

**MSU Wild Sheep Foundation Kevin Hurley Wild Sheep Biology Award
Internship Job Announcement**

[September 21, 2020]

Project Description: Develop and populate a database of hunting permit history (1950s to 2020) for bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goats for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP). This project will require locating and synthesizing hunting regulations that are both non-digital (the early years) and digital. This may also require a visit or two to the Helena MFWP HQ and/or the FWP Research Library in the FWP Bozeman office where some non-digital data is stored. This database will need to be designed to be used for tabulating similar information for other big game species, where possible.

Data fields that need to be tabulated include (but are not limited to): types of licenses (either sex, legal ram, ewe, etc.), season dates, and different season types. Montana is the only state in the lower 48 that has unlimited (“over-the-counter”) hunting seasons for bighorn sheep. Unlimited hunt districts have changed over the years, including modification(s) of hunting district boundaries, legal ram definition, season length and timing, etc. It will be valuable to include narratives that describe universal changes in regulations. Some data has already been compiled; however, there is still no comprehensive database.

Although this is not a field project, this work will immerse the student in the management history and current management status of bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goats in Montana. It will also provide the student with opportunities to closely engage with MFWP wildlife professionals, including FWP’s Chief of Game Management, and to Wild Sheep Foundation Conservation Directors.

Project Need: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has had neither the time nor the personnel to create/populate this database. It is becoming increasingly important to understand the changes in hunting opportunity that have occurred over the years. Hunting opportunity reflects population status in providing sustainable harvest. Understanding changes in hunting opportunity, reflected in number of permits issued annually at statewide and at hunting district levels, will help develop priorities and strengthen justifications for future funding and the conservation and management of these two species. These data will also provide perspective to hunters and other stakeholders of the priorities for dedicating funding and effort towards these two species.

Anticipated Hourly Wage: This project is envisioned to require up to 120 hours of work, to be paid at \$12.00/hour wage. Starting date of internship is negotiable but should begin no later than late Oct. 2020 with the project completed no later than April 15, 2021.

Minimum Qualifications: Applicants must be at least an upper-level undergraduate student at MSU. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft EXCEL; proficiency in Microsoft ACCESS would be considered a bonus qualification. Preference will be given to students enrolled in a natural resource major.

Project Supervisor: Brian Wakeling, Game Management Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena.

The student will work directly with and under the guidance of Brian Wakeling. Brian will provide direction on details for this project. In addition, Kurt Alt, Conservation Director, Montana and International Programs, Wild Sheep Foundation, will provide as-needed support, at Brian's request, in understanding regulation changes, including unlimited hunting district changes, etc.

Application: Prepare a single document that includes your resume, major, current GPA, and a 1-page narrative describing your interest in this position and how it would help you attain your career goals. Send the document as a pdf with the file name convention HurleyInternship-(your last name).pdf to rgarrott@montana.edu no later than Oct 12, 2020.