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Montana FWP Commission to meet in Helena

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission will meet in Helena, Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 15 and 16, at the Helena FWP headquarters building, 1420 East Sixth Ave.

The meeting begins at 3 p.m. on Wednesday and continues at 8 a.m. on Thursday. Final decisions to be made Wednesday include: acquisition of a new State Park at Brush Lake near Plentywood; transferring the Bear Paw Battlefield south of Chinook to the Na-

tional Park Service, and granting a road easement at Ulm Pishkun State Park near Great Falls.

Tentative decisions Wednesday include acquisition of an additional small parcel of land adjacent to Ulm Pishkun State Park; a special recreation permit administrative rule on the Blackfoot River and adjacent lands owned by FWP; and river recreation rules on the Beaverhead and Bighole Rivers in southwestern Montana.

Informational presentations late in the day will include an update on the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council and the compensation component of Montana's wolf management plan.

Final decisions scheduled Thursday include: adoption of the statewide elk management plan; the 2004 bison hunting regulations; the acquisition of a fishing access site on Black's Ford on the Madison River west of Bozeman; and a habitat conservation project

on the Bull River and Lake Creek in Lincoln and Sanders counties.

Tentative decisions Thursday include: 2005 deer, elk and antelope seasons and hunting district boundaries; the 2005 spring turkey seasons; 2005-06 bison hunting regulations; authorization of licenses for game damage hunts; and two new mountain lion, deer and elk hunting districts and two new big horn sheep hunting districts.

An informational presentation

will also be made on the bison quarantine process on Thursday.

The full agenda for the FWP Commission meeting can be found by clicking on the FWP Commission icon on the bottom of the FWP home page at:

www.fwp.state.mt.us.

FWP ensures its meetings are fully accessible to those with a disability. Individuals with special needs may request arrangements by contacting FWP at 406-444-3186.

DOL prepares EA on proposed bison vaccinations

The Montana Department of Livestock has prepared an environmental assessment to analyze the effects of incorporating vaccination of bison against brucel-

losis into the management framework of the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Comments for the purpose of clarifying specific issues and

identifying additional pertinent issues to develop the EA were received prior to July 15 and have been incorporated into the EA.

"The decision of whether to incorporate bison vaccination into the IBMP will be based primarily on the determination that the RB51 vaccine is safe for use in bison and safe to non-target species," said Dr. Tom Linfield, state veterinarian. The Department expects to make a decision by January 31, 2005.

The EA also analyzes the efficacy of RB51 for reducing brucellosis infections in bison, defines eligible bison, and determines the most appropriate way to coordinate bison vaccination with other bison management and research activities.

The Department of Livestock invites public comment on the EA and meetings will be held in Bozeman on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane; and in Helena on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, 2301 Colonial Drive. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

Written comments are due by January 5, 2005.

Comments may be mailed, faxed or emailed to Karen Cooper, Information Officer, Montana Department of Livestock, PO Box 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001, fax number 406-444-4316, email address

livcomments@state.mt.us <mailto:livcomments@state.mt.us>.

The EA is available on the department website at: www.liv.state.mt.us <http://www.liv.state.mt.us>.

The Montana Department of Livestock is one of five state and federal agencies implementing the Interagency Bison Management Plan to reduce the risk of

transmission of brucellosis from bison to cattle; preserve a viable, wild population of Yellowstone bison; protect private property; and maintain Montana's brucellosis-free status.

Other agencies include the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Fund created for Cole infant

Shortly after the arrival of little Joseph Cole, born June 24, 2004, it was discovered that he had a heart murmur. In September, his family was informed the baby had a half-inch hole in his heart between the left and right ventricles.

The infant will undergo open heart surgery in Seattle, Washington around the first of the new year.

In order to assist his family with medical and travel expenses, an account has been set up at State Bank and Trust. Anyone may help with the family's expenses by making a donation to the Joseph Cole account.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL 2ND SEMESTER DRIVERS EDUCATION SIGN-UP

2ND Semester Drivers Education Program will start January 24, 2005.

Cost per student is \$215.00 with a \$40 book deposit.

Minimum age limit: 14-1/2 by the completion of the program (June 3, 2005)

Call Karen Kaiser in the BCHS Main Office, 683-2361 to apply. Deadline to sign up is December 22, 2004, 4:00 p.m.

1 class will be held during the school day (1st period) and is limited to 12 students. Selection will be based on a lottery.

Chamber Corner

NEWS FROM THE BEAVERHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
By Judy Siring, Executive Director

Chamber Gift Certificates make great presents, bonuses

Looking for a great gift for that hard to buy person or a great Christmas bonus for your employees? Let me recommend Chamber Gift Certificates, available at the chamber office in increments of \$10. They are redeemable at 46 local businesses. Give a great gift and keep the money at home! Give us a call at 683-5511 or stop by for details.

Help us honor the Montana Youth Challenge Program cadets. Please join us on Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room in the Swysgood Technology Center on the University of Montana-Western campus, as we honor the service to our community of Class XI. If the MYCP cadets have helped your organizations we would like for you to be part of the party. Give us a call and we'll share our ideas with you.

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, don't miss the Christmas play, "The Missing List", at the Old Depot Theatre at 7:00 p.m. both evenings. The stores will be open late Friday night for your shopping needs. Christmas drawing will be at 8:00 p.m. on Friday at the corner of Bannack and Idaho streets. Don't miss out!

Remember to shop local this holiday season. Support the merchants who support your community all year long.

Extension Tips

By J.P. Tanner, County Extension Agent

Stress of winter on beef cattle

To compensate for cold stress in your beef herd you can implement one of the following two management strategies. One method is to provide shelter for your beef cattle, which helps the cows maintain on the same amount of energy. The second method is to increase your cattle's intake of energy to help them withstand cold temperatures. In some cases a combination of both management techniques maybe needed.

The factors that create stress during the winter months are cold, wind, snow, rain, and mud. However, in Southwestern Montana cold temperatures are the obvious stress factor. Healthy cattle with average condition and hair coat optimize weight gain in the thermo neutral zone of 20-30 degrees F.

Most research shows that protein, mineral, and vitamin needs are not altered during cold weather. With this being said, adjusting your feed rations for the cold is a matter of increasing energy to compensate for increased maintenance needs due to heat loss.

A few suggestions for dealing with winter stress are: First, provide shelter to reduce wind, moisture, and mud. Second, construct feedlots on south facing slopes where moisture conditions are lower. Third, adjust energy in rations to match expected performance. Fourth provide animals dry bedding during severe cold weather. In conclusion cattle will have reduced performance if action is not taken to compensate for winter cold stress.

The programs of MSU Extension Service are available to all people regardless of race, creed, sex, disability, or national origin.

The information for this article was taken from the Cattle Producer's Library.

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<p>2004 CHEVY 3/4 T Crew Cab 4x4 HD Chassis, LT Trim, Leather Seating, 6000 V8, Auto Transmission, Loaded. Retail \$41,224 SN 1-1117 Year End Savings Price \$37,187⁶⁴</p> <p>\$413²⁰ Mo.</p>	<p>2004 CHEVY 3/4 T Crew Cab 4x4 6000 V8, 5 Speed Manual, HD Trailer Pkg, XM Radio, U.S. Trim, Trailer Equipment. Retail \$37,103 SN 1-1117 Year End Savings Price \$32,693⁷⁷</p> <p>\$363²⁶ Mo.</p>

*Payments are based on Year End Savings Price less 20% down, either cash or trade, 0% APR for 72 months... on approved credit.

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