Black Powder credit for enough intelligence to choose the proper projectile, caliber + charge.

Good luck in your efforts -

Doug Dunn

Po Box 199

Livingston, Mt.

59047

Anacanda, MT

4-4-84

Hi Tim

Our regards to your letter
on trying to get a season
for muzzleloaders. I
support your efforts as
I think it is something
that we need in order
to cover all of the
different types of hunting
and to keep the competition
fair for everyone involved

Sincerely
Miley Outfitters
Joseph L. Miley

Dear Tim,

I am writing in response to your letter of inquiry about a black powder hunting season of some type. I would actively support any effort to get black powder hunting addressed as a separate issue from breachloaders. I would like to see a season set up like the archery or early bugle season, but I am famillure with the problems we have had in the past with this. I believe that the most promising proposition is the one you are working on now. I think that anything that can be accomplished is to our benifit. Even if we get only one area opened to us in the most barren, lifeless spot in the state, we will have our foot in the door. We will have set a precident and have a foundation to work from.

If you dont mind I would like to make a few suggestions and offer a few thoughts. I have had quite a bit of experiance dealing with the state trying to get arround the laws and accomplish things by making changes in the existing laws or rules. I ran the rifle team here at the university for five years and had to fight or beg fdr everything we got. Here is what I found worked best. I think that it will work for us too.

We need good organization within our clubs, all working and supporting each other twards one common goal. We dont want several clubs offering several different proposals about the same thing. We need to get things lined out among ourselves befor we go to Helena.

When I wanted something I found it best to find out who was in charge of it and address them directly. The more people involved in the system, the more views and stipulations were made. Things got mixed up fast. I found the fewer people involved the better, so I suggest finding the key people and courting them. In addition you cant count on anything that you are told nor can you count on anybody to do anything on their own. They will only work if you stand there and make them. I believe that if we dont keep after the F&G and the politicians in Helena, very little will get done. The club members there should keep after the appropriate people to see that once we submit the plans that they get to the right people and places in the system.

In our last meeting there was a legnthly discussion of the type of bullet and powder charge ~~was~~ to be used. I think that we have a tendancy to be too picky. We need to be prepared and be able to cover any possible questions with good informative answers, but most people we will be associated with will ^{not} be famillure enough with these technical points to discuss them and bringing them up will only compound our problems. In a state that has no caliber restrictions I can see no reason to induce them to place any type of restrictions on our black powder arms.

I found that general vague rules are best and get the least resistance. When they are read they have a different meaning that just fits who ever is reading it. If we give the actual interpitation to an agency and leave it sufficiantly broad, things will go well for some time, at which time we can lobby an agency rather than a political system where things get bogged down.

Last I suggest that we keep our efforts quietly among ourselves. I dont think that any general publicity would gain us anything but trouble with the bow hunters, who dont want anybody treading on their terratory and anti-hunting and mis-informed people who would project us hunting in their

housing developments and sub divisions. The less fuss made over this the easier it will slip by. Address changing the status of the black powder from current cartridge to that of shotgun and dont really press the hunting areas and seasons. This will change the focus of our opposition and possibly by pass any problems with the bow hunters. The areas and seasons will naturally follow and we can work on them specifically after we are established with a foot in the door.

I think that once we get started we can build very quickly and expand our goals. Sorry to have bored you with this lengthy discourse. From your report, I am sure you know these things already and have your own ideas of what you wish to do and how to do it. I was a charter member of the MT. Plainsmen in Gt. Falls, and am currently a member of the Hellgate Muzzle Loaders in Missoula. If I can be of any help, please let me know. Good luck with your endeavors.

Sincerely


George Gompf

On the other hand, we don't want to proceed if this proposal doesn't meet the approval of the majority of muzzleloaders in Montana.

The Dept. of F.W. & P. said they would not be opposed to the above proposal but could not actively support or endorse such legislation. They did say they would like to work with us on such a proposal and offered the assistance of their attorney to help write the legislation.

Please let us know if you support or oppose our proposal. We need to know so we can proceed or drop it.

Best regards,

Van Stallman
Van Stallman
President

Tim Fay
Tim Fay
Chairman

Nick Jensen
Nick Jensen
Range Officer

P.S. Please drop us a line and let us know how you feel. Also, share this with your muzzleloading friends. We would like to hear from them, too.

Please send your comments and ideas to:

Tim Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-6701

This issue has come up several times and I - (we) do not believe in muzzleloaders; Shotgun season. Would be against this.

We talk hunt with Muzzle loaders - during the big game season -

Sincerely,

Bob : Name

M. J. Donough

4.14.84

DEAR TIM,

IN REGARDS TO YOUR LETTER ON THE PROPOSAL OF MUZZLELOADING RIFLES, BEING USED IN SHOTGUN ONLY AREAS. SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME. I'M NOT IN FAVOR OF A MUZZLELOADING RIFLE SEASON ONLY.

I THINK THAT IF YOUR COMMITTEE HAS ALL OF THE FOOT WORK DONE ON THE PROPOSAL, WILL HELP WHEN SUBMITTED TO F, W & P. ATTORNEY. A COUPLE OF SUGGESTIONS I WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF:

- ① 45 CALIBER OR LARGER
- ② PATCHED ROUND BALLS ONLY

KEEP YER POWDER DRY.

Bill Stanton
CLARKY, MT.

Box 362

Curry Mt 59349
April 24, 1984

Dear Jim,

I have given lots of thought to a muzzle loading season over the past few years. It seems to come up about every other year or so.

In Eastern Mt. we do not have any areas that are shotgun only areas. The same areas that might be designated as shotgun only area would be river bottom whitetail areas. When hunting whitetail deer in these areas, a muzzle loader is not a disadvantage, as you usually only get one shot.

It seems to me, if a season for muzzle loading was set up, as for bow, the entire season would have to be lengthen, or bow and modern rifle seasons shortened. Other hunters might not like their season shortened as it is already a very limited time. A special season would ~~also~~ also come with an extra cost for something we can already do.

As for ~~the~~ damage hunts, many hunters in this area do not like to participate in these. They find much of the land opened to damage hunts have been closed to hunters during regular season. Why help land owners who did not ~~want~~ ^{want} hunters on their land during regular hunting season?

In my opinion, a primitive hunting season presents a real safety question. Hunting in skirts and early period clothing might be attractive to some but I don't believe the fish and game dept. would allow a new season without the use of hunter orange

I guess what I am trying to say is; as for me and those I usually hunt with, we are happy with the muzzleloading / rifle season as it is. This way we can hunt with whom ever we choose; muzzleloader or modern rifle buff. I don't feel at a disadvantage hunting along side a modern rifle. We just need to be better hunters.

I would not like to see any changes made at this time. Thank-you for your interest and effort you are putting into this

Sincerely
Gary E Huber

808 North Meade Avenue
Glendive, Montana 59330
May 3, 1984

T.C. Fay
3051 Josephine
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear TC:

You Buffalo Road boys are a persistent group. That's good. We already have a five week muzzleloader season, but I don't think that there is a muzzleloader in Montana who wouldn't like to have a muzzleloader only season.

Your work with FWP to get muzzleloaders into shotgun only areas and to perhaps make some damage hunts open to ML only is to be commended. This is a good common-sense approach. Once we can demonstrate that there is interest and organization, then we can approach FWP and/or the legislature with a request for a separate season. All this is the easy part.

Another thing we should look at is why states instate ML seasons in the first place. Most states have game populations small in relation to hunter population. Centerfire hunters are about 4 times as effective as ML hunters and 10 times as effective as bowhunters. The state then can put 1 CF hunter, 4 ML hunters or 10 BH in the field for each animal it thinks will get harvested. Special seasons are instituted so that more people can get an opportunity to hunt. In Montana we have the opposite problem. At least in eastern MT we have too many deer--not enough are harvested. To take away centerfire opportunity and give it to less efficient ML would be counterproductive as it would further reduce the harvest. This is poor game management.

There are a lot of problems --as you already know--with trying to get a ML season. The problem is balancing the game population and the landowner desires with what the sportsmen want. General big game season is five weeks. Before that there is five weeks of archery season. To attempt to take even a week from either of these two groups for ML only would be to invite the wrath of some well organized sportsmen's groups and the Montana Bowhunter's Association. To attempt to add a week to the end would probably stir up various stockmen's associations who are, so we are told, already upset with the present long season.

ML seasons aren't set by ML--they're set by FWP and the legislature. How can we prove we have enough interest to establish a season? FWP realizes that a new season will cost money and possibly additional problems. Few,

if any, of them know anything about ML. Montana only has 170+ members of NMLRA, how serious are the state's "numerous" ML?

What you intend is beyond the scope of one individual. Even a super club would have problems because of localization. As you pointed out, this has to have statewide support. How can this be accomplished?

First suggestion: Get 10 members of BRML to join NMLRA and charter a club. I've included charter application and membership applications. The two field representative's names are enclosed with this letter. One of the jobs of the field rep is to work to establish muzzle loading seasons.

Second suggestion: work through the Montana Muzzle Loading Rifle Association which is the closest we've got to a state club. As a past officer, I know this club has weaknesses, but it is statewide. The biggest problem the club has is lack of members who will do something and lack of support from local clubs. We could all work together to make it every bit as strong and influential as the MBA.

NAPR, whose address is also enclosed with this letter, is starting to charter clubs and wants each state to form a state club. Generally, this sounds like a good deal, but I don't know the details. The one problems with NAPR--whether deserved or not--they have a reputation as "buckskinners only" and this might scare some non-buckskinners away.

Before we go to all the fuss and bother of a special season, let's look at what we have, what we want and what we can lose.

WHAT WE HAVE:

- 5 week season in which we can use muzzleloaders
- no extra license fees for using ML
- no calibre restrictions
- few pilgrims in the woods

WHAT WE WANT:

- you really didn't say in your letter and I don't really know
- solitude
- no hunter orange

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT:

- if ML season is popular--separate stamp, just like archers
- if ML season is popular--calibre restrictions, most states have them
- if ML season is popular--a lot of people in the woods who really don't know much about using ML guns
- hunter orange will always be required because it has proven so safe

I would love more hunting season, but five weeks is really good, especially when I can count on another one or two weeks for damage hunts.

I would love to have more people hunting--and shooting competitively-- with

ML guns. I also want to keep the sport safe. I would recommend that all ML hunters be required to pass a ML safety and hunting course. This wouldn't be tough for us to pass, but would keep the "It's opening day of ML season, I'll go buy a gun" pilgrims at home. NMLRA and NRA have the course and materials designed. Now they're looking for instructors.

When we go to FWP or the legislature we must be organized and we must have a program. For example: we want a two week ML season; we want a \$2.00 ML stamp; we want all ML hunters to be certified and we'll assist with the course; if a calibre restriction is imminent, then let's suggest one--say 36 or larger. Few use anything smaller and if we had to go up, we could. Now FWP will want to support our efforts because we've taken a load of responsibility from them.

Enough already. Enclosed are NMLRA applications and a charter club application. They can help us--lets us help them. Also are some other addresses for other information. I'll be happy to help in any way I can--just remember safe muzzleloading is still my number 1 goal with state organization number 2.

Sincerely,



John N. Haas.

ENCL: addresses, organizations
addresses, NMLRA Field Reps
NMLRA membership applications
NMLRA charter applications

Submitted by: William P. Hammer
P.O.Box 919
Ronan, MT 59854

Phone: 676-3823

February 4, 1985

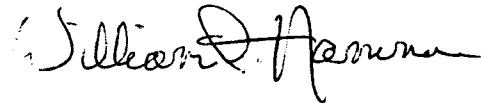


Exhibit 4
February 5, 1985

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically support Senate Bill #255, a measure permitting the use of muzzleloading firearms for hunting big game in areas formerly designated as shotguns only. My reasons for supporting this bill follow:

1. Muzzleloading rifles are more accurate than shotguns.

Muzzleloaders, firing patched round balls, can consistently hit a three-inch circle at 50 yards and a six-inch circle at 100 yards. The maximum range, for hunting purposes, of a shotgun firing buckshot is 50 yards.

2. Muzzleloading rifles have a moderate report. The sound of a muzzleloader going off is similar to that of a magnum 12-gauge shotgun, and does not create the noise that a modern, high powered rifle does.

3. Muzzleloaders have a relatively short maximum range. Roundball projectiles, identical in shape to the buckshot fired from shotguns, do not carry the great distances that modern, jacked rifle bullets do, and therefore are relatively safe in areas congested with farms, livestock, and other human activity. A comparison of round ball and modern bullet ballistics follows.

.50 cal. round ball, 180 grain weight	<u>Velocity</u>	<u>Muzzle</u>	<u>100 yds.</u>	<u>150 yds.</u>	<u>200 yds.</u>
		2000 fps	1124 fps	920 fps	793 fps
	<u>Drop</u>	0.0 in.	-7 in.	-19 in.	-41 in.

.308 Winchester, 180 grain pointed soft point	<u>Velocity</u>	<u>Muzzle</u>	<u>100 yds.</u>	<u>200 yds.</u>
		2600 fps	2390 fps	2170 fps
	<u>Drop</u>	0.0 in.	-2.4 in.	-9.3 in.

The Maximum range of a .500 cal. Round Ball is approx. 600 yards; the maximum range of a 180 grain .308 Win. is approx. 4160 yards, 2.3 miles.

FRED BEYER,
P.O. Box 269
MILLTOWN, MT

Exhibit 5
February 5, 1985

SB255

I'm Fred Beyer from Missoula. I would like to see the shotgun areas open for use of ~~black powder~~ ^{muzzle loading} rifles. My reasoning for this is that they are more accurate than a shotgun with buckshot or a slug with a smooth barrel. I know in other states where they hunt deer with shotgun most people use a slug with a rifled barrel shotgun. In Montana most people who have a shotgun use it for bird hunting. In that instance most would not have a rifled barrel for their shotgun. It would be hard to get consistent accuracy with the smooth barrel creating a greater possibility for a wounded animal. With a ~~black powder~~ ^{muzzle loading} rifle your accuracy is very consistent with better possibility to knock your game down with one shot. In this reasoning I think it would be a good policy to open the shotgun areas for ~~black powder~~ ^{muzzle loading} rifles.

SB 255

Statement for the amendment of section 37-1-601 for the use of muzzleloaders with shotguns in designated areas.

3. Hunting big game, there seems to be an interest in using muzzleloader shotguns. Even though ballistics are similar the superiority of the muzzleloader is unquestionable. The accuracy of the muzzleloader is evident out to one hundred yards.

As population increases there is less area available for the high power center fire weapon. This is the case back East where the shotgun and muzzleloader are used.

The average muzzleloader shooter is quite capable of good accuracy. They are usually more familiar with the old center fire weapon because shooting these guns become a year-round sport w/ plinking, target matches, and varmit hunting. Nearly all large communities have year around family black powder shooting events.

Exhibit 6
Submitted by Don Knot
February 5, 1985

February 5, 1985
Exhibit 7

NAME: William H. Meisner.

BILL No. SB 255

ADDRESS 219 College St. Stevensville, MD

DATE 1-15-85

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Self.

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

AMEND

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

I would like to see muzzleloading rifles allowed in some shotgun hunting areas. If hunting is to be considered a tool for the management of wildlife, then the most efficient tools for hunting should be considered. Muzzleloading rifles are efficient - and more capable of one shot kills and knockdowns than a shotgun - without greatly increasing the projectile range!

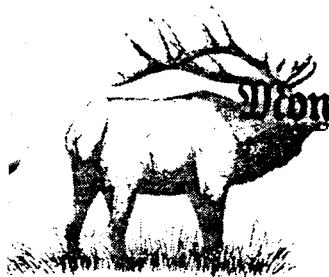
In areas where shotgun hunting is used the range of the projectile has often been the deciding factor in choosing the method of harvest. Ex. Archery - shotgun with slugs - shotgun with buckshot!

Shotgun slugs shoot well from rifled barrels and buckshot was great for Webb Fargo guards on stagecoach ~~trails~~ as a harvest tool in an area where the range of the projectile is considered the muzzleloading rifle would result in fewer wounded and maimed animals..

By adding the option of muzzleloading rifles to the list of harvesting tools, in the Fish and Game, Act opens the optional listing of muzzleloading rifles would improve the quality of short range hunting would be improved.

Thank you,

W.H. Meisner



Montana Bowhunters Association

Exhibit 8
Submitted by Bruce Inger
February 5, 1985

G.L. "Buck" Damone, *President*
RR 1 Box 1702
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Telephone (406) 538-7592

SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE 1985

COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 255

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members:

The Montana Bowhunters Association (M.B.A.), representing over 1400 sportsmen, appreciates the opportunity to offer input during the hearing. The M.B.A. would like to go on record as opposing Senate Bill #255- Allowing the use of Blackpowder Rifles during special shotgun seasons.

As archers, we are concerned because every special shotgun season (see 1984 Montana Big Game Regulations) is shared with archers. Let's clarify why the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has special shotgun areas. All of the areas have the following in common:

1. Concentrations of deer (or elk) that require a reduction in numbers. They are usually causing damage to crops, haystacks, shrubs, etc.

2. Areas are near towns or along river bottoms where suburban residences, ranch buildings, and/or livestock are concentrated.

3. The special areas are all on private land.

4. There is an overriding concern for safety due to the heavy concentration of people, buildings, livestock, and other domesticated animals. Weapons used must be "short range" so to eliminate the problem of stray rounds striking buildings, livestock, or worse yet, people.

5. These areas have historically been "archery only" but the Department has felt the need to include shotguns because they thought archers were not sufficiently reducing wildlife numbers.

Now we would like to discuss the modern blackpowder rifle. The blackpowder rifle is presently a legal weapon during the general rifle season. Ballistics of the modern blackpowder rifle (velocity f.p.s.) does exceed the 12 gauge shotgun with slugs (see reprints from N.R.A.'s American Hunter Magazine Dec. 1983 and Petersens Hunting Magazine May 1984). This added velocity when used with a "rifled barrel"(compared to the smooth bore of a shotgun) means a much further shooting and more accurate weapon. Because of this, the blackpowder shooter will attempt longer shots- a six inch group at 100 yards is not uncommon(see the letter from Green River Forge Ltd.). At blackpowder rendezvous it is a common practice to compete with blackpowder rifles shooting at a metal "gong" in excess of 400 yards ! Just how far will a blackpowder round go? Fish and Game Departments from other states, even when blackpowder rifles have a special season, feel that the blackpowder rifle does not need to be used during special seasons(see individual letters).

We feel that as archers and sportsmen that we have a valid concern which should be considered. Obviously the safety problem of stray bullets striking buildings, livestock and people is the most important. Also, the use of blackpowder rifles in special shotgun areas could add more fuel to the fire on sportsmen/landowner problems. An example of this is in Hunting District 260 near Missoula. This had been an archery only area due to the concentration of ranches and livestock along a river. The Department felt that the deer population was not being reduced enough and made it into a shotgun area. The landowners resisted and threatened to close all their lands to hunting. They just did not want people shooting firearms near their homes and livestock. If this law is passed, the longer range blackpowder weapon would do nothing but increase this problem. The M.B.A. is striving diligently to improve sportsmen/landowner relations and do not want to see more land locked up from hunting. If this law is passed, we also see potential for added conflict among sportsmen. Will the next Legislature see the same request for handguns? What next? We feel that the majority of the landowners

and sportsmen, whom you represent, agree with us that we in Montana have the best hunting season in the world already. If it's not broke, don't fix it. Don't pass a law that would pose safety problems, strain landowner/sportsmen relationships, close lands to hunting and set precedence to numerous special weapons seasons. We ask you to oppose Senate Bill 255. Thank you for your consideration.

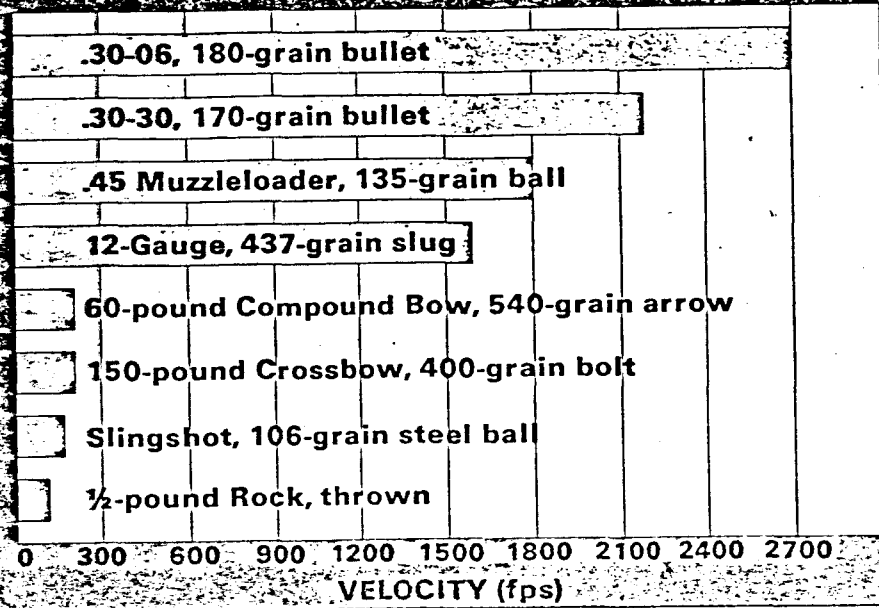
G.L. "Buck" Damone

G.L. "Buck" Damone
President, M.B.A.



AMERICAN HUNTER DEC 83

VELOCITIES OF VARIOUS PROJECTILES



AVERAGE HUNTING-PROJECTILE VELOCITIES

Projectile	400	800	1200	1600	2000	2400	2800	3200
.300 Win. Mag. Rifle								
.270 WCF Rifle								
.30-30 Rifle								
50-Caliber Muzzleloader								
12-Gauge Shotgun Slug								
.44 Magnum Handgun								
Compound Cam-Bow								
Round-Wheel Compound Bow								
Recurve Bow								
Longbow								
Speed (feet per second)								

PROJECTILE DROP AT 50 YARDS

Projectile	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
.300 Win. Mag. Rifle										
.270 WCF Rifle										
.30-30 Rifle										
50-Caliber Muzzleloader										
12-Gauge Shotgun Slug										
.44 Magnum Handgun										
Compound Cam-Bow										
Round-Wheel Compound Bow										
Recurve Bow										
Longbow										
Drop (in inches)										

Petersen's Hunting May 1984

Green River Forge, Ltd.

P.O. Box 715

Roosevelt, Utah 84066

(801) 353-4586

Buddy Lundstrom
Box 1119
Malta, MT 59538

12-18-83

Dear Mr. Lundstrom:

You have asked almost the impossible, but I will try and answer some of your questions.

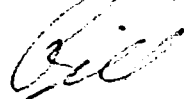
First off, we only produce a smooth bore, North West Trade Gun. I have enclosed a flyer on the trade gun. To ask at what distance ours will shoot a 12 inch groop, it's hard to say. In tests that Dr. Sam Fadala did about a year ago, he found that he could put a groop within 6 inches at 100 yards. Here is the catch. How you shoot a rifle, shoot gun, or pistol depends on how you load it. Enough said.

As far as hunting big game with a muzzleloader, "Go For It", although there are a few feelings I have on the subject. First, In the Eastern U.S. a 45 caliber will do the job on most game, but out here in the West where longer shots are usually required, I would suggest a minium of 54 caliber. If a person want to go after larger game than the Dear, here in the West you would want a 58 or 62 for Elk and Moose. Larger than an Elk, like Griz, even a 72 might be to small. This is all within the 100 yard range. I would NOT want to try for game over 150 yards with a muzzleloader. With a large caliber pistol such as a 44, to me, 30 yards is to much.

I would suggest that you get Dr. Fadala's book on muzzleloading and also Lymans "Black Powder Guide". Both have a world of information on projectiles, loads, etc.

Hope you have a great holiday season.

Sincerely,



Bill Brandenburg
GRF, LTD.

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JAMES J. BLANCHARD, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING
BOX 30048
LANSING, MI 48909

RONALD O. SKOOG, Director

December 29, 1983

Mr. Buddy Lundstrom
Box 119
Malta, Montana 59538

Thank you for your letter regarding muzzleloader hunting in Michigan.

The attached deer seasons report and hunting guide will provide most of the information you need.

The answers to your other questions are as follows:

1. We did and do restrict hunters in the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula to shotguns (or muzzleloading rifles).
2. Law Enforcement Division reports that they do not have problems with hunters using regular firearms during our special muzzleloader deer season.
3. Our special muzzleloader deer season consists of 10 days within the first two weeks of December.

Our archery season consists of 77 days: October 1 through November 14 and December 1 through January 1.

Our regular firearm deer season consists of 16 days: November 15 through November 30.

However, muzzleloader deer hunters really get 26 days (both regular firearm season and special muzzleloader season).

4. I do not feel that muzzleloaders need a special season to compete for the deer resource. (I hunt with a muzzleloader.)

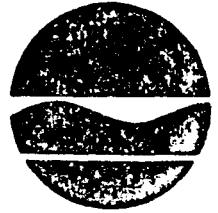
Good Luck and Good Hunting

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George E. Burgoyne, Jr.".

George E. Burgoyne, Jr.
Supervisor - Forest Land Management
Wildlife Division
517-373-1263

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Wildlife Resources Center
Delmar, New York 12054-9767



Henry G. Williams
Commissioner

December 23, 1983

Mr. Buddy Lundstrom
Box 1119
Malta, Montana 59538

Dear Mr. Lundstrom:

Your letter regarding muzzle loading seasons was forwarded here to the Big Game Unit for reply. The enclosed Big Game Guide provides much of the information you requested. The 1984 season should be similar.

According to our records 5,413 special muzzle loading firearm stamps were sold for the 1982 season. The estimated harvest during the 1982 special season was 281 deer. We do not have too much faith in the reliability of the harvest figure, since we have no means to check on the percentage of successful hunters who report taking a deer.

We did not change any of the other hunting regulations before we implemented the special muzzle loading season. I am not in law enforcement, but to my knowledge there is no major problem with hunters using other firearms during these seasons.

The feeling generally is that muzzle loader hunters do not need a special season to be competitive, as do the archers. Our major special season is in the Adirondacks where there is a primitive context and deer populations are grossly underharvested.

Incidentally, muzzle loading shotguns and rifles are legal hunting implements in most of the State during the regular seasons.

I hope this provides you with the information you need. If not, please holler.

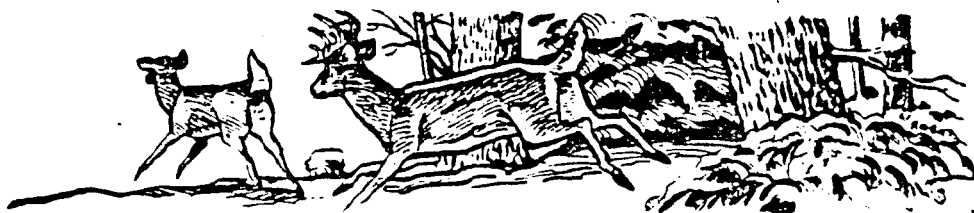
Sincerely,

Nathaniel R. Dickinson
Big Game Unit Leader

NRD:dw

encl.

NEWS



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

For information contact
R. THEODORE GODSHALL
Phone 717-787-3745

Release #74 - 17
Prepared August 8, 1974
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contents

Flintlocks Only For Muzzleloader Season
"Roading" Dogs Illegal
Hunters Should Get To Know Landowners

FLINTLOCKS ONLY FOR MUZZLELOADER SEASON

The Pennsylvania Game Commission reminds sportsmen and gun dealers that flintlocks are the only guns that may be used during the 1974 muzzleloader deer season.

Since establishment of the season was announced, there have been numerous questions raised about the guns that may be used, and provisions of the law which apply.

The law providing for a muzzleloader deer season spells out that guns used must be at least .44 caliber, and prohibits telescope sights. The law also provides that if a muzzleloader deer season is established, it may not be held prior to the close of the regular rifle deer seasons. Other rules and regulations governing a muzzleloader season are to be drawn up by the Game Commission, according to the law.

When the Game Commission approved establishment of a muzzleloader season for 1974, its resolution specified that only single barrel flintlock ignition long guns propelling a single ball could be used.

- 2 -

The original idea for a muzzleloader deer season came from dyed-in-the-wool primitive-type hunters who wanted to dress up in their old-time buckskins and match wits with whitetails, much as Daniel Boone did years ago. Boone used a flintlock.

From the beginning, the Game Commission ruled out the use of percussion guns. Percussion ignition muzzleloaders, even those available at nominal cost, compare favorably with modern day rifles in accuracy and dependability at normal ranges, and can compete quite well during the regular firearms season.

Therefore, the December 26-28 muzzleloader deer season will be a "flintlock season."

#

"ROADING" DOGS ILLEGAL

The Game Commission cautions hunters against the practice of "roading" dogs for raccoon and squirrel, or any other species of game which the practice may be extended to.

In "roading" dogs for raccoon or squirrel, the dog runs on a road in front of a moving motor vehicle. When the dog strikes a track, the vehicle is parked and the game pursued.

Under provisions of The Game Law, it is unlawful to hunt for or pursue or follow after game of any kind from or with or through the use of a motor vehicle propelled by mechanical power, even though the intent is not to kill such game.

The law provides stiff penalties for "roading" dogs, in addition to the possible loss of hunting license privileges.

#

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

116 NINTH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916) 445-5431



January 4, 1984

Buddy Lundstrom
Box 1119
Malta, Montana 59538

Dear Mr. Lundstrom:

This is in response to your December 13, 1983 inquiry regarding special muzzleloader hunting seasons in California. The enclosed abstract of California's 1983 hunting regulations, particularly Primitive Equipment Hunt regulations highlighted on page 8, should answer a good many of your questions.

As to your specific questions, we have no shotgun and slug only requirements that precede our black powder hunts.

We are not aware of any serious problems with hunters using regular firearms during special black powder hunts.

The length of our various deer hunting seasons can be determined from the enclosed regulations abstract.

As a matter of personal opinion, I don't feel that muzzleloaders need a special season to compete. As in the case of archers, some hunters voluntarily choose to use such equipment as a self-imposed handicap in order to enhance their appreciation of the hunt and any success they may enjoy.

Our most current compilation of deer take data is enclosed for further information. I hope that you find this material of interest.

Sincerely,


E. C. Fullerton, Chief
Wildlife Protection Branch

Enclosures (2)

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RON R. GREENHAW
CHAIRMAN

JOHN D. GROENDYKE
MEMBER

L. B. SELMAN
VICE-CHAIRMAN

JUD LITTLE
MEMBER

CARL PIERCEALL
SECRETARY

ROY BOECHER
MEMBER

BOYLE BURKE
MEMBER

H. B. ATKINSON
MEMBER



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

STEVEN ALAN LEWIS, DIRECTOR

GARLAND FLETCHER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CHARLES R. WALLACE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

1801 N. LINCOLN

P.O. BOX 53465

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105

PH. 521 3851

December 20, 1983

Buddy Lundstrom
Box 1119
Malta, Montana 59538

Dear Mr. Lundstrom:

Enclosed, for your information on muzzleloading seasons in Oklahoma, is a copy of the 1983-84 Regulations and the 1982 Big Game Report. In regards to your specific questions the following is provided:

- 1) Problems with enforcement due to hunters using regular guns during the primitive firearms season has not been documented.
- 2) The season for primitive is 9 days, archery approximately 60 days, and gun season 9 days.
- 3) Primitive firearms hunters don't need a separate season to compete. We view the season as additional sport hunting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Greg Duffy
Assistant Chief of Game, Management

GDD:sk

Enclosure

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Fish and Game Crimestoppers Act

Senate BILL NO. 209

A statement of intent is required for this bill because it grants rulemaking authority to the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for the purpose of administering the fish and game crimestoppers program.

It is contemplated that the department establish rules for instituting an award program, including criteria to be used in determining who will receive the rewards and the amount of the rewards in order to guarantee that the rewards be granted through a reasonable and consistent procedure.

It is also contemplated that the department draft rules for guaranteeing the confidentiality of persons providing crime-related information. The rules must comply with the constitutional right to know and the right of privacy; confidentiality will be maintained only when the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

To facilitate the transmitting of crime-related information from the public to the department, the department would establish a toll-free telephone number throughout the state. This toll-free number should be publicized statewide on the radio and in the press.

SB 209

Testimony presented by Jim Flynn, Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

February 5, 1985

Montana is a state which has some of the best fish and wildlife resources still available to the public within the continental United States. As other states have experienced expanded population growths and the accompanying development, Montana's resources have risen in relative quality. This occurrence, coupled with a general public concern by Montanans for our natural resources, has placed us in a position of maintaining within our state's borders fish and wildlife populations of some importance.

In past years when our relative position to other states was not as meaningful as it is today, our approach to management and enforcement of these resources required certain activities. While those activities were successful, we find that a different approach is necessary to address the situation before us today. This is particularly true of enforcement.

As our fish and wildlife resources are of premium quality and as society becomes more affluent and mobile, a state as large and diverse as Montana becomes more susceptible to illegal hunting and fishing than in the past. We are aware of this susceptibility and have taken some steps to address it.

With the support of the public and the legislature, we have instituted a conservation officer program, we have increased our warden mileage, and we have upgraded and intensified our ongoing warden training program. These efforts have produced results and we plan to continue them.

In addition, this session we are requesting two new programs to add to our enforcement capability, one of which is before you in SB 209.

At the present time we have a hot line in place through which Montanans can call to report violations of the law. It was primarily installed to work with landowners, but is used from time to time to report fish and game violations. This is in place and working now.

Our request at this time is for authority to expand this hot line use to issue rewards for information which leads to a conviction for a major violation. I would emphasize that the rewards would be for major violations.

It would be our expectation that the major use would be in cases where there is a substantial violation involved and thus a reward would be in order.

We would hope that a reward system would entice someone with first-hand knowledge of a violation to take the step of making a phone call for a monetary gain. The result would be to increase our ability to make the violator accountable.

I have attached copies of reports from two of our field people on the results of hot line information. Warden Cooper is in northeastern Montana and reports on two cases. No rewards were paid in either case. Whether they would have been if we had authority would have depended on the advisory committee's recommendation and whether the caller would have requested it.

The second report is from northwestern Montana where Warden Burke works with the local Crimestoppers Program. In that area we are especially concerned with the poaching of moose. As Gary indicates, moose poaching, in his opinion, dropped off once Crimestoppers started.

Although this local Crimestoppers Program has paid out rewards for fish and wildlife violations, we have been unable to reimburse their program.

I am also attaching two memos for the committee's consideration. The first is from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's chief enforcement officer for Montana, Joel Scrafford, to Erv Kent of our agency. It lists the species involved in one series of arrests involving a poaching ring here in Montana this past year.

The second is from Erv Kent to me outlining the results to date of the aforementioned operation, plus one other conducted this past year.

I mention both of these because the successful implementation of these operations contains many facets, one being the ability to offer a financial reward to someone, perhaps a disenchanted insider, willing to provide meaningful information.

If this program were to be implemented, we would intend to work as much as possible with local Crimestoppers and with the Montana Department of Livestock. If a coordinated approach serves us all equally well, we would follow that path.

In summary, we feel that our state can expect more attention paid to our quality fish and wildlife resources. Unfortunately, some of that attention will be to exploit and abuse that resource.

We feel a Crimestoppers Program for fish and game violations would afford us one more tool to lessen that exploitation and abuse.

A short time after 9:00 A.M. the morning of October 28, 1951, I received a call from Chris Eby of the Helena Fish and Game Office. She had received a call on our toll-free hot line from a farmer at Whitetail, Montana. He stated that he had observed these two non-resident hunters on the Oltman Ranch west of Whitetail. He told Chris that he thought the hunters had too many pheasants and that we should check them out.

I left for Whitetail immediately, which is about 42 miles from Plentywood. I found the two hunters from Minnesota and checked them. They had five pheasants in their pickup. They told me that was all the birds they had. I then went into Whitetail and talked with one of my friends. He told me he thought these hunters had been in Medoc the day before. I thought the situation over and decided to look the abandoned Oltman Ranch over and find out what was there. I found where a bunch of pheasants had been cleaned. I found 32 pair of pheasant feet, some sharptail feet and some feet from several Hungarian partridges. The building on the farm had some electric wires running into it. I checked this building and found a small freezer with a pheasant lying on top of it. I opened the freezer and found it full of dressed birds. I then called the Scobey Sheriff, Warner Harrison and asked him to help me.

A short time later, Sheriff Harrison and his Undersheriff arrived. I explained the situation to him, and told him I wanted a witness to what I was about to do. He emptied the freezer and found it contained 59 pheasants, 14 sharptails and 9 Huns. I told the Sheriff who I thought the birds belonged to and he said they were staying in Scobey at the Oltman residence. I loaded up the birds and went to Scobey with the Sheriff. We found the two hunters at Oltman's. I talked to Mr. Oltman and the two hunters about the problem. The two Minnesota hunters said they would take care of the problem.

The two hunters were Donald Gehrman, and Scott Gehrman from White Bear, Minnesota. I filed five tickets on the two of them for possessing too many pheasants, killing three hen pheasants and wasting pheasants. They posted a \$500.00 bond and left.

There were 59 pheasants, 14 sharptail and 9 Huns involved in this case. I contacted these two hunters the morning of the third day of the season. I don't believe I would have gotten this case if we didn't have the toll-free hot line. This type of case should help justify the cost of the hot line.

Dave Cooper

TO: Jrv Kent

FROM: Dave Cooper

RE: Beaver case

JAN 9 1983

I talked to Dale Graft today about the pheasant case I wrote you about. He asked me if I had any pictures of it, which I did not. I am sending in another case of which I do have some pictures.

The morning of April 14, 1982, I received a hot-line call. It had been received from a rancher at Redstone, Montana. The rancher reported that two men were in the Redstone area shooting beaver in the Muddy River. He reported that the men had #20 (Valley County) licenses on their pickups. The sheriff, Ben Holt, and I went to Redstone and checked out this complaint. Meanwhile, another rancher called as Ben and I were on our way to Redstone. He told the sheriff's office that the men were on his ranch in the Argner area. We talked to this rancher and he loaned us his pickup. The Muddy River has high water this time of the year and the roads are under water. This was the reason we took his 4-wheel drive pickup.

We found two men in a boat below Archer and stayed along the river about two hours. When they came ashore, they didn't have any beaver in their boat. I then looked along the banks and found 17 big beaver they had shot. The two men were Delmar Midinger and Nick Neumayer from Glasgow. I issued them each a ticket and collected a \$500 bond from each and confiscated the beaver.

Enclosed are the pictures of this case. Pictures #1 and #2 show the boat that was used. Picture #3 shows where I found the 17 beaver. Picture #4 shows me loading the beaver in the sheriff's pickup.

This is another case that came to us via the hot-line.

A week after the high water went down, about two dozen dead beaver washed up at the Eggen and Ursness ranches. These two men probably only retrieved one out of every three beaver they shot. The rest were wasted. The only satisfaction I received from the tickets was that it did cost these two men \$1000.

David E Cooper.

JAN 1 1984

FISH & GAME

CRIMESTOPPERS STATS

DATE	# OF TIPS	CLEARANCES	ARRESTS	CONVICTIONS	AMOUNT RECOVERED	REWARDS PAID
6-1 TO 12-31-82	5	2	9	9	\$8,545.00	\$100.00
1-1 TO 12-31-83	6	4	6	5		350.00
1-1 TO 12-31-84	4	2	2	2		0

Note: the amount of moose poachings dropped off considerably since the Crimestopper program was started.

Lany

CRIMESTOPPERS STATISTICS

MAY 25, 1981 TO NOVEMBER 24, 1982

TYPE	NUMBER OF CALLS	CONTACTS IN PERSON	ARRESTS	CONVICTIONS	PENDING COURT	AMOUNT RECOVERED	REWARDS PAID
BURGLARY	15	3	8	5	3	20,500.00	900.00
THEFT	9		4	4	2	12,500.00	300.00
DRUGS	15	6	10	2	8	7,892.00	585.00
SUSPICIOUS (*) CIRCUMSTANCES	5						
ISH & GALT	5	1	9	9		8,545.00	100.00
POISONING	2	1	2	2			500.00
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON (*)	Nutting Case 12-15						
UNIDENTIFIED PERSON	4		2	1	1		
CRIMINAL MISDEMEANORS	4						
WELFARE/FRANCHISE	3						

TOTAL

\$49,437.00

\$2,500.00

MONTANA CRIME STOPPERS

Program Location: Lincoln County, Libby, Montana For the Month of: January, 1983 -
October 31, 1984

Phone: 293-9224 **INSTRUCTIONS:** Enter the number or dollar value as required for each column opposite the given offense.

OFFENSE	# OF TIPS	CLEARANCES	ARRESTS	CONVICTIONS	AMOUNT OF REWARDS PAID	VALUE SEIZED NARCOTICS	VALUE PROPERTY RECOVERED
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LARCENY/THEFT	21	15	10	8	\$460.00	0	\$5,280.00
MOTOR VEH. THEFT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INDEX CRIMES	23	16	10	8	\$460.00	0	\$5,280.00
ARSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NARCOTICS	16	4	2	2	\$75.00	\$6,380.00	0
FORGERY/FRAUD	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUGITIVES	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
OTHER	16	4	7	6	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	60	25	20	17	\$535.00	\$6,380.00	\$5,280.00

MONTANA CRIMESTOPPERS

Program Location: Lincoln County, Libby, Montana For the Month of: November, 1984

Phone: 293-4112 **INSTRUCTIONS:** Enter the number or dollar value as required for each column opposite the given offense.

OFFENSE	# OF TIPS	CLEARANCES	ARRESTS	CONVICTIONS	AMOUNT OF REWARDS PAID	VALUE SEIZED NARCOTICS	VALUE PROPERTY RECOVERED
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAPE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	1, 2, 3 3	0	0	0	0	0	0
LARCENY/THEFT	0	1	1 <i>Murder</i>	0	Beesley \$150.00	0	<i>Opium</i> \$1,400.00
MOTOR VEH. THEFT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INDEX CRIMES	3	1	1	0	\$150.00	0	\$1,400.00
ARSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NARCOTICS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FORGERY/FRAUD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUGITIVES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	1 <i>#19</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	4	1	1	0	\$150.00	0	\$1,400.00

MEMORANDUM

TO: Erwin J. Kent
FROM: Joel Scrafford
SUBJECT: Operation Trophy Kill

The following is a list of species and location of known kills in Montana taken in Operation Trophy Kill:

Taken by Special Agents on guided hunts

1 5-point elk	Bear Creek, Jardine
1 4-point elk	Sphinx Creek, Gardiner
1 2-point mule deer	Wine Glass Mtn., Livingston
1 doe mule deer	West Boulder, Livingston
1 mountain goat	Hellroaring Creek, Gardiner
1 mountain goat	Arch Lake, Columbus
1 mountain lion	Townsend

Known kills taken by defendants and offered for sale

2 mountain lions	Townsend
1 mountain goat	Townsend
5 lynx	Townsend
2 golden eagles	Townsend
2 bighorn sheep	Deer Creek, Big Sky
1 bighorn sheep	Big Sky
3 bighorn sheep	Miner Basin, Gardiner
2 bighorn sheep	Cinnibar Mtn, Gardiner
12 bighorn sheep	Gardiner Area
2 bighorn sheep	Boulder River, Big Timber
3 mountain goats	Stillwater River, Columbus
2 mountain goats	Hellroaring Creek, Gardiner
3 bighorn sheep	Yellowstone National Park
6 mountain lion	West Boulder, Livingston
9 lynx	West Boulder, Livingston
6 6-point elk	Gardiner Area
5 bull elk (velvet)	Gardiner Area
14 golden eagles	Pray Area
2 cow elk	Wineglass Mtn., Livingston
6 golden eagles	Crazy Mtns. Big Timber
1 grizzly bear	Hellroaring Creek, Gardiner
1 grizzly bear	Slough Creek, Gardiner
1 mink	Main Boulder River
3 black bear (whole)	West Boulder, Livingston

During this investigation we identified two other groups that are working similar types of operation. One is operating in the Gardiner and the other around Big Sky. Undoubtedly there are others that we are not aware of.

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Office Memorandum

TO : Jim Flynn

DATE: 1-31-85

FROM : Erv Kent 

SUBJECT: Additional Information to Use on Crimestopper's Bill

I talked to Terry in Denver on 1-31-85 and he advises me that we can use the following information for our crimestopper testimony.

Operation Falcon

80 defendants

36 arrested

50 search warrants have been served

34 individuals convicted

2 acquitted (The two acquitted are the first since 1981 and this involves over 425 defendants.)

A total of \$185,620 in fines has been assessed.

Less than 5 of these defendants were Montanans.

Operation Trophy Kill

Approximately 60 defendants

11 convictions (One-half of those convicted are Montanans.)

33 arrests were made and

19 search warrants served

A total of \$62,350 in fines have been assessed so far.

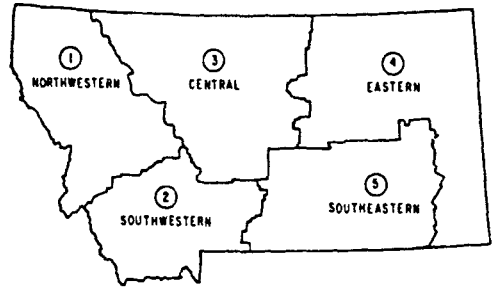
A total of 20 years probation time in prison has been given.

In Colorado several (6) convicted defendants have been assessed several hundred dollars in civil penalties and have been required to donate 200 hours annually towards community service involving wildlife projects, working with wildlife sanctuaries, etc.

rh

Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



TESTIMONY ON SB 209

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2/5/85

My name is Dan Heinz and I am appearing on behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation.

The Montana Wildlife Federation is concerned about the apparent increase in crimes against our wildlife resources.

We strongly ^{support} SB 209 as a demonstrably effective tool to ~~help~~ ^{counteract} this trend.

We would suggest changing the name to ^{offense} Game Thief or something similar to ^{help} distinguish this program from the Urban Crimestoppers programs.

We urge do pass on SB 209.



Montana Audubon Council
Testimony on SB 209
February 5, 1985

Exhibit 12

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

my name is Janet Ellis and I'm here today representing the Montana Audubon Council. The Council is composed of eight Chapters of the National Audubon Society and has 2000 members throughout the state.

The Council supports SB 209. In 1984 many Montanans became aware that wildlife crimes occur in this state: two sting operations directed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service brought to our attention that there are people in Montana who are willing to illegally traffic game parts, such as bear and bighorned sheep parts, and in nongame species, which includes falcons and hawks.

A wildlife crimestoppers program is a positive step towards combatting this problem. It would encourage the public to provide information to assist in fish and wildlife-related crimes. In view of the increasing demands upon our wildlife resources, the crimestoppers program will be a welcome addition to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to help manage wildlife throughout the state.

Thank you.



502 South 19th

Bozeman, Montana 59715

Phone (406) 587-3153

TESTIMONY BY: Marg Green

BILL # SB#209 DATE 1/29/85

SUPPORT XXX OPPOSE _____

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee; for the record my name is ^{Marg}~~Stan~~
^{GREEN}~~Stan~~. I'm representing the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. The Montana Farm Bureau would like to go on record as supporting Senate Bill #209. We realize that the personnel of the the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks can't be everywhere at once and we believe this bill would encourage citizen involvement in combating fish and wildlife related crimes. Farm Bureau encourages a "do pass" recommendation for this bill. Thank You.

Marg Green
 SIGNED

49th Legislature

LC 751

STATEMENT OF INTENT

SENATE BILL NO. 197

A statement of intent is indicated for this bill because there is a reference in section 1 to rules adopted by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to be used as guidelines for certifying a resident as disabled, and thus as eligible for a waiver of the fee for a golden years pass.

It is the intent of the legislature that the department merely apply its existing disability certification guidelines for hunting and fishing purposes to applicants for a waiver of the fee for a golden years pass.

Exhibit 15
February 5, 1985

The Big Sky Country



MONTANA STATE SENATE

SENATOR PAT M. GOODOVER

HOME ADDRESS:
803 FOREST AVENUE
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59404
HELENA ADDRESS:
BOX 42
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

COMMITTEES:
TAXATION
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
NCSL FEDERAL STATE RELATIONS
TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

January 30, 1985

Senator Max Conover, Chairman
Fish & Game Committee
State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Dear Senator Conover:

At the request of the attorney representing the Seeley Lake Homeowners Association, I herewith officially request that S.B. 231, of which I am the author, be withdrawn from any hearing, and be allowed to die in Committee without further action.

This will save the people the need to appear on this bill, and save the taxpayers the cost of the processing of the bill.

Information circulated about this bill has been less than factual, and further consideration is not warranted.

I respectfully request, as the author, that S.B. 231 be kept in Committee past the transmittal date. The attorney will advise the proponents that they need not appear in Helena.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Goodover".

PAT GOODOVER, Senator
District #20

PG:1f

cc: media
" Ken Dyrud, Attorney Homeowners
Jim Flynn, FWP
SEN. BILL NORMAN, PRES. OF SENATE

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Richard Weiss	405 7th Ave W Polson MT
2.	Donald DeBroy	Rt-1 Box-723 " "
3.	Thomas James	Box 37 Polson MT
4.	Walter McDonald	Box 1430 Polson MT
5.	Paula Smetter	Box 1423 Polson MT
6.	George E. Laughlin	Box 2172 Polson mt.
7.	Gene Sanders	Finley Point Polson MT.
8.	Paul [unclear]	Box 5088 Polson, MT.
9.	Bob Chit	Box 4049 Polson mt.
10.	Violet C. Dooley	Box 2347 Polson, mt.
11.	Antonia M. Tatal	P.O. Box 1510 Polson, mt.
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

PUBLIC PETITION

MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

- | NAME | ADDRESS |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. <u>Eva J. Funke</u> | <u>602 2nd Polson, Mt.</u> |
| 2. <u>Carolyn Heinz</u> | <u>Box 87 Polson, MT 59860</u> |
| 3. <u>Willie H. Hark</u> | <u>141 1st E Polson, MT 59860</u> |
| 4. <u>Chris M. Sorenson</u> | <u>P.O. Box 237 Polson MT 59860</u> |
| 5. <u>William P. Robinson</u> | <u>Box 1243 Polson, Mt. 59860</u> |
| 6. <u>Elsie M. Muller</u> | <u>Box 4069 Polson W 59860</u> |
| 7. <u>Steve Nelson</u> | <u>Box 5312 Polson MT 59860</u> |
| 8. <u>Jane K. Morton</u> | <u>Box 6029 Polson, MT 59860</u> |
| 9. <u>Judy A. Elick</u> | <u>Shoreline Rt. Polson, MT. 59860</u> |
| 10. <u>Richard P. Heinz</u> | <u>Box 87, Polson, Mt. 59860</u> |
| 11. <u>Henry J. Johnson</u> | <u>Box 36 PARLO, MT 59855</u> |
| 12. _____ | _____ |
| 13. _____ | _____ |
| 14. _____ | _____ |
| 15. _____ | _____ |

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	<u>Walter Blomquist</u>	<u>Box 1121 POLSON MT</u>
2.	<u>Ed F. Erickson</u>	<u>Box 1275 Polson</u>
3.	<u>Robert A. Smith</u>	<u>Smith Electric Polson MT</u>
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	<i>Edwin L. Mangham</i>	<i>Box 595 Ronan mt 59864</i>
2.	<i>Joseph M. Conroy</i>	<i>302 Cleveland St Ronan 59864</i>
3.	<i>William H. Miller</i>	<i>Box 801 Polson MT 59860</i>
4.	<i>Phil Schmitt</i>	<i>RT 1 Box 40 B Ronan, MT 59864</i>
5.	<i>M. J. J. J.</i>	<i>224 Main St S.E. Ronan, MT</i>
6.	<i>Crystal A. Yurpin</i>	<i>230 2ND AVE. S.E. Ronan, MT.</i>
7.	<i>Don Vance</i>	<i>RT 1 Box 192 Ronan, MT.</i>
8.	<i>Philip E. J. J.</i>	<i>Box 516 Polson Mt. 59860</i>
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	<i>Steve Jones</i>	<i>Ronan mt.</i>
2.	<i>J.P. Johnson</i>	<i>Ronan mt</i>
3.	<i>Arthur C. Sevin</i>	<i>Ronan mt</i>
4.	<i>Raymond L. Kicks</i>	<i>Nixon MT</i>
5.	<i>Edith Myles</i>	<i>Missoula Mont</i>
6.	<i>Sam Marcus</i>	<i>msla. mt.</i>
7.	<i>James F. Wallisford</i>	<i>Huron, Mt.</i>
8.	<i>Walter Henderson</i>	<i>Arlee, mt.</i>
9.	<i>Dayton W. Tracy</i>	<i>St. Ignatius, MT</i>
10.	<i>Mary N. Tracy</i>	<i>St. Ignatius Mt.</i>
11.	<i>Rhonda DuCharme</i>	<i>Ronan, MT</i>
12.	<i>Paula Pugh</i>	<i>Polson, MT.</i>
13.	<i>Thomas A. LaHill</i>	<i>Polson, mt.</i>
14.	<i>Elliot M. Johnson</i>	<i>370 MAIN ST. Polson mt.</i>
15.	<i>James M. Smith</i>	<i>Polson Montana</i>

PUBLIC PETITION

MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Robert Smith	10 - 1st Ave E Polson
2.	Jack Scott	108 1st St East - Polson
3.	Pat Kuchmas	Box 519 St Ignace MT
4.	Mr. W. Kuyte	Jette Lake Polson MT 59860
5.	Harold Fittner	St. Ignace Mt. 59865
6.	Don Peterson	Box 2434 Polson, MT 59860
7.	Bill Tule	Rt 1 Box 9, Polson, Mt 59860
8.	Senore O Roat	Jinley Point Polson MT 59860
9.	Clarence Peterson	Box 2131 Polson MT 59860
10.	Melvin Dugland	Box 2067 Polson, MT 59860
11.	Sam Agulla	P.O. Box 1344 Polson
12.	_____	Box 105 Polson
13.	Pat Wible	368 Main St. Polson MT 59860
14.	N.B. Willis Jr	#3 Jette Lake, Polson MT
15.	Diane Gossey	61 Jette Lake, Polson MT.

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Charles T. Eshik	Shoreline Rt. Polson MT.
2.	Frank Cozart	Box 4336 Polson MT.
3.	Richard D. Robinson	Box 2187 Polson, MT.
4.	Bruce E. Peterson	Shoreline Rt. Polson, MT.
5.	Jack Whit	Box 1100 Polson, MT.
6.	Josephine White	Box 1100 Polson, MT.
7.	Stacy Mercer	Box 440 Polson MT.
8.	William J. Hanning	Box 489 Polson MT.
9.	William G. Welch	Box 1614 Polson, MT.
10.	Pamela Horde	Box 1084 Polson, MT.
11.	Jo Pugh	Box 341 Polson MT, 59860
12.	Mike Gorman	Box 5015 Polson, MT.
13.	Christine Warren	Box 5049 Polson, MT.
14.	Joe Arund	Rt. 1 Box 67 Polson MT.
15.	Paul H. Hest	Box 4418 Polson, MT.

PUBLIC PETITION

MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	<i>David Smith</i>	<i>Rt. 2 Box 49-A Ronan mt.</i>
2.	<i>William Burr</i>	<i>Box 2087 Polson, Mt.</i>
3.	<i>John M. Kelly</i>	<i>Box 2289 Polson, MT</i>
4.	<i>Dan J. Stuber</i>	<i>Box 4302 Polson MT 59860</i>
5.	<i>Lizabeth A. Trinn</i>	<i>Box 516 Polson, Mt. 59860</i>
6.	<i>Daniel Wild</i>	<i>West Shore Rt Polson MT 59860</i>
7.	<i>J. F. Meek</i>	<i>West Shore Rt. Polson 59860</i>
8.	<i>W. Peterson</i>	<i>Shoreline Rte Polson 59860</i>
9.	<i>D. Sunlock</i>	<i>Woodbine Estate Polson 59860</i>
10.	<i>Robert John Mueck, Jr.</i>	<i>BOX 5210 POLSON, MT 59860</i>
11.	<i>Leborah J. Roberson</i>	<i>Box 1243 Polson, MT. 59860</i>
12.	<i>May Hanna</i>	<i>Box 565 Polson MT 59860</i>
13.	<i>Margit Smith</i>	<i>314 Main Polson 59860</i>
14.	<i>Naomi Stayer</i>	<i>Box 1505 Polson mt 59860</i>
15.	<i>Penny J. Charles</i>	<i>BOX 744 59860</i>

PUBLIC PETITION

MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	Jerry Hoover	Box 2372, Polson
2.	Wally Kate	Rt 1 Box 136 Roman
3.	Joe McKeown	Rt 1 Box 204 Polson
4.	Mary Ann Frizjo	Jette Lake - Polson
5.	Debra Korntson	Box 5287 Polson
6.	W J Peterson	Box 234 PABLO
7.	Darryl Dupuis	Box 2089 Polson, MT.
8.	Alvin W McKee	Shoreline Route Polson, MT.
9.	Elizabeth Becker	Box 3186, Polson, MT
10.	Margaret Caster	#1 Jette Lk. Polson, MT.
11.	Patricia A. McKeown	223 goat trail Whitefish, MT
12.	Lori K. McCurdy	RE. 1 BOX 260-17 ROMAN,
13.	Donald J. Carlsberg	Rt 1 200 B4 Polson
14.	Betty Rieber	Box 2090 Polson
15.	Harold Lair	Shoreline Rte - Polson

PUBLIC PETITION
MONTANA CITIZENS AGAINST SENATE BILL NO. 231

We the undersigned OPPOSE the 1985 Montana Senate Bill No. 231 which will give the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks jurisdiction over the operation of sea planes which are now being adequately controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The laws and regulations of the FAA are stronger and more detailed than Senate Bill No. 231. We, as taxpayers, feel that there is no need to have services and costs duplicated by two government agencies.

	NAME	ADDRESS
1.	<u>Lure Cisto</u>	<u>Box 2515 Polson</u>
2.	<u>W. H. [unclear]</u>	<u>212 Main</u>
3.	<u>Frank W Steel</u>	<u>East Lake Shore Bigfork mt</u>
4.	<u>Donald Syet</u>	<u>Box 176 Polson</u>
5.	<u>Helen Donovan</u>	<u>212 Main</u>
6.	<u>Barbara Caldwell</u>	<u>Box 153 Big Arm, MT</u>
7.	<u>Michael Rozette</u>	<u>Box 236 Polson mt</u>
8.	<u>Jack Schwarting</u>	<u>Box 4089 Polson, MT.</u>
9.	<u>Kate Haskett</u>	<u>Box 5070 Polson MT</u>
10.	<u>Carl A. [unclear]</u>	<u>Box 1510 Colson Mont.</u>
11.	<u>Jim S. [unclear]</u>	<u>Box 1382 Polson, MT</u>
12.	<u>Alvin [unclear]</u>	<u>Box 1625 Polson MT</u>
13.	<u>Henry M. Felt</u>	<u>Box 1127 Polson mt</u>
14.	<u>Joe [unclear]</u>	<u>Box 1279 Polson MT</u>
15.	<u>Queen Sebastian</u>	<u>Box 1279 - Polson, MT.</u>

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 5, 1985

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on **FISH AND GAME**

having had under consideration **SENATE BILL** No. **209**

first reading copy (**white**)
color

CREATING A FISH AND WILDLIFE CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM

Respectfully report as follows: That **SENATE BILL** No. **209**

DO PASS

~~DO NOT PASS~~

**STATEMENT OF INTENT ADOPTED
AND ATTACHED**

.....
MAX CONOVER

Chairman.

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE FISH AND GAME

Date February 5, 1985 Bill No. SB 209 Time 2:20 P.M.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Senator Anderson	✓	
Senator Jacobson	✓	
Senator Lane	—	—
Senator Severson		✓
Senator Smith	✓	
Senator Yellowtail	✓	
Senator Conover	✓	

Agnes Hamilton
Secretary

Senator Conover
Chairman

Motion: SB 209 DO PASS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 5, 19 85

MR. PRESIDENT

FISH AND GAME

We, your committee on.....

having had under consideration..... **SENATE BILL** No. **255**

first reading copy (**white**)
color

PERMIT THE USE OF MUZZLELOADERS IN SHOTGUN ONLY HUNTING AREAS

Respectfully report as follows: That..... **SENATE BILL** No. **255**

be amended as follows:

1. Page 1, line 21.

Following: "shotguns"

Strike: "and muzzleloaders (rifled or smoothbore)"

2. Page 1, line 22.

Following: "deer."

Insert: "In areas where deer hunting is open to the use of shotguns the commission may authorize the use of muzzleloaders (rifled or smoothbore)."

AND AS AMENDED
DO PASS

~~DO NOT PASS~~

.....
MAX CONOVER,

Chairman.