2012 Spring Turkey

Montana Hunting Regulations

These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) per MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013. These regulations were adopted by the FWPC on February 16, 2012. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Joe Maurier, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Licenses

The following licenses are available at all FWP offices, FWP website and FWP license providers throughout the state. Exception: special permits may be applied for only online, at an FWP office or by mailed-in application.

License	Requirements	Cost
Conservation	Required prerequisite. Note: Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older, or holders of a Disabled Resident Conservation License, need only the conservation license and a valid turkey license to hunt turkey.	$8 Resident $10 Nonresident
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	Required prerequisite - Annual fee charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license.	$2 Resident $10 Nonresident
Spring Turkey	Available to resident and nonresident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt spring turkey. Limit: two per hunter (see “Limit” page 3 for details.)	$6.50 Resident Each $115 Nonresident Each OR $55 Each to Nonresident holders of an Upland Game Bird license.
Upland Game Bird	Required prerequisite for residents.	$7.50 Resident $110 Nonresident
Youth Upland Game Bird	Available to resident conservation license holders 15-17 years of age.	$3 Resident
Nonresident Youth Upland Game Bird & Migratory Bird	Available to nonresident youth 12-15 years of age.	$35 Nonresident
Special Permits	Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. MST March 8 - see page 6.	$5 Resident/Nonresident non-refundable drawing fee

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Offices

Telephone Device for the Deaf – 406-444-1200

State Headquarters
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-2535

Region 1
490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

Region 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500

Region 3
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-994-4042

Helena Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
406-495-3260

Butte Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953

Region 4
4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

Lewistown Area Res Office (LARO)
215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

Region 6
54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

Havre Area Res Office (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

Region 7
352 I-94 Business Loop
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0900

General Regulations

Access –

- **Private Land Access –** Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit nris.mt.gov/gis for assistance with land ownership.
- **Railroad Access –** Railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission.
- **State School Trust Lands –**
  - A $2 fee paid when you purchase your conservation license provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to legally accessible State School Trust Lands.
  - Overnight (2 night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a legal access point.
  - Horses may not be kept on state land overnight.

- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on roads designated as open.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits.
- Firearms may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of an inhabited dwelling or outbuilding without permission of the inhabitant.
- Additional information is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

- **Tribal Land –** Hunters hunting on Indian reservations should check Indian reservation regulations because allowable species, season dates, shooting hours and/or bag limits may differ from state regulations.

Check Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Evidence of Sex – No person shall transport within the state any turkey taken during the spring turkey gobbler season unless one leg and foot are left naturally attached for evidence of sex. The leg and foot shall remain attached at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the permanent residence of the possessor.

Hunter Education – All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Hunting Hours – One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Refer to the sunrise/sunset tables in these regulations.

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt <u>any game animal or game bird</u>:

- from any self-propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle. Even if the vehicle is not moving, hunters must be off or out of the vehicle. Holders of a Permit To Hunt From A Vehicle are the exception to this;
- from, on or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway; or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait, as per Montana law. (Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction. Nothing shall prohibit the taking of birds over standing crops or harvested cropland or grains scattered as a result of agricultural harvesting.)
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate illegal activity.

Limit – See license chart for cost per turkey license. The total combined harvest limit of the spring and fall seasons cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter. For example, if you kill two turkeys during the spring season, you may not hunt turkey during the fall season. To harvest two turkeys during the spring season, hunters must take at least one turkey in administrative Region 7. See the fall Upland Game Birds (available in early August) for fall season bag limits.

Turkey hunters may use one of the following options to harvest a turkey during the spring season:

- harvest one male turkey in a general hunting area or a special permit area; or
- harvest two male turkeys in administrative Region 7; or
- harvest one male turkey in a general hunting area or a special permit area and one male turkey in administrative Region 7.

Means of Taking –

- a shotgun not larger than a ten gauge,
- a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow,
- non-toxic shot for all game bird hunting on Ninepipe and Pablo Wildlife Management Areas.
- prohibited methods or devices in taking game birds and animals:
  - the use of poisonous, explosive, or deleterious substances on or in any bullet, projectile or arrow is prohibited,
  - the possession of firearms with silencers while afield.

Recorded Animal or Bird Sounds – It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls, sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals, as per Montana law.

Tagging –

- Immediately after harvesting a turkey, hunters are required to validate the license.
- To properly validate a license (sometimes referred to as a tag):
  - the triangles denoting the month and day the animal was killed must be completely removed. Tearing, slicing or punching the tag is not legal.
- Affix the license to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

Two-way Communication – Two-way communication may not be used to:

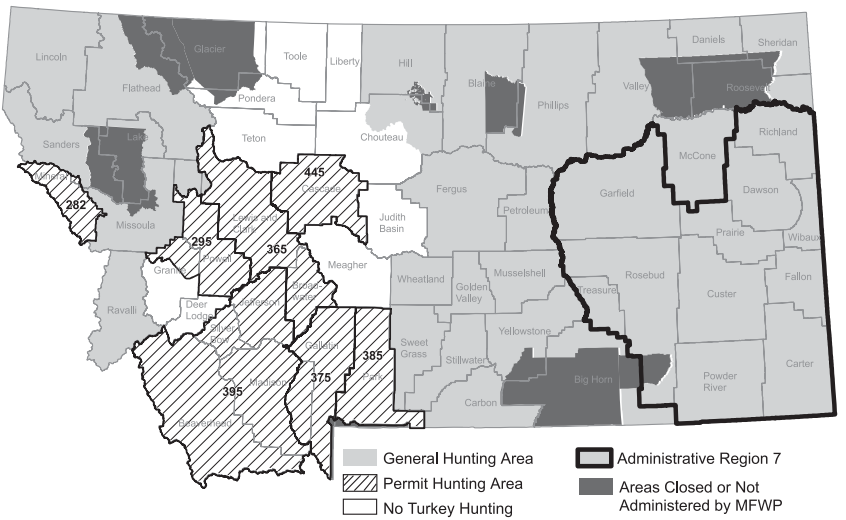
- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds or furbearers as defined in Montana law. “Hunt” means to “pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture”.

Wanton Waste – It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are turkey parts suitable for food: breasts, thighs and wings.

Defensive Turkey-Hunting Tactics

- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit.
- Select your calling spot in open timber.
- It's a good idea to wear hunter orange when carrying a bird out of the field.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up--look out; there's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence; remain still, cough or holler.

General Hunting District Map



Statewide General Hunting Season and Areas

Open to all hunters who hold a valid Turkey License for the appropriate season.

General Hunting Areas (includes Administrative Region 7)

- April 14 - May 20 — Male Wild Turkey. Spring Statewide Season. Shotgun/Archery only.

General Hunting Areas includes: Lincoln, Flathead, Missoula, Ravalli, Lake and Sanders counties AND the following counties or portion of counties and all counties lying east of these: Hill, portion of Chouteau, Fergus, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, and Carbon.

Administrative Region 7 includes: Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties.

Special Permit Application Process

- Applicants must hold a 2012 Conservation License at the time of applying for a special spring male turkey permit.
- Applicants may apply for only one special spring male turkey permit and in only one area of the state.
- Hunters must possess a special spring male turkey permit, in conjunction with a valid spring turkey license, to hunt in special spring male turkey permit hunting areas.
- The special spring male turkey permit allows the hunter to hunt in the described area during the time period specified on the permit.

Hunters may apply for a special spring male turkey permit:

- online at fwp.mt.gov no later than 11:45 p.m. MST on March 8, OR
- over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters no later than 5 p.m. MST March 8, OR
- by mail. Mailed applications must include the $5 nonrefundable drawing fee and must be received by FWP Helena Headquarters no later than 5 p.m. MST March 8. Applications are available at all FWP regional and FWP area offices or may be downloaded from the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov.
- Successful special spring male turkey permit applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring turkey license before hunting.

Special Permit Hunting Areas – Drawing Only. Apply by March 8

Region 2

Applicants must apply for one of two areas: Mineral County or Powell and a Portion of Granite Counties.

---------- Mineral County ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.
282-20: 100 permits. Valid in Mineral County.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

---------- Powell and a Portion of Granite Counties. ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.
295-20: 5 permits. Valid in Powell and portion of Granite Counties.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

Portion of Granite County: ONLY that portion of Granite County that is NORTH of the following described line shall be open to the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season: Beginning at Cleveland Mountain and the head of Welcome Creek, then southeast down said creek to Rock Creek, then north along Rock Creek to its junction with Brewster Creek, then easterly along said creek to Sliderock Mountain and the head of Eightmile Creek, then easterly along said creek to its junction with the 500 KV Bonneville Power Line, then southeast along said power line to the Granite-Powell County line.

Region 3

Applicants must apply for one of four areas: Broadwater and Lewis & Clark counties, Gallatin County and Portion of Madison County, Park County, or Beaverhead, Jefferson and Silver Bow counties and a Portion of Madison County.

---------- Broadwater and Lewis & Clark Counties ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.

365-20: 20 permits. Valid in Broadwater and Lewis & Clark Counties.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

365-21: 2 permits. Valid in Broadwater and Lewis & Clark Counties. Only youth ages 12-15.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

---------- Gallatin and Portion of Madison Counties ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.

375-20: 15 permits. Valid in Gallatin County and Madison County east of the Madison River.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

375-21: 2 permits. Valid in Gallatin County and Madison County east of the Madison River. Only youth ages 12-15.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

---------- Park County ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.

385-20: 20 permits. Valid in Park County.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

385-21: 2 permits. Valid in Park County. Only youth ages 12-15.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

----- Beaverhead, Jefferson, Silver Bow, and a Portion of Madison Counties -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.

395-20: 35 permits. Beaverhead, Jefferson, Silver Bow Counties and portions of Madison County west of the Madison River.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

395-21: 5 permits. Beaverhead, Jefferson, Silver Bow Counties and portions of Madison County west of the Madison River. Only youth ages 12-15.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

Region 4

---------- Cascade County ----------

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by March 8.

445-20: 10 permits.

- Apr 14 - May 20 – Male Wild Turkey. Shotgun/Archery only.

2012 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for spring turkey hunting in Montana. **(Do not utilize from other sources)**.

ZONE 1

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

ZONE 4

INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties

ZONE 1

	Apr		May	
Day	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:14	8:06	6:20	8:47
02	7:12	8:07	6:18	8:48
03	7:10	8:09	6:17	8:50
04	7:08	8:10	6:15	8:51
05	7:06	8:12	6:14	8:52
06	7:04	8:13	6:12	8:54
07	7:02	8:14	6:11	8:55
08	7:01	8:16	6:10	8:56
09	6:59	8:17	6:08	8:57
10	6:57	8:18	6:07	8:59
11	6:55	8:20	6:05	9:00
12	6:53	8:21	6:04	9:01
13	6:51	8:22	6:03	9:03
14	6:49	8:24	6:02	9:04
15	6:47	8:25	6:00	9:05
16	6:46	8:27	5:59	9:06
17	6:44	8:28	5:58	9:07
18	6:42	8:29	5:57	9:09
19	6:40	8:31	5:56	9:10
20	6:38	8:32	5:55	9:11
21	6:37	8:33	5:54	9:12
22	6:35	8:35	5:53	9:13
23	6:33	8:36	5:52	9:14
24	6:31	8:38	5:51	9:15
25	6:30	8:39	5:50	9:16
26	6:28	8:40	5:49	9:18
27	6:26	8:42	5:49	9:19
28	6:25	8:43	5:48	9:20
29	6:23	8:44	5:47	9:20
30	6:21	8:46	5:46	9:21
31			5:46	9:22

ZONE 2

	Apr		May	
Day	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:06	7:58	6:13	8:38
02	7:05	7:59	6:11	8:40
03	7:03	8:01	6:10	8:41
04	7:01	8:02	6:08	8:42
05	6:59	8:03	6:07	8:44
06	6:57	8:05	6:05	8:45
07	6:55	8:06	6:04	8:46
08	6:53	8:07	6:02	8:48
09	6:51	8:09	6:01	8:49
10	6:49	8:10	6:00	8:50
11	6:47	8:11	5:58	8:51
12	6:46	8:13	5:57	8:53
13	6:44	8:14	5:56	8:54
14	6:42	8:16	5:55	8:55
15	6:40	8:17	5:53	8:56
16	6:38	8:18	5:52	8:57
17	6:36	8:20	5:51	8:59
18	6:35	8:21	5:50	9:00
19	6:33	8:22	5:49	9:01
20	6:31	8:24	5:48	9:02
21	6:29	8:25	5:47	9:03
22	6:28	8:26	5:46	9:04
23	6:26	8:28	5:45	9:05
24	6:24	8:29	5:44	9:07
25	6:22	8:30	5:43	9:08
26	6:21	8:32	5:42	9:09
27	6:19	8:33	5:42	9:10
28	6:17	8:34	5:41	9:11
29	6:16	8:36	5:40	9:12
30	6:14	8:37	5:40	9:12
31			5:39	9:13

ZONE 3

	Apr		May	
Day	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	6:56	7:48	6:01	8:29
02	6:54	7:49	6:00	8:31
03	6:52	7:51	5:58	8:32
04	6:50	7:52	5:57	8:33
05	6:48	7:53	5:55	8:35
06	6:46	7:55	5:54	8:36
07	6:44	7:56	5:52	8:37
08	6:42	7:58	5:51	8:39
09	6:40	7:59	5:49	8:40
10	6:38	8:00	5:48	8:41
11	6:36	8:02	5:47	8:42
12	6:34	8:03	5:45	8:44
13	6:33	8:04	5:44	8:45
14	6:31	8:06	5:43	8:46
15	6:29	8:07	5:42	8:47
16	6:27	8:09	5:40	8:49
17	6:25	8:10	5:39	8:50
18	6:23	8:11	5:38	8:51
19	6:22	8:13	5:37	8:52
20	6:20	8:14	5:36	8:53
21	6:18	8:16	5:35	8:55
22	6:16	8:17	5:34	8:56
23	6:14	8:18	5:33	8:57
24	6:13	8:20	5:32	8:58
25	6:11	8:21	5:31	8:59
26	6:09	8:22	5:30	9:00
27	6:08	8:24	5:29	9:01
28	6:06	8:25	5:29	9:02
29	6:04	8:26	5:28	9:03
30	6:03	8:28	5:27	9:04
31			5:27	9:05

ZONE 4

	Apr		May	
Day	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	6:42	7:33	5:48	8:13
02	6:40	7:34	5:47	8:14
03	6:38	7:36	5:45	8:16
04	6:36	7:37	5:44	8:17
05	6:34	7:38	5:42	8:18
06	6:32	7:40	5:41	8:20
07	6:30	7:41	5:40	8:21
08	6:29	7:42	5:38	8:22
09	6:27	7:44	5:37	8:23
10	6:25	7:45	5:36	8:25
11	6:23	7:46	5:34	8:26
12	6:21	7:48	5:33	8:27
13	6:19	7:49	5:32	8:28
14	6:17	7:50	5:30	8:30
15	6:16	7:52	5:29	8:31
16	6:14	7:53	5:28	8:32
17	6:12	7:54	5:27	8:33
18	6:10	7:56	5:26	8:34
19	6:08	7:57	5:25	8:36
20	6:07	7:59	5:24	8:37
21	6:05	8:00	5:23	8:38
22	6:03	8:01	5:22	8:39
23	6:01	8:03	5:21	8:40
24	6:00	8:04	5:20	8:41
25	5:58	8:05	5:19	8:42
26	5:56	8:07	5:18	8:43
27	5:55	8:08	5:18	8:44
28	5:53	8:09	5:17	8:45
29	5:52	8:10	5:16	8:46
30	5:50	8:12	5:15	8:47
31			5:15	8:48

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