

**Chris Taggart**

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**From:** Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:23 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Newsletter: Waterfowl hunting water safety, man convicted of bighorn sheep poaching and more



## Waterfowl hunters reminded to stay safe on the water

Do you hunt waterfowl or hunt in and around lakes, streams, rivers or ponds? Do you use a jon boat, rowboat, duck-boat or a blind near your favorite haunt? If you do, don't forget to be water wise!

Waterfowl hunters seldom think of themselves as boaters, but in fact they are and need to follow the same safety precautions and laws as boaters every time they head

out on the water. Montana law requires a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for every person on waterfowl boats and for boats 16 feet and longer, there must be one U.S. Coast Guard-approved throwable device on board and be immediately available for use.

[Read more](#)

## Belgrade man convicted of bighorn sheep poaching

*Sentence includes fines, restitution and 10-year hunting privilege suspension*

A Belgrade man has been sentenced after pleading guilty to killing a bighorn sheep illegally this year.

Matthew DeWit, 27, pleaded guilty to hunting during a closed season and unlawful possession, shipping, or transportation of a game animal, and he was later sentenced in Blaine County Justice Court on Oct. 20. His sentence includes \$4,000 in fines and restitution and a 10-year suspension of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges in 49 states.

[Read more >](#)



## FWP accepting comment on commercial fee schedule for fishing access sites and wildlife management areas

FWP is accepting comment on the proposed commercial use fee schedule for fishing access sites and wildlife management areas. This fee schedule is set by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on a biennial basis, and the new fee schedule will be effective from Jan. 1, 2021, to Dec. 31, 2022.

[Read more >](#)



## Future Fisheries Program grant winter deadline is Nov. 30

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks fisheries staff reminds landowners, watershed groups and others that the next deadline to apply for Future Fisheries Improvement Program grants is Nov. 30.



The goal of FWP's Future Fisheries Program is to restore rivers, streams and lakes to improve Montana's wild fish habitat. Entities can receive funding for qualifying projects that benefit Montana's wild fish. Each project is assessed by an independent review panel and final funding decisions are made by the Fish & Wildlife Commission. Typical projects include riparian fencing and off-stream water, channel restoration, culvert replacement for fish passage, planting vegetation on streambanks and more.

[Read more >](#)

## Important dates coming up:

**Nov 8:** General antelope & 900 archery season closes

**Nov 15:** Bison season opens

**Nov 29:** Central flyway OTC sandhill crane, Moose, sheep, goat, General deer, elk, fall mountain lion and black bear season closes

**Nov 30:** Creek and stream fishing closes

**Nov 30:** Deadline to purchase resident trapping license valid for bobcat

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