Regulations are adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission

Regulations for season dates, structures, and restrictions were adopted by the F&W Commission on April 25, 2019, under the authority granted in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2019, through February 29, 2020. The F&W Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Statutes and other information, including other agencies’ restrictions, are provided as a courtesy and do not fall under Commission authority. Martha Williams, Director.

Discrimination Prohibited – 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 FWP program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 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.

Highlights
• No paper applications for special licenses will be accepted this year by mail. An application will be available on the website for your reference or to be taken to an FWP office to be entered over-the-counter
• Decreased the daily pintail bag limit from 2 to 1 in both flyways

Reminders for 2019
• Be aware of split seasons and carefully note closed and open days for hunting and note zone differences.
• The Central Flyway is divided into two “zones” in order to increase opportunity (see map on page 8). The two zones have different season dates. The smaller zone, Zone 2, includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone counties. Zone 1 includes all other counties in the Central Flyway portion of Montana.

License Requirements
The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at fwp.mt.gov.

Exception: The Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) is available from the USPS as well as all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices. The license is valid March 1, 2019, through February 29, 2020. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his/her person a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)
All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program. To comply with HIP, you must complete a survey including your name, address and date of birth before you can purchase your Montana Migratory Bird License. In addition, you will be asked to respond to several questions about your hunting experience in Montana during last year’s season.

Hunter Education and Youth Hunting Opportunities
If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing 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.

Youth Hunters – there are two ways to be a youth hunter:
1. An Apprentice Hunter is a resident or nonresident at least 10 years of age certified at an FWP office. This allows the apprentice to hunt some species, while accompanied by a mentor, without first completing a hunter education course. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase a mountain lion, black bear or wolf license, or apply for a bighorn sheep license or a hunting license or permit with a limited quota. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase an elk license if he/she is under 15 years of age. Other restrictions apply. See our website for details at: fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/all/apprenticeHunter/default.html
2. A resident or nonresident youth 12-17 years of age may hunt any game species for which their license is valid. Those who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2020, may hunt any game species, for which their license is valid, after August 15 of the 2019 license year. Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of purchase.

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt September 21-22, 2019 – Youth 10 to 15 years old may participate in a special two-day early hunt for waterfowl during Sept 21-22. A youth 10-15 participating as an Apprentice Hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult mentor at least 21 years of age. Otherwise, youth 12-15 who are Hunter Education Certified must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at least 18 years of age.

Drawing Applications
License Applications –
• Online at fwp.mt.gov no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT:
  - Sandhill Crane special licenses by July 26
  - Swan special licenses by July 26
• Over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters
• A $5 application fee must be paid at the time of application
• Applicants must possess a current Conservation & Base Hunting License to apply
• Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird License and Federal Migratory Stamp if necessary as specified in these regulations

Baiting (CR) – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(c). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensing Requirements</th>
<th>Ducks, Geese, and Swans</th>
<th>Cranes, Doves, and Snipe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Migratory Bird Stamp</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT Migratory License</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation License</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base hunting License</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Non-Resident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Migratory Bird Stamp</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT Migratory License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Base hunting License</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves & Snipe
Visit fwp.mt.gov
where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

The 10-Day Rule: A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.

Boat Launching and Transporting (Title 80, Chapter 7, Part 10)

Transporting watercraft within Montana:
- STOP at all open inspection stations as directed by signs.
- When traveling west across the Continental Divide, watercraft must be inspected before launching. Boats with a ballast or bladder, such as wakeboard or wake-surfing boats, must obtain a hot-water decontamination prior to launching.
- Inspections are required for all watercraft coming off Tiber & Canyon Ferry Reservoirs. Hot-water wash may be required.

Transporting watercraft into Montana:
- Watercraft must be inspected before launching.
- Non-resident boats launching on Montana waters will be charged an AIS prevention pass fee. Go to fwp.mt.gov for more information. Motorized watercraft fee is $30. Non-motorized watercraft (catamarans, drift boats, kayaks, rafts, and sailboats) fee is $10.
- Watercraft with a ballast or bladder, such as wakeboards or wake-surfing boats, that intend to launch on Montana waters must receive a hot-water decontamination prior to launching.

Check Stations (MCA 87-6-218) All hunters are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting areas, even if they have no game to be checked.

Hunter Harassment (MCA 87-6-215) It is unlawful to:
- Intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of a wild animal
- Disturb an individual engaged in the lawful taking of a wild animal with intent to prevent the taking of the animal
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

It is unlawful to hunt migratory game birds:
- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure that substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.

Motorized Vehicles and Public Roadways (MCA 87-6-405 and MCA 87-6-403) No person shall take migratory game birds:
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased
- From or by means, aid, of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of, or resulting in, the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird
- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, borrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel)
Nontoxic Shot (MCA 87-3-403 and MCA 87-6-410) No person may take ducks, geese, swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shot shells or as loose shot for muzzle loading) other than approved nontoxic shot. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see: www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php

Nontoxic shot is not required for useless migratory birds (sandhill crane, mourning dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

Possession Limit – The number of birds that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

Possession Limit while in the Field– No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one’s vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Possession of Live Birds – Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Private Land Access – Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land.
• Hunters must have permission from the land owner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not
• Access to public land through private land requires permission of the private land owner, lessee, or their agent
• Hunters must obtain permission before retrieval of wildlife from private lands

Recorded Animal Sounds (MCA 87-6-401) It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or 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, wolves, and those birds not protected by state or federal law.

Selling/Possession of Migratory Game Birds Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.91. Any person may possess, purchase, sell, barter, or transport for the making of fishing flies, and for similar commercial uses the feathers of migratory waterfowl.

Exception: No person shall sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell or barter for millinery or ornamental use the feathers or mounted specimens of migratory game birds.

Transporting Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves & Snipe –
• Species Identification Requirement– No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.
• Tagging – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) the hunter’s signature; 2) the hunter’s address; 3) the total number of birds involved, by species; 4) the dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.
• Shipping – No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Unlawful Posting of State or Federal Land (MCA 45-8-115) It is unlawful for a person to knowingly post land that is under the ownership or control of the state or federal government to restrict access or use of state or federal land.

Waste of Game (MCA 87-6-205) Wanton Waste – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his/her actual custody. Note: Under Montana regulations, it is unlawful to waste any part of a game bird suitable for food, which includes the breasts of birds the size of a teal duck or smaller and the breasts and thighs of all birds larger than a teal duck. This is more restrictive than federal regulations.

Whooping Cranes – Whooping cranes are protected by law. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take this bird. If a whooping crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612. For more information on distinguishing sandhill cranes and waterfowl from the protected, endangered whooping crane, you may go to the following website: fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/cranes.php

General Information

Duck Identification – Most FWP regional offices have free waterfowl ID guides. An electronic version of this guide (Waterfowl Identification in the Central Flyways and other duck ID information, including a video guide to identifying ducks by wings, can be found at: https://centralflyway.org/education/

Reporting Banded Birds – Internet reporting of bird bands is encouraged and may be easily done by going to: www.reportband.gov. In most cases, you will quickly receive information on when and where a bird was banded.

Waterfowl Information – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service site (fws.gov/birds/index.php) has links to information about waterfowl and other birds. It has aerial and ground blogs from the May breeding waterfowl survey; and in mid-August, it will have the waterfowl status report resulting from these surveys.

Eurasian Collared Doves – An exotic species now found throughout much of Montana, especially in and near cities and towns. They are:
• An unprotected species, as designated by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, that may be taken without license, season, or limit. They do not count against a hunter’s mourning dove limit
• Different from a mourning dove in that they are larger, have a rounded tail rather than a pointed one, and they have a black ring around the back of the neck

Hunter Land Access

Hunters, it is your responsibility to know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.

Fishing Access Sites – Many of Montana’s Fishing Access Sites (FAS) offer hunting opportunities, however certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Refer to the Fishing Access Site website at myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore for site specific information, opportunities and restrictions.

Montana State Parks – Some of Montana’s State Parks provide hunting opportunities; however, certain restrictions apply, such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Contact the specific park and/or refer to the Montana State Park website at stateparks.mt.gov for site specific information regarding hunting opportunities and restrictions.

Public Land Access
• National Parks are closed to hunting.
• National Wildlife Refuges - More restrictive regulations may

Visit fwp.mt.gov
apply to national wildlife refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations visit: www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeLocatorMaps/Montana or inquire at the local refuge office.

- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local Federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

**Railroad Access** – Railroads and railroad rights-of-way are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.

**State School Trust Lands**

- A Conservation License provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to lawfully accessible state school trust lands.
- Overnight (2-night) camping is allowed within 200 feet of a lawful access point.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on roads designated as open.
- Firearms may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of inhabited dwellings or outbuildings on state trust lands without permission of the inhabitant.
- Game retrieval is by foot or horse only.
- No open fires are allowed except in designated campground fire pits.
- Additional information is available from FWP or contact DNRC at (406) 444-2074.

**State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA),** which provide big game winter range, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

- **Exception:** Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.

- **Exception:** Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.

- **Canyon Ferry WMA designated access gates for Ponds 2, 3 and 4 will be opened at Noon the day prior to the opening of the Youth and General Waterfowl Seasons.

**Stream Access** – Migratory game bird hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is lawful. However, landowner permission must be obtained to hunt or retrieve on private lands adjacent to waterways.

**Tribal Land** – Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations. State regulations apply to deeded land and the Bighorn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information, call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-883-2888 ext. 7200.

**Statewide Closures**

**Region 2:** Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

**Region 3:** South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southerly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¼ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southerly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W. This area is closed to the hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area.

**Region 3:** Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A. Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southerly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk’s Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the northeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T11N, R3E, and Section 19 T11N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

**Region 4:** Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sand bars. Beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

**Region 6:** McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, T36N, R1E.

**Region 6:** Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, T32N, R32E, and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R3E; and Sections 21, 22, T31N, R3E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

**Region 6:** Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R1E.

**Region 7:** Treasure & Rosebud counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.

**Turn In Poachers. Enough is Enough! Make the call: 1-800-TIP-MONT**
### Statewide- Snipe, Mourning Dove, and Sandhill Crane

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common (Wilson’s) Snipe</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sept 1-Dec 16</td>
<td>8 daily and 24 in possession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mourning Dove</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 30</td>
<td>15 daily and 45 in possession</td>
<td>It is unlawful to shoot mourning doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sandhill Crane Special Drawing License</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All sandhill crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway and in Wheatland, Meagher and Golden Valley counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 is by special license only. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a crane special license online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 26, 2019. Applicants may apply for only one area and must specify the hunting area for which they are applying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280-01</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>1 Sandhill Crane</td>
<td>Only valid in Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County.</td>
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<tr>
<td>284-01</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>2 Sandhill Cranes</td>
<td>Only valid in Ovando-Helmville area. Successful applicants will receive two 284-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>380-01</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>2 Sandhill Cranes</td>
<td>Only valid in Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison counties. Successful applicants will receive two 380-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>390-01</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>1 Sandhill Crane</td>
<td>Only valid in Broadwater County.</td>
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<tr>
<td>586-01</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>2 Sandhill Cranes</td>
<td>Only valid in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90. Successful applicants will receive two 586-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>599-00</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sept 1-Oct 27</td>
<td>2 Sandhill Cranes</td>
<td>Only valid in Carbon County. Successful applicants will receive two Sandhill Crane licenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandhill Crane Over-the-Counter Permit</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway outside of the special license drawing areas must obtain a free permit available from all statewide Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks offices and license providers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sept 28-Nov 24</td>
<td>3 daily and 9 in possession</td>
<td><strong>Exception 1:</strong> That area south and west of I-90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes except for Carbon County with the 599-00 license. <strong>Exception 2:</strong> Hunting in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 can only be done with a 586-01 license.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statewide- Waterfowl

**Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season**

**September 21-22, 2019 – Statewide**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. The bag limit, shooting hours, and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season. **Exception:** Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 21 and 22.
**Pacific Flyway - Waterfowl**

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.

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**Pacific Flyway**

**Ducks- Including Mergansers**

Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 1 pintail, 2 redhead, 2 canvasbacks and 3 scaup. Scaup season closes Dec 22. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

- **Sept 21 - Sept 22**: Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- **Dec 23 - Jan 5**: Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

**Coots**

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession

- **Sept 21 - Sept 22**: Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- **Sept 28 - Jan 5**: Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- **Jan 11 - Jan 15**: Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

**Geese**

Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross’s) and 4 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

- **Sept 21 - Sept 22**: Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- **Sept 28 - Jan 5**: Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- **Jan 11 - Jan 15**: Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

**Falconry-Ducks (Including Mergansers), Coots and Geese**

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season.

- **Sept 28 - Jan 5**: See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.
- **Jan 11 - Jan 15**: See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.

**Exceptions – Pacific Flyway Ducks, Coots & Geese**

**Exception 1**: Canyon Ferry (see legal description below): Sept 28 - Oct 4, 2019, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season Sept 21-22, 2019, hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, Oct 5, 2019 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply.

**Exception 2**: Cochrane Reservoir, Morony Reservoir, and Ryan Reservoir in Cascade County are closed to waterfowl hunting.

**Canyon Ferry Legal Description**: Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SE corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.
Pacific Flyway (continued)

Swan-Hunting by Drawing Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>481-20</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Oct 5 - Dec 1</td>
<td>1 swan</td>
<td>Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders while hunting the dikes at Freezout.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera counties by special swan permit only. Those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation are closed to hunting of all swans. The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting. Hunting only by special permit. Application deadline is July 26. Must apply in only one flyway. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License.

 Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov or mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 26, 2019.

72-Hour reporting requirement:
Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by:
1) deposit in regular US mail or,
2) deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA or,
3) submitting the card to any FWP office.

To learn about Montana’s Migratory Bird Wetland Program and how your state “duck stamp” dollars are spent, go to: fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/migratoryBirds

Central Flyway - Waterfowl
The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.


Zone 2 (Ducks, Coots & Geese): Includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone counties.
**Central Flyway**

### Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks or mergansers. The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks and 3 scaup. During the first 9 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Sept 28 - Oct 6), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
<th>Zone 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21 - Sept 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under</td>
<td>Sept 21 - Sept 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 28 - Jan 2</td>
<td>Sept 28 - Oct 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19 - Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coots

Bag Limit: 15 daily. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
<th>Zone 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21 - Sept 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under</td>
<td>Sept 21 - Sept 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 28 - Jan 2</td>
<td>Sept 28 - Oct 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19 - Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (snow, blue, ross’s) and 5 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
<th>Zone 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 28 - Jan 5</td>
<td>Sept 28 - Oct 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11 - Jan 15</td>
<td>Oct 19 - Jan 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Falconry: Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 18 - Jan 2</td>
<td>Sept 18 - Oct 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19 - Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Falconry: Geese

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone 1</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Sept 28 - Oct 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11 - Jan 15</td>
<td>Oct 19 - Jan 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tundra Swan-Hunting by Drawing Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License</th>
<th>Quota</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>684-20</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Sept 28 - Jan 2</td>
<td>1 tundra swan</td>
<td>Application deadline is July 26. Must apply in only one flyway.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 26, 2019. Surplus Central Flyway swan special licenses will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis beginning August 20, either online, or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. For online requests, allow time for a permit, letter, swan tag, and bill card to be mailed to you.
The Lethality Table below is intended to help hunters select the most appropriate nontoxic shotshell load for the type of hunting they intend to do. It provides field-tested data collected and analyzed by Tom Roster and the Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program. Montana was an active member of this program. The database is comprised only of birds taken with one shot at known ranges under normal hunting conditions. All birds were necropsied and X-rayed from two angles. Hunters can find information in the table on shot-size selection, maximum effective range for various pellets on different sized birds, and the pattern density needed to achieve a lethal load and cleanly kill a bird.

It takes a combination of penetration and pattern density to effectively harvest a bird. Testing by Tom Roster showed that pellets need to penetrate at least ½ to ¾ of the way through a bird’s body in order to result in a clean kill. The pellets need to strike a lethal area (heart, lungs, spinal column, brain). Also required is a pattern density that, when placed on the front half of a bird, will result in sufficient pellets striking those areas. Developing the shooting skills needed to consistently hit the targeted bird in the front half of the body is a responsibility of an ethical hunter.

Nontoxic shot is not required for webless migratory birds (sandhill crane, mourning dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved nontoxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

Lethality Table

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not use times from other sources). The zones below are groups of counties and do not refer to hunting zones.

### ZONE 1

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

### ZONE 2

**INCLUDES:** Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Teton and Bonneville counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
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### ZONE 3

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>A.M. Rise</th>
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<th>A.M. Rise</th>
<th>P.M. Set</th>
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### ZONE 4

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>P.M. Set</th>
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*Turn In Poachers. Enough is Enough! Make the call: 1-800-TIP-MONT*
Please report the band number, location and date shot for any banded migratory game bird that you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at www.reportband.gov

**Whooping Cranes**
- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with Sandhill Cranes

**Sandhill Cranes**
- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds

**Swans**
- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10

**Snow Geese**
- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds

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**Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

**Federal Agencies continued**
- USD Bureau of Land Management 406-896-5000
- National Weather Service 406-329-4658

**Tribal Lands**
- Blackfeet Reservation 406-338-7276
- Crow Reservation 406-638-2179
- Flathead Reservation 406-883-2888 ext 7200
- Fort Belknap 406-353-2205
- Fort Peck Reservation 406-768-5305
- Northern Cheyenne Reservation 406-477-6526
- Rocky Boy Reservation 406-395-4207

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**Montana State Agencies**

**Agriculture**
406-444-3144

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