

**A FUTURING APPROACH TO ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT
FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS' WILDLIFE
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ^{TWS}**

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In 1991, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) initiated a review of its Wildlife Program. This review includes preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) covering all of MFWP's wildlife-related actions. This EIS is expected to provide guidance for future environmental reviews and program compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act. Fish, Wildlife and Parks identified 13 issues relevant to managing the state's wildlife and associated recreation. The process of developing alternatives to address these issues has taken several turns since mid 1993. The initial proposed action, intended to "manage wildlife with a focus on ecological systems...", failed to

adequately address many of the issues. That process was replaced by one in which alternatives were represented along a continuum of management emphasis such as game species vs. all wildlife, public trust vs. privatization, etc. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is now using scenario planning to develop alternatives that address technological, social, and economic forces that affect MFWP's decisions and actions. Some of these forces are predetermined while others are shrouded with uncertainty. These "predetermined elements" and "critical uncertainties" are the building blocks for scenarios that provide insight into what may shape a probable future.