

Deer hunting season extended for sake of c

By The Daily Inter Lake and the Associated Press

NA — The Montana Fish and Game Commission Wednesday extended deer hunting in the Flathead Valley plagued by game damage. It turned down a proposal to allow hunters in a shotgun and archery hunting

Brandewie, state legislator and Bigfork tree grower, presented to the commission proposals for reducing the number of deer in Blaine, Creston and Echo Lake area. He said that does and their fawns are ravaging tree farms in the area, causing damage at \$320,000 so far this year.

Commission granted Brandewie's request to either-sex season to all five weeks for the

northern portion of Hunting District 130 along the Swan Mountains.

"Not every deer out there is grazing on the trees, but you don't find out which ones are until late November," he said. "You could save yourself a lot of grief if you could kill that one doe."

The commission rejected, for this year, Brandewie's proposal for a muzzleloading season in Hunting District 170, because it would require sudden elimination of the archery season there. The district is the populated area ringed by U.S. 93 on the west, Montana 206 and 35 on the east, and Montana 40 on the north.

But the commission agreed with a Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks proposal to extend hunting in district 170 until Dec. 31, and granted extra "Deer B" tags for the area.

At the same meeting, the commission reduced the

number of permits for drawings by deer hunters in Montana to about half of last year's total, and increased elk permits by 20 percent.

About 55,000 deer "B" tags will be available this year, compared with 107,000 last year. Drawings for 133,000 elk permits are planned, while the 1984 total was 111,000.

Arnie Olsen, administrator of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Wildlife Division, said the decline in deer permits reflects a declining population of whitetail and mule deer caused by hot, dry weather.

"The deer range is in bad shape. A lot of deer are not in excellent condition, and reproduction levels are down," Olsen explained.

The lack of spring moisture and continuing drought sapped much vegetation of its nutrition, especially critical for pregnant does and their new fawns, he said.

That has created a deer to resort to crop said.

Elk have fared better in Montana, which has portions, he said, as practices have bolstered levels.

The number of antelope permits is the same as last year, but the antelope population the harvest last year was down," Olsen said.

In other business archery season for the overpopulation of deer motorists and damage

Attend hearing on Kalispell budget

Eight people, including employees, attended the city Council's public hearing on the city's \$2,235,033, 1985-86 budget.

Annual peruser of the public works department, Colin Wills, dominated the budget. Wills was the city's \$19,000 contribution to the county planning the growth of the city department.

Wills criticized the city's plan to build a new fire hall for office space and a more room you get in it, the more room you said.

Wills said that city tax payers pay 5 mills less than 108.9 mills. The first 4.58 mills on the general bond for the repair of the Pool brings the general to 103.9 mills.

The council is anticipating asking to approve a 5-mill, two-for-a-new fire truck.

Mayor McDowell said one of the top priorities for next year is to be the payment on bonds to the city airport. The runway cost \$165,000, to be paid with the sale of 2 city-owned property near the airport.

Wills said he has never sold, and is paying 6 percent annual interest on the registered warrants for the improvements.

Mayor Patrick M. Springer said he should create a municipal board to replace the advisory board. He said he believed, with authority for the board, would be more responsible.

Seminar set for world's park officials

INTERNATIONAL PARK — Park officials from 37 different countries will gather in Kalispell Aug. 17-19 for a national seminar on parks.

Those attending will be directors of national park or agencies in Western and Middle East nations, said Alan Brandewie, Kalispell Park superintendent.

Brandewie will just miss U.S. Secretary Donald Hodel, who is in Kalispell Aug. 16 after a three-day seminar will include a day of park and concession facilities as well as working with Glacier officials deal

Glacier trail is inviting to disabled

By KAREN FORD

Though outdoor recreational possibilities for the handicapped are limited, there are a few places in the Flathead Valley that are accessible.

One of the most popular is Glacier National Park's Trail of the Cedars, a paved corridor through the forested area near Avalanche Creek. The trail, which was completed last month, will be officially dedicated by Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel on Wednesday during his visit to the park.

Glacier Park planner Bob Dunkley said more people than just those traditionally thought of as handicapped will benefit from the trail, including the elderly and families with small children.

The cedars trail has been in the works for the past five years, he said, explaining that part of it was an old campground loop that was too close to the creek.

The last asphalt section of the 3/4 mile trail was added two or three weeks ago, he said.

Elsewhere in Glacier Park, Dunkley said the visitor's center at Apgar was remodeled this spring to provide handicapped access.

One of the park's greatest shortcomings on access is overnight accommodations, he said. There are none available now, but the park service has proposed that a total of 26 rooms at the lodges and motor inns be made accessible.

The closest accessible rooms to the park are at the Ol' River Bridge Inn in Columbia Heights, he said.

At Swan Lake, the picnic area, campground and fishing access were renovated with the handicapped in mind, according to Beth Burren of the Forest Service.

Improvements such as paved paths and extended picnic tables that wheelchair users can slip under are plentiful, she said. Any new toilet facilities in Forest Service areas that the handicapped might visit are equipped for their use, she said.

Kalispell's re-modeled Bruckhauser Swimming Pool at Woodland Park will be accessible to the handicapped, as will new public restrooms there, according to Pieter Drent, city parks director.

Dunkley said the park would also like to make the area just above the visitor center at Logan Pass accessible to the handicapped so that they can enjoy an alpine environment.

Since the area already gets heavy traffic, some extra development of special trails for the disabled would have a relatively small environmental impact, he said.

While there are ramps to the visitor center now, they have grades of 16-25 percent, he said. The maximum grade allowed on a wheelchair ramp is 5 percent.



Photo By Rick Hull

LARRY McMillan, vice president of the Disabled Recreation and Environmental Access Movement, tests hotels and restaurants for accessibility to the handicapped. At a local motel, he tests to see if there is room for a person's legs to go underneath the bathroom sink.

DREAM

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Their common dream is to make Montana as "Naturally Inviting" to the disabled as it is to others, and make this a popular vacation destination for the handicapped.

DREAM's first project is a handicapped access guide to the Flathead Valley, which is expected to be available this December.

Larry McMillan, vice president of DREAM and a Kalispell businessman who has been a paraplegic since a motorcycle accident 21 years ago, will test the accessibility of many of the hotels, restaurants and attractions in the area for the guide.

Bob Liston, a paraplegic who is coordinator of the state's handicapped employment program, said that while architects and

engineers have good intentions about accessibility, they often fall short in actual use.

"In a lot of cases they don't get what I call the expert opinion," he said. "They just say it looks like it's accessible."

Maitland said she hopes an access guide to the entire state can be published sometime soon.

DREAM will also have a booth at the Northwest Montana Fair that will feature a wheelchair obstacle course, with a series of common stumbling blocks including curbs, doorways and gravel. The group hopes the course will make people who try it more aware of how frustrating life in a wheelchair can be.

In addition, a charity golf tournament is planned for next spring, Maitland said.

While all new public buildings are required to provide access, the groups will encourage private business people to incorporate ramps and handrails into their construction plans. The cost of such changes are usually small, but mean a lot to handicapped customers, McMillan said.

Renovations to existing buildings are also hoped for, but are much more expensive, he said.

Though a stairway can usually be converted into a ramp at minimal costs, an elevator can cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000, according to Liston.

Inaccessible restrooms are probably the most frustrating feature of older buildings, McMillan said.