



## December Newsletter

# Changes Coming for Nonresident Big Game Licenses in Montana

Written By: Jeff Wiley

On November 2, 2010, Montana voters passed Montana Hunter Access Funding Initiative No. 161, also known as I-161 with 58.8 % of the vote. I-161 revises the laws related to nonresident big game and deer hunting licenses. It abolishes the 5,500 outfitter-sponsored nonresident big game licenses (nonresident guaranteed tags) and places them in the nonresident general draw. The initiative also increases the nonresident big game combination license fee from \$628 to \$897 and the nonresident deer combination license fee from \$328 to \$527. The initiative allocates a share of the proceeds from these nonresident hunting license fees to provide hunting access and preserve and restore habitat. I-161 is expected to increase state revenues over the next four years by an estimated \$700,000 annually for hunting access and an estimated \$1.5 million annually for habitat preservation and restoration, assuming that all nonresident hunting licenses are sold.



For those who have been following Initiative 161, you realize it is a controversial topic and has an impact that has yet to be determined. Increasing revenue for the state and programs like Block Management, increasing access to public lands and the affect on the Montana outfitting industry are highly debated. What we do know is that for Montana landowners who have a main residence in another state, the ability to secure an elk license has been affected. In Montana, a nonresident hunter wanting to hunt on private lands must contract with a licensed Montana outfitter and secure a guaranteed outfitter-sponsored nonresident licenses. In 2010 a nonresident outfitter sponsored elk combination fee was \$995. A nonresident hunter wanting to hunt on public lands would enter the general draw for one of the 11,500 deer and elk license. Now, hunters will not be guaranteed elk tags through an outfitter, to hunt their own property. I-161 requires hunters to enter the general nonresident draw process. The total number of nonresident big game licenses will increase from 11,500 to 17,000 in 2011 and the fee of \$897 is less than the old outfitter-sponsored license.

It should be noted that newly elected Rep. Bill Harris, R-Mosby, has requested the drafting of a bill to rescind the measure (I-161). We will follow this and provide information as warranted. We encourage you all to understand Initiative 161 and the possible impact on your Montana elk hunting. [Click here](#) for a link with a good overview, as well as the [Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks site](#).

## Live Water Properties Welcomes John Merritt to the Jackson Hole Office

Growing up in northwest Georgia, John Merritt established a love for the outdoors at a young age. Whether camping near Jack's River falls or fishing for largemouth bass in Mill Creek, John was constantly outside. His passion for fly fishing started in a small pond full of bream and crappie, though his pursuit of trout began on the Davidson River in North Carolina. John's first western experience was in 2001, when traveling to fish the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park and the famous



Madison River. John attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating with a degree in Environmental Sciences. His studies led him to research the salmon of the Kwethluk River in Alaska and the sea trout of the Rio Grande in southern Argentina. John has also been fortunate enough to fish New Zealand and Belize. Domestically, John worked for an environmental consulting firm in North Carolina focusing on wetland and stream work. His enthusiasm for fly fishing took hold, and he jumped at the opportunity to move west to Jackson Hole. He guided fly fishing trips at 3 Creek Ranch for three years, learning the intricacies of fishing for large native cutthroat trout in gin clear water. He managed the Orvis Store of Jackson Hole, gaining knowledge of the retail fly fishing industry. John is extremely excited to be working for Live Water Properties. He is currently living and exploring Jackson Hole with his wife, Ashley. John will be working directly with Alex Maher on ranch transactions.

## **SOLD! G Hanging Dash Ranch - Twin Bridges, Montana**

- World class fishery located at the confluence of four famous Montana rivers: the Beaverhead, the Big Hole, the Jefferson River, and the Ruby Rivers

- Over 20 miles of fishing plus 4 spring creeks

- A true legacy ranch, only 2 owners in its 140-year history

- Historic improvements restored to enhance the property

- Abundant wildlife with excellent hunting for Whitetail deer, some of the best hunting in the state

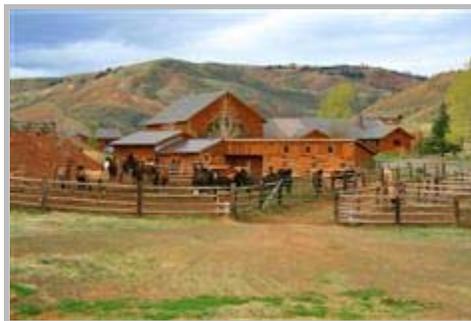
- Live Water Properties represented the Buyer on the sale of this ranch



**Offering Price was \$32,500,000**

## **SOLD! Little Horse Creek Retreat - Dubois, Wyoming**

Located five miles from the charming mountain town of Dubois, Wyoming, this unique offering is comprised of 220 acres. Situated along Little Horse Creek, the ranch has a full set of improvements and is perfect for a corporate or family retreat, guest ranch or high-end RV park. Improvements on the ranch include a guest lodge complete with dining room, commercial kitchen, saloon and library and one and two bedroom cabins that accommodate a total of 24 guests. In addition, the property boasts two houses perfect for employees, an office, barn, two heated shops and several outbuildings. Little Horse Creek Retreat enjoys stunning views as it sits in the shadows of the Absaroka and Wind River Mountain Ranges. This Wyoming ranch for sale is nestled in a valley and borders BLM lands on two sides, increasing exposure to thousands of acres for an incoming owner to explore while hiking, biking and riding on horseback. Deer, elk, and antelope can be found year round, and trailheads into the Shoshone National Forest and Washakie Wilderness Area are just minutes up the road. Hunters come from all over to hunt the public lands surrounding the property. Little Horse Creek Retreat is ready to accommodate ranch guests, hunters, equestrian and outdoor enthusiasts; anyone who enjoys the wild West will be enamored by Little Horse Creek Retreat.



**Offering Price was \$1,800,000**



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866.734.6100

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