

License Validation and Tagging

- A hunter must cut out the proper month and day of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the animal before the carcass is removed from the site of the kill, or before the hunter leaves the site of the kill.
- 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 cut out and removed.
 - The properly validated license must remain with the meat (including cold storage) until consumed.



Waste of Game

- Hunters, or persons in possession of a game animal or game animal parts, are prohibited from wasting or rendering unfit for human consumption, any part of a game animal that is defined as "suitable for food".
- For game animals (excluding mountain lions), all of the four quarters above the hock, including loin and backstrap are considered suitable for food.

Weapons Restriction Areas

Weapons restrictions are in effect in some hunting districts. Such restrictions are stated in the license/permit description and/or with a specific date range.

The following equipment restrictions apply to Weapons Restriction Areas:

Archery

See legal archery equipment in the "Lawful Methods of Hunting" section on page 14.

Crossbows

Legal in weapons restriction areas unless exception noted in specific hunting district regulations.

Muzzleloader

- must not be capable of being loaded from the breech of the barrel;
- may not be loaded with any pre-prepared paper or metallic cartridges;
- must be charged with black powder, pyrodex, or an equivalent;
- must be ignited by a percussion, flintlock, matchlock, or wheellock mechanism;
- must be a minimum of .45 caliber;
- may have no more than two barrels; and
- must only use plain lead projectiles.
- Sabots or other similar power and range-enhancing manufactured loads that enclose the projectile from the rifling or bore of the firearm are prohibited. "Skirts" or gas checks on the base of a projectile are acceptable.

Traditional Handguns

- are not capable of being shoulder mounted;
- have a barrel length of less than 10 ½ inches;
- chamber only a straight wall cartridge, not originally developed for rifles.

Shotgun

Must be shouldered, breech-loaded or muzzle-loaded firearm with a smooth bore and/or rifled barrel and/or rifled choke device designed to fire shot or slugs.

Restricted Area Descriptions

Restricted area descriptions include both CLOSED Areas and Weapons Restricted Areas. It is your responsibility to know that you are in a legal hunting area.

BNSF right-of-way from Marias Pass to the Java Creek Bridge: The BNSF right-of-way from Marias Pass to the Java Creek Bridge is closed to hunting.

Beattie Gulch: Subject to closure of all hunting with 24 hours notice : US Forest Service lands located in the following sections north of Yellowstone National Park in Beattie Gulch, Sec. 7 & 8, T9S, R8E and Sections 12 & 13, T9S, R7E.

Bowdoin NWR: Closed to big game hunting. Portions of T31N R31E, T31N R32E, T30N R31E, T30N R32E as posted by refuge regulations. Contact refuge at 654-2863.

Brinkman Game Preserve: The S1/2 Section 7, and E1/2, NE1/4 Section 7, and S1/2 Section 8, and NW 1/4 Section 8, S1/2 Section 9, S1/2 and E1/2, NE 1/4 Section 10. All of sections 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36; all in T29N, R7E, M.P.M. Liberty County.

City of Gardiner No Shooting Zone: Gardiner Hunting Closure; Closed to all hunting: Beginning at the Junction of U.S. Hwy 89 and Little Trail Creek, then up Little Trail Creek to the posted line (approx. 1/2 mile above U.S. Hwy 89), then southeasterly along said line to the Travertine-Trail Creek Road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with the Gardiner-Jardine Road, then northeasterly along said road to Eagle Creek, then southerly down said creek to the YNP boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the intersection with Stevens Creek, then northeasterly in a straight line to the intersection with U.S. Hwy 89, then northwesterly along said highway to the junction of Little Trail Creek, the point of beginning.

Cooke City Moose Closure Area: Beginning at the point where U.S. Highway 212 crosses, the Montana-Yellowstone National Park boundary, then north along said boundary to a point one-half mile north of U. S. Highway 212, then east along a line one-half mile north of said highway and parallel to said highway to the Montana-Wyoming border, then west along this border to the Montana-Yellowstone National Park boundary, then north to the point of beginning.

Deckard Flats: Subject to closure of all hunting with 24 hours notice : Deckard Flats Hunting Closure; Subject to closure of all hunting with 24 hours notice: Beginning at the junction of Yellowstone National Park and Bear Creek, then northeasterly up said creek to the intersection with Palmer Creek, then easterly for 1/10 mile up said creek, then southeasterly to posted line,

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then southeasterly and easterly along posted line to the intersection with Yellowstone National Park boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the intersection with Bear Creek, the point of beginning.

East Ovando Archery-only Area: Those portions of Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 200 with the North Fork of the Blackfoot River, then southwest along said river to the Ovando-Helmville Road, then northwesterly along said Road to Ovando and State Route 200, then easterly along said Route to the North Fork of the Blackfoot River, the point of beginning.

Ennis Airport Weapons Restriction Area: Ennis Airport WRA Boundary Description: Beginning at Intersection of Airport Rd and Hwy 287, east on Airport Rd, then continuing east along south boundary of section 32 to the USFS boundary, then north to north boundary of section 29, then west on north boundaries of sections 29 and 30, then south on west boundary of section 30, then west on north boundary of section 36 to Hwy 287, then south along Hwy 287 to point of beginning.

Flathead Weapons Restriction Area: That portion of Flathead County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 35 and State Route 206, then northerly along State Route 206 to US Highway 2, then westerly along said highway onto State Route 40 to US Highway 93, then south on said Highway to Rocky Cliff Drive, then easterly to Demersville Road, then northerly along said road to Foys Bend Lane, then easterly along said road onto Lower Valley Road to the Bonneville Power Administration powerline at Foys Bend, then northerly along said powerline across the Flathead River to the easterly shore, then up the most easterly shore of said river to State Route 35 (Old Highway 2 bridge), then easterly along said route to its junction with State Route 206, the point of beginning.

Freezout Lake WMA, Teton County: Closed to hunting as posted.

Gallatin Special Management Area: The Gallatin Special Management Area is a combination of the old Bacon Rind/Lodgepole and Buffalo Horn/Lodgepole Units. Those portions of Madison and Gallatin Counties lying within the following boundary description: Beginning at the intersection of US Highway 191 and the north boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then in a northerly direction along said boundary to USFS Trail 57 at Dailey Pass, then in a northwesterly direction along said trail to the headwaters of the South Fork of Buffalo Horn, then down said creek to a posted line that goes along the south side of Cow Flats to its intersection with Buffalo Horn Creek, then down said creek to the Gallatin River, then up said river to Snow Flake Springs and the toe of Snowflake Ridge, then southerly

along said ridge and the Sage Creek-Monument Creek Divide, then along Sage Creek-Snowslide Creek Divide and the Sage Creek-Bacon Rind Divide to the Gallatin Madison Rivers Divide at Redstreak Peak, then southeasterly along said divide to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly along said boundary to the point of beginning.

Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area: Beginning at the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Enders Road, continuing southeast from that intersection along Cottonwood Road, north to South 19th, then east on South 19th to Nash Road, then east on Nash Road to Sourdough Canyon Road, then south on Sourdough Canyon Road, to the National Forest boundary, then east along said boundary to boundary of State Lands Sections 4, 3, 34, 35 and 1 to Bear Canyon Road, then northerly on Bear Canyon Road to the Bear Canyon Interchange with Interstate 90, then northerly to Rocky Creek, northwesterly along Rocky Creek to L Street, then north on L Street to Story Mill Road, then north on Story Mill Road to Deer Creek Drive, northeast on Deer Creek Drive to Lookfar Way, north on Lookfar Way to Rolling Hills Drive, north on Rolling Hills Drive to Sypes Canyon Road, northwesterly on Sypes Canyon Road to Summer Cutoff Road, then Saddle Mountain Road, then east on Saddle Mountain Road to Bostwick Road, then north along Bostwick Road to Baseline East Road, then west on Baseline East Road to Walker Road, then north on Walker Road to Penwell Bridge Road, then west on Penwell Bridge Road to Wes Davis Road, then north and west on Wes Davis Road to Hamilton Road, then west and north on Hamilton Road to Cactus Road, then west on Cactus Road to Highway 290, then south on Highway 290 to Weaver Road, then west on Weaver Road to Highway 10, then northwesterly on Highway 10 to Heeb Road, then south on Heeb Road to Amsterdam Road, east on Amsterdam Road, to Linney Road, south on Linney Road to Cameron Bridge Road, then east on Cameron Bridge Road to River Road, then south on River Road to Highway 84, then east on Highway 84 to Shedd's Bridge, then south up western most channel of the Gallatin River to Gallatin Gateway Bridge, then east on Gallatin Gateway Road to US Highway 191, then south on US Highway 191 to Cottonwood Road, to point of beginning.

NOTE: Sourdough Exclusion Zone from SWRA within HD 309: Beginning at the intersection of Nash and Sourdough Canyon Road, then south on Sourdough Canyon Road to the USFS boundary, then east, north and east along said boundary in Section 8, then along said boundary in Section 8 to the intersection with State Lands in Section 9, then north along the section line of Sections 4 and 5, then west along section line of Sections 5 and 32 to the intersection with

Sourdough Road, then south on Sourdough Road, then west on Nash Road, the point of beginning.

Gardiner: Gardiner Hunting Closure. Closed to all hunting: Beginning at the Junction of U.S. Hwy 89 and Little Trail Creek, then up Little Trail Creek to the posted line (approx. 1/2 mile above U.S. Hwy 89), then southeasterly along said line to the Travertine-Trail Creek Road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with the Gardiner-Jardine Road, then northeasterly along said road to Eagle Creek, then southerly down said creek to the YNP boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the intersection with Stevens Creek, then northeasterly in a straight line to the intersection with U.S. Hwy 89, then northwesterly along said highway to the junction of Little Trail Creek, the point of beginning.

Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve: Beginning in Section 2, T12N, R3W at the southeast corner of Upper Holter Lake, then proceeding westerly along the northern shoreline of Upper Holter Lake in the Gates of the Mountains area located in Lewis and Clark County, then northerly along Stoney Point Beacon Road, then northerly along the powerline to said beacon, then along Bulldozer Road to the point of the ridge in Section 23, T13 N, R3W, then northerly to the Missouri River, then easterly across said river and lake to the USFS boundary to the wilderness boundary, then south along wilderness boundary to the southeast corner of Section 1, T12N, R3W, then west back to Upper Holter Lake, the point of beginning. Intending hereby to include in said game preserve all the territory adjacent of the Gates of the Mountains area, shall be called and known as the Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve.

Grant Kohrs Ranch near Deer Lodge: Closed to all hunting.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir: The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in Lewis and Clark County of the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

Jeffers Weapons Restriction Area: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 287 and the south access to Jeffers Loop road at milepost 47.1, then north along the access road until the junction with Jeffers Loop Road, then easterly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Loop Road South, then northerly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Road, then west along Jeffers Road to its intersection with the entrance to Valley Garden Fishing Access Site, then westerly along the south boundary of the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site to its junction with the west bank of the Madison River, then southwestly along the west bank of the Madison River to its intersection with Highway 287, then southeast along Highway 287 until the point of beginning.

Lee Metcalf Refuge: Legal description, map and regulations available from the Lee Metcalf Refuge, 406-777-5552.

Libby Big Game Archery Only Hunting Area: Restricted to ArchEquip Only. That Portion of Lincoln County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Port Blvd. (the old Stimpson mill site entrance) on the south edge of Libby, then heading east on Port Blvd. to the Champion Haul Road, across Libby Creek on said road to National Forest Road #4813, then southerly on Road #4813 to National Forest Road #533, the Swede Mountain Road, then southerly along said road to the Farm-To-Market Road, then northerly along the Farm-to-Market Road to U.S. Highway 2, then northerly along U.S. Highway 2 to Port Blvd., the point of beginning.

Lincoln Closed Area: Closed to all big game hunting. Section 24, T14N, R9W, shall be closed to big game hunting. This comprises the area around the town of Lincoln.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Portions open to big game hunting per refuge regulations.

Milk River WMA: Hunting by archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader only as posted and as described under current regulations.

Muskrat Valley Weapons Restriction Area: Restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader. That portion of Jefferson County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Boulder, then east along Muskrat Lane to the intersection of Upper Valley Road, then north along said road to the intersection of Sloan Lane, then west along said lane to the Interstate 15 frontage road, then west to Interstate 15, then south along said interstate to Boulder, the point of beginning. Restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader only.

Poindexter Slough FAS south of Dillon: FWP property in sections 26, 27, 34, and 35, T7S, R9W.

Prison Ranch Archery Only Area: The following MCE Ranch lands are open to hunting of big game only with Lawful Archery Equipment as outlined in the hunting regulations provided by Montana FWP: Beginning at the junction of the Old Stage Road (county road) and Elk Ridge Road (Forest Service Road 5149) in Section 22, T8N, R10W and proceeding west along the Elk Ridge Road to the Power Line Road (prison fence line) in the southeast 1/4 of Section 22, T8N, R10W, then south along the Power Line Road (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of the prison fence in Section 28, T7N, R10 W, then east along the south boundary Section 28,

T7N, R10W (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of Section 27, T7N, R10W, then south to the southwest corner of Section 34, T7N, R10W, then east to the southeast corner of Section 34, T7N R10W, then south to the southwest corner of Section 2, T6N, R10W, then east along the prison fence line to the Dempsey Lake Road (county road), then northeasterly along Dempsey Lake Road (prison fence line) to the southeast corner of Section 36 T7N R10W, then north along the prison fence line on east edge of Section 36 and 25, T7N, R10W to corner of the prison fence line in Section 25, T7N, R10W, then east along prison fence line in N2 Section 30, T7N, R9W to the corner of the prison fence line at Lake Hill Road (county road); then north approx. 1/2 mile along the east side of Sections 30 and 19, T7N, R9W to the corner of prison fence line on the eastern edge of Section 19, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence west and northerly in Sections 19 and 18 T7N R9W to the northeast corner of Section 18, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence east approx. 1/2 mile along the southern boundary of Section 8, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence north approx. 1/2 mile to the junction of the airport fence, then proceeding northwesterly, follow the fence bordering the airport, golf course and National Guard Armory through Sections 8, 5 and 6, T7N, R9W to the Old Stage Road (county road), then follow the Old Stage Road northwest through Sections 36, 26, and 22, T8N, R10W to the junction of the Elk Ridge Road (USFS Road 5149), the point of beginning.

Rookery WMA (as posted): Hunting by archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader.

Seeley Lake Game Preserve: Closed to all hunting. That portion of Missoula County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at a point where US Forest Service land and private land meet next to Boy Scout Road in Section 20, T17N, R15W, then east on the boundary between US Forest Service and private land, then north on same boundary to the section line between Sections 17 and 20, then east on said section line and east on north line of Section 21, T17N, R15W to State Route 83, then south on State Route 83 to Riverview Drive in Section 3, T16N, R15W, then west on Riverview Drive to Snowmass Drive in Section 9, T16N, R15W, then north on Snowmass Drive to section line between Sections 4 and 5, T16N, R15W, then north on said section line to Clearwater River, then north along west shore of Clearwater River to Boy Scout Road in Section 33, T17N, R15W, then west and north on said road to where USFS land and private land meet next to Boy Scout Road in Section 20, T17N, R15W, the point of beginning.

Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area: Closed to all hunting per refuge regulation: Portions of Section 36, T22N, R24E and Sections 31 and 32, T22N, R25E, as posted.

Teton-Spring Creek Cooperative Hunting Area (TSCA), Teton County: All in T24N, R5W legally described as: Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and W1/2 of Section 13.

Townsend Weapons Restriction Area: Beginning at the intersection of US Highway 12 and Route 284 then northerly along said route to its intersection with Riley Road, then west along said road to the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area boundary fence as signed, then northerly and westerly along said boundary fence to the end of said boundary fence in Section 28, T8N, R2E, near Canyon Ferry Reservoir, then westerly across said reservoir to Hahn Road, then westerly along said road to US Highway 287, then south along said highway to its intersection with the Kimber Gulch Road, then westerly along said road to its intersection with the railroad tracks, then southerly along said railroad tracks to their intersection with Springville Lane, then westerly and southerly along said lane to its intersection with the Indian Creek Road, then southerly along the west boundary of Sections 25 and 36 in T7N, R1E to the SW corner of Section 36, then easterly along the southern boundary of Section 36 and easterly along the southern boundary of Section 31 in T7N, R2E to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with Lower Deep Creek Road, then easterly along said road to its intersection with Jack Farm Road, then northwesterly along said road to its intersection with Cemetery Road, then east and north along said road to its intersection with US Highway 12, then east along said highway to its intersection with Route 284, the point of beginning.

Yellowstone River Islands restricted to ArchEquip Only : Islands in the Yellowstone River between the East Park Street Bridge at Livingston and one mile downstream of US Highway 89 Bridge.