

Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group Recommendation Template

The following text is considered draft and must be reviewed by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group prior to being considered final.

Email Comments to:

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Group's Purpose

The purpose of the advisory group is to forge new relationships among stakeholders and collaboratively develop new and creative ideas and recommendations for issues surrounding elk management in Montana to balance hunter and landowner interests.

Key Issue

This section identifies the "key issue," as identified by the Elk Management Citizen Advisory Group.

Strategically redistribute the elk and redistribute the hunters.

Title of Recommendation

This section describes the title, or what we want to call the recommendation.

Add your text here.

Intent

This section describes the intent of the recommendation, or what it is trying to achieve.

This recommendation would **require** communication between landowners, hunters, outfitters, and the local FWP biologist. Citizen science would be heard concerning elk movement, and together the group would address redistribution of elk, objectives, access, and other related issues. Season structure and number of permits where and when could also be topics. This forum could also address significant legislative or regulatory changes.

Note: The intent of the recommendation must align and address the Key Issue.

Justification

This section describes the "problem" that we are trying to solve, and why we think this recommendation will be able to address the problem.

Too many times problems exist between the parties that must work together in order to effect change in elk distribution, hunter distribution, access, and hunt quality. These problems, if not addressed, can fester and harm relationships. When you hear long time landowners indicating they have never met their biologist, that becomes a red flag indicating dysfunction in the agency.

Note: There should be a clear connection between what "we are trying to solve" and the key issue.

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Description

This section describes the recommendation. It explains who is doing what, and the practical actions that will be taken to achieve the intention.

Biologists may need some training in communication skills, or in tougher arenas a facilitator may be needed. These meetings or groups are different from the season setting meetings routinely held in a biologist's area. These meetings would not take place during hunting season but in the late spring or early summer. Questions such as "What do we know" and "What do we need" and "What has changed" "What worked, and what did not" would drive this group discussion. Emphasis on the "we".