



219 Vawter Street, Helena, MT 59601
406.449.2795

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
GAME DAMAGE
Additional Comment
of
Helena Hunters and Anglers Association**

August 12, 2015

Allen Charles, Landowner Sportsman's Coordinator
MFWP Headquarters
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Dear Mr. Charles,

In addition to comment we submitted last night at the public hearing (attached here for the benefit of others), Helena Hunters and Anglers Association (HHAA) would also like to add to the record that the following be incorporated into the pending ARM rule:

1. Restrict those who are on the landowner-generated hunter lists to taking antlerless elk only, to minimize the appearance of possible or actual landowner remuneration for access to bulls.
2. That 25% or less of people on landowner-generated hunter lists are called for game damage or management season hunts allowing for general citizens to be involved in a democratically managed hunt
3. That all Regions of FWP will submit an annual report of game damage assistance, including resolution for both landowners who meet eligibility requirements and those who have asked for assistance but do not. Report the type and amount of materials or services provided and the circumstances that contribute to the game damage complaint, which might include items such as management of security habitat and road densities on public lands leading to displacement of big game to private lands, or planting of crops that tend to lure in wildlife.

We appreciate the efforts being made to resolve game damage issues but feel it important to acknowledge that the actual problem is often between landowners and how they are managing their lands rather than how FWP is managing wildlife populations. Until this fundamental conflict is clearly stated, wildlife will remain the punching bag in this feud. Citizen hunters will continue to champion their wildlife and its responsible management by FWP – the trustee of our invaluable Public Trust.

Thank you for taking our comment.

Gayle Joslin
Helena Hunters and Anglers

c: Fish and Wildlife Commission c/o Coleen Furthmyre Secretary
Quentin Kujala, Wildlife Management Section Chief