

Daniels County is grateful for this acknowledgement of the difficulties our unique county is experiencing due to its percentage of state land. Other states' protocol with a Quiet Season terminates all bird dog training on young wild coveys, so MT stands alone in offering this limited and questionable activity. The past three years have seen unprecedented growth of large bird dog training businesses flood our area as soon as mid-July on private lands. Pushing the "season" for such activity on public lands back to Sept 1st would affect the length of the pressure we feel on public lands.

We SUPPORT the Amendment to push the Non-Resident Bird Dog Training season back to Sept 1st.

Perhaps this adjustment will cause large commercial entities to reconsider whether it is worth it to travel across the United States for sure a shortened amount of time to train on our state land. There exists strong concern over resident hunter and non-resident trainer interactions with the proposal stating they are to both start on September 1st. Perhaps Resident MT Public Lands hunters deserve the ability to hunt without non-Resident Brid Dog Training pressure? Based on our years of experience, we strongly suspect that it would be ideal to have all Non-Resident activity (hunting and bird dog training) begin on the same day (both on September 15th?), thereby mitigating the chance of negative interactions and disappointment.

Needless to say, we remain relieved, hopeful, and grateful. Daniels County finds itself in a precarious situation every fall with hunting and training on Montana's public lands...we are overwhelmed, and tension runs high. Thank for you considering ways to help us attain some control over the use and abuse of our public lands.

Alycia Nathe, Daniels County Landowner, leaseholder, farmer & rancher