



## HUNTING SEASON SETTING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In years past, FWP would propose “tentative” hunting seasons and season structures—from general regulations to types of special permits offered in specific areas—and then ask hunters to comment on the proposals.

This year, FWP will more formally ask you first to list or suggest things you’d like to see changed or considered for any upcoming big game or upland game bird hunting season—before FWP develops tentative regulation proposals.

“Montanans are passionate about hunting and represent a vast resource of ideas, choices and preferences,” said Quentin Kujala, FWP’s wildlife management section chief. “We want to hear what hunters are thinking early in Montana’s hunting season setting process. It’s just good business to seek their suggestions before we develop proposals.”

Kujala said FWP will provide hunters with opportunities beginning Aug. 4 to offer suggestions online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)—and a number of public open houses will also be scheduled throughout the state.

Proposals that emerge for the 2010 and 2011 hunting seasons will be presented to the FWP Commission in December with additional public comments on the proposals set for January.

“Hunters have a real opportunity to help shape Montana’s future hunting seasons,” Kujala said. “FWP will consider any proposal to see if it’s something that can or should be carried forward. Our hope is to build stronger relationships, more rewarding hunting experiences, and a better season-setting process by tapping more into some of the local wisdom of hunters and others interested in effective wildlife management.”

Kujala said the best way to comment on any big game or upland game bird season is to visit FWP’s Web site at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)—click “Season Setting Suggestions” – or mail written comments to: Hunting Season Setting Suggestions; Montana FWP Wildlife Bureau; P.O. Box 200701; Helena, MT 59620-0701. The comment deadline is 5 p.m., Sept. 4.