



NOW YOU KNOW

A collection of facts and information about Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2017
EDITION



MAP 1: FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



HEADQUARTERS

1420 East 6th Ave.
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406-444-2535

REGION 1

490 North Meridian
Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501

Libby Field Office

385 Fish Hatchery Road
Libby, MT 59923
406-293-4161

Thompson Falls Field Office

P.O. Box 35
601 N Columbia St.
Thompson Falls, MT
59873
406-827-4389

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500

REGION 3

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

Helena Field Office

930 Custer Ave. West
Helena, MT 59620
406-495-3260

Butte Field Office

1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs
Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

Lewistown Field Office

2358 Airport Road
P.O. Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

REGION 5

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

REGION 6

1 Airport Road
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

Havre Area Office

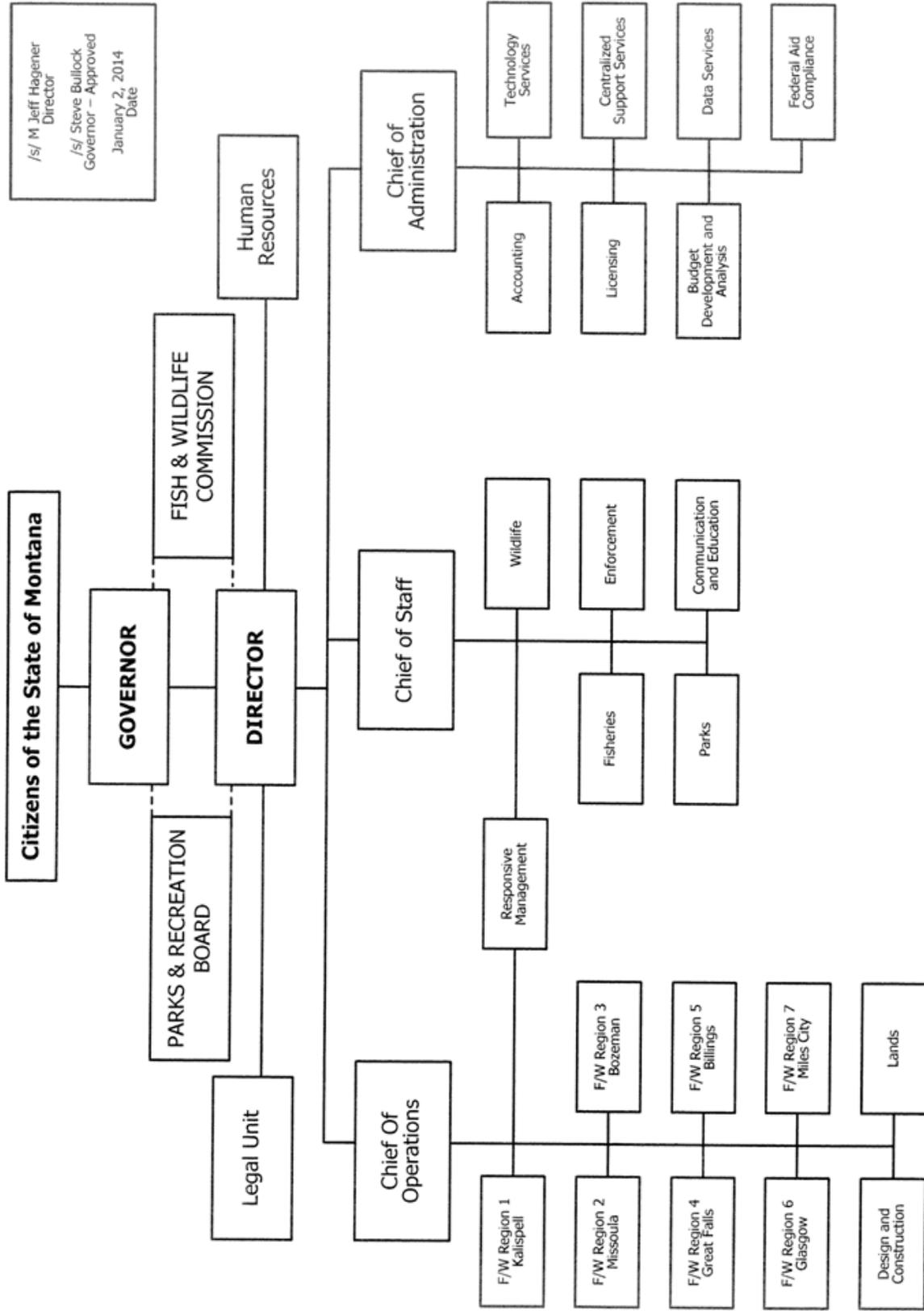
2165 Highway 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

REGION 7

352 I-94 Business Loop
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0900

Find FWP on the Web at fwp.mt.gov

ORGANIZATION CHART FOR MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



/s/ M Jeff Hagener
Director
/s/ Steve Bullock
Governor – Approved
January 2, 2014
Date

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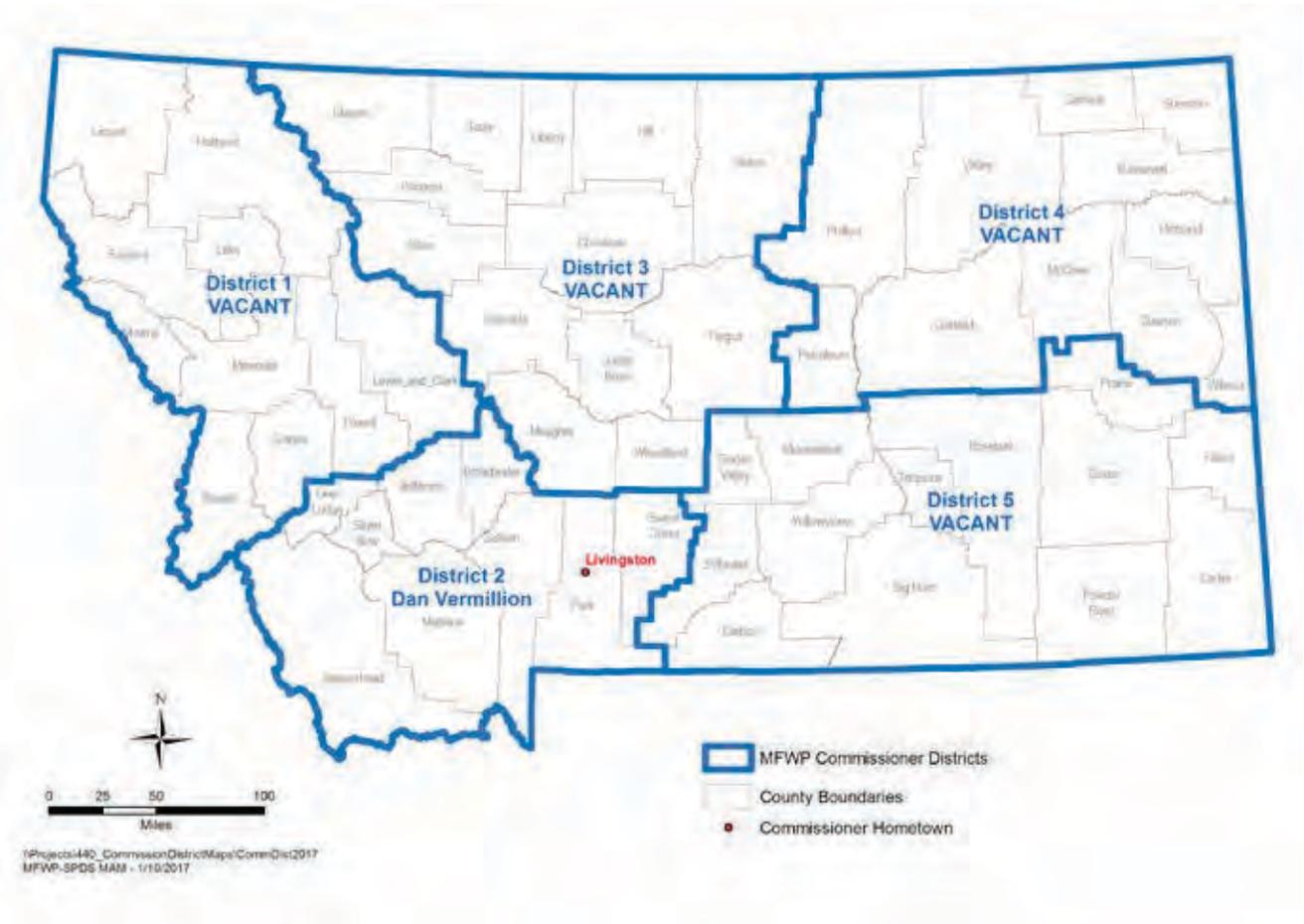
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Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

The Governor appoints the five-member Fish & Wildlife Commission from five geographical districts.

MAP 2: [Fish & Wildlife Commission](#)



The Fish & Wildlife Commission sets FWP policy; establishes fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations; establishes rules governing the use of lands and waters under the agency’s jurisdiction; approves all acquisitions or transfers of interest in land or water; and approves the department budget.

Commissioners serve staggered four-year terms, with three commissioners appointed at the beginning of the Governor's newly elected term and two appointed two years later. The appointments are made without regard to political affiliation and solely for the wise management of the state’s fish, wildlife, and other outdoor recreational resources. At least one member must be experienced in the breeding and management of domestic livestock.

Fish & Wildlife Commissioners

District 1
Vacant
Term ends Jan.1, 2021

District 3
Vacant
Term ends Jan.1, 2017

District 5
Vacant
Term ends Jan.1, 2021

District 2
Dan Vermillion, Chair
Livingston
406-222-0624
Term ends Jan 1, 2019

District 4
Vacant
Term ends Jan. 1, 2019

FWP Administrative Staff

Director

Martha Williams 406-444-3186

Chief of Staff

Paul Sihler406-444-3169

Chief of Operations

Mike Volesky406-444-4600

Chief of Administration

Dustin Temple406-444-3107

Legal

Becky Dockter406-444-4047

Human Resources

Kimberly Worthy406-444-1289

Fisheries

Eileen Ryce406-444-2448

Wildlife

Ken McDonald406-444-5645

Parks

Vacant406-444-3751

Communication and Education

Ron Aasheim.....406-444-4038

Enforcement

Dave Loewen406-444-5657

Technology Services

Vacant.....406-xxx-xxxx

Lands

Darlene Edge.....406-444-4042

Director’s Office Administration

Fish & Wildlife Commission Secretary

Coleen Furthmeyer.....406-444-7826

Administrative Officer

Jennifer Bond406-444-9089

Regional Supervisors

Regional supervisors are members of FWP’s Leadership Team. Each is responsible for on-the-ground implementation of programs, policies and day-to-day activities in their respective seven regions.

Region One—Kalispell

Jim Williams406-751-4566

Region Two—Missoula

Randy Arnold406-542-5504

Region Three—Bozeman

Sam Sheppard406-994-4050

Region Four—Great Falls.

Gary Bertellotti406-454-5846

Region Five—Billings

Barb Beck.....406-247-2951

Region Six—Glasgow

Mark Sullivan.....406-228-3723

Region Seven—Miles City

Brad Schmitz.....406-234-0913

Mission and Core Values

Our Mission

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission and board, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

Our Core Values

These eight values guide how we do business every day—with the public we serve, with the resources we manage, and in the capacity for effective management we build together.

- **Serve the Public** – We strive to meet public expectations for fish, wildlife, and state parks resource conservation, access, opportunity, services, fiscal responsibility, and involvement in transparent decision-making processes.
- **Embrace the Public Trust** – We recognize that Montana’s fish and wildlife are the public’s resources and are held in trust by the state to be managed for the benefit of present and future generations. The opportunity to enjoy and harvest these resources is allocated equitably.
- **Honor Tradition and Heritage** – We value the continued importance of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor recreation to Montana’s culture and conservation ethic. We honor the cultures of native peoples and value Montana’s vibrant history.
- **Work with Landowners** – We respect property rights and work collaboratively with landowners to manage fish, wildlife, and state parks resources and the public’s opportunity to enjoy them.
- **Use Science** – We use the best biological and social sciences to inform and make management decisions.
- **Provide Leadership** – We provide expertise and direction in fish, wildlife, and state parks outdoor recreation, resource management, and conservation to enhance Montana’s outdoor heritage, economic future, and quality of life.
- **Provide Stewardship** – We manage for healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations, improve and protect habitat, and protect and restore cultural and historical resources.
- **Value Our Workforce** – We are all Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. We operate as one agency, which values and supports all employees. All employees work as a team; value, respect, and support each other; and exemplify high standards of ethics, professionalism, objectivity, accountability, and integrity.

Director's Office

The Director's Office carries out the policies of the Fish & Wildlife Commission and State Parks Board—and works with the Governor's Office to set overall direction for the agency's planning and program development. Entrusted with the stewardship of Montana's fish, wildlife and park resources, the Director's Office provides leadership that embraces the diversity of Montanans' values and expectations. It also is accountable to the Legislature and to people of Montana for the use of agency resources. The Director's Office includes Human Resources and:

- **Chief of Staff** – Responsible for managing FWP division administrators and program direction for Communication and Education, Enforcement, Fisheries, State Parks, Responsive Management and Wildlife.
- **Chief of Operations** – Responsible for managing program direction for Design and Construction, Lands, Responsive Management and seven Regional Office Supervisors.
- **Chief of Administration** – Responsible for maintaining a sound financial foundation in support of all FWP programs. The COA's primary focus includes the Technology Services Division and the following bureaus: Accounting, Budget, Centralized Support Services, Data Services, Federal Aid and Compliance, and Licensing.
- **Legal Unit** – Responsible for advising and providing counsel on a day-to-day basis on compliance with state and federal laws that govern FWP work. The Legal Unit also represents FWP in litigation.

Divisions in Brief

Communication and Education

The Communications and Education Division is the information and education arm of FWP. The division acts as a clearinghouse for information on FWP activities and is the agency's primary point-of-contact for information about FWP business, issues and opportunities. The division maintains FWP's website and publishes FWP's official magazine, [Montana Outdoors](#) and a number of [hunting](#), [fishing](#), and [trapping](#) regulation booklets; and maintains a video production unit. Also managed by the division are [Montana WILD](#)—the state's premiere outdoor education center—and the [Montana Wildlife Center](#)—which rehabilitates certain orphaned wildlife for the purpose of release back to the wild. Additional educational and recreation-safety offerings include: [hunter and bow hunter education programs](#), [angler education program](#), [Becoming an Outdoors Woman program](#), [the shooting range development program](#), [boating safety program](#), and [resources for teachers](#) and young people.

Enforcement

The Enforcement Division carries out all fish, wildlife, and parks laws of Montana, FWP rules, and Fish & Wildlife Commission and State Parks Board regulations. FWP game wardens have “peace officer” status in Montana and work closely with other local, state, and federal law enforcement groups. Direct contact with visitors and users is the primary method used to encourage compliance. Enforcement responsibilities include, boating, snowmobile, and off-highway vehicle rules and regulations; private-property laws and regulations as they apply to fishing and hunting; commercial uses of wildlife such as alternative livestock ranches, shooting preserves, zoos, and menageries. The division maintains a hotline at 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) to report violations of fish, wildlife, or parks regulations.

Fisheries

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and perpetuation of Montana’s fish and other aquatic resources. Montanans and visiting anglers want optimum fish populations and diverse, quality angling opportunities. These opportunities are provided through habitat protection; “wild fish” management for streams and rivers; efficient hatchery stocking for lakes and reservoirs; an emphasis on managing Montana’s remaining native species; public fishing access sites; and public education and participation.

Parks

The Parks Division’s objective is to provide diverse recreational opportunities while preserving important historical and cultural resources within Montana. The division is responsible for the development, maintenance, and operation of 54 nature, cultural and water-based state parks; affiliated lands; the Snowmobile & Off-Highway Vehicle Program, the State Recreational Trails Grant Programs, and other recreational and community grant programs.

Technology Services

The Technology Services Division facilitates an innovative, efficient and effective application of information technology to the practice of natural resource and recreation management. TSD provides expert guidance, governance, acquisition and maintenance to the overall FWP technology program. Services include: technology procurement and management; custom software and mapping application development; security and records management; database design and management; spatial data management and analysis, and more.

Wildlife

The Wildlife Division is responsible for the conservation and management of the state’s wildlife resources for public benefit now and in the future. Wildlife Division programs provide for the management of 12 big game species; 10 upland game bird species; 39 waterfowl species; 10 furbearer species; and more than 400 nongame species. Additionally, the division coordinates issues related to landowner relations; endangered and threatened wildlife; the management and public use of 109 Wildlife Management areas; and the state’s Habitat Montana programs.

Bureaus in Brief

Accounting—Provides centralized accounting functions in compliance with state and federal laws and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP. The bureau processes the FWP payroll; pays all bills and deposits all license, parks reservation, and other revenue; and delivers the FWP mail.

Budget—Oversees FWP’s finances and more than 60 funding sources—including legislatively earmarked licenses fees, park vehicle registration fees, and a number of federal grants. The bureau is directly involved in the biennial legislative budget process, which requires fiscal notes on all FWP-related bills that carry financial impacts. The bureau allocates budgets, monitors expenditures and ensures budgetary compliance with legislative intent.

Centralized Support Services—Manages FWP’s vehicle fleet, which includes cars, trucks, OHV’s, boats, trailers and more. The bureau runs a full-service maintenance shop for all vehicles and provides specialized equipment accessories. It also manages duplicating services and coordinates surplus property disposal. In addition to conducting property inventories of all FWP assets, the bureau assists with complex purchases, training and policy development.

Design and Construction—Serves and assists FWP in the design and construction of quality facilities, repair and maintenance of existing facilities, and planning for governmental, biological and recreational facility needs.

Federal Aid and Compliance—Administers all U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service funds, which includes nearly \$30 million annually from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, the Sport Fish Restoration Program and the State Wildlife Grants Program. The bureau ensures funds are spent in accordance with strict federal requirements and with the understanding that diverting funds or license revenue for unauthorized uses can result in the loss of all USFWS funds available to Montana.

Human Resources—Provides consistent, quality direction to the divisions and regions throughout the agency for staffing, personnel policy, employee and public safety and risk management; employee labor relations; and employment civil rights.

Licensing—Responsible for processing applications and conducting drawings for quota-based licenses and permits—including popular hunting licenses and Smith River permits. FWP sells more than 1.5 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through more than 300 licenses agents and via the FWP website.

Lands—Provides statewide real estate and land conservation services for FWP. It negotiates conservation easements and secures rights-of-way to provide public access to Montana’s federal and state lands. Additional key components are conservation-easement stewardship, administration of lease and property tax payment programs, management of real estate records, and the production of maps, database reports and other information on FWP land interests.

Responsive Management—Provides internal, service-oriented support under the joint supervision of the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Operations. The bureau coordinates human dimension surveys, strategic planning, environmental review, and land-use planning functions for FWP.

Montana’s Outdoor Legacy Foundation

- Montana’s Outdoor Legacy Foundation is the umbrella organization for conservation in Montana. The foundation is the vehicle through which those who love Montana’s land can support wildlife and wildland conservation, education and access to the places and outdoor opportunities we all enjoy.
- Gifts may be mailed to Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation; P.O. Box 220; Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Executive Director: Jane Ratzlaff

Phone: 406-897-2570

Email: jane@mtoutdoorlegacy.org

Website: <https://www.mtoutdoorlegacy.org/>

FISHING & WATER RESOURCES

Habitat is the key to fish and wildlife management in Montana. Fish habitat consists of a 3-legged stool of essential elements.

1. **Water Quantity** – adequate water flow in our streams and satisfactory water levels in our lakes and reservoirs.
2. **Water Quality** – water of suitable quality to sustain healthy populations of aquatic life.
3. **Physical Habitat** – streambeds, stream banks, riparian areas and cover that combine to form a favorable environment.

Wild Trout Management

- Since 1974—following a then controversial and now celebrated research project on the Madison River—managing for naturally reproducing wild trout populations has been a priority in Montana. The study showed stocking hatchery-raised trout on top of wild populations repressed wild trout reproduction and survival in rivers and streams. Today nearly all of Montana trout streams are *wild* trout streams.

Montana State Fish

- The cutthroat trout—which has two native subspecies:
 - ▶ Yellowstone cutthroat trout
 - ▶ Westslope cutthroat trout

Fishing License

- A fishing license enables one to fish from March 1 through the end of February of the following year. See [Montana's Fishing Regulations](#) for exceptions.
- A fishing license allows an angler to fish for and possess any fish or aquatic invertebrate authorized by the state's fishing regulations.

Resident Licensing

- A conservation license is needed to purchase any fishing or hunting license.
- Anglers 18-61 years of age need two licenses:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$8.
 - ▶ fishing license—\$21 for the season—or \$5 for two consecutive days.
- Residents 62 years of age and older need two licenses:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$8.
 - ▶ fishing license—\$10.50 for the season—or \$5 for two consecutive days.
- Youth 12-17 years of age need two licenses:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$8.
 - ▶ fishing license—\$10.50 for the season—or \$5 for two consecutive days.
- Resident children 11 years of age and younger do not need any license to fish.

Nonresident Licensing

- A conservation license is needed in order to purchase any fishing license.
- Anglers ages 12 and older need two licenses:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$10.
 - ▶ fishing license—\$86 for the season—or \$56 for 10 consecutive days or \$25 for two consecutive days.
- Nonresident children 11 years of age and younger are not required to have a fishing license.

Residency

- One becomes eligible for resident fishing, hunting and trapping licenses after six months of legal residence in Montana.
- Individuals may claim only one state of residence and must claim all income as Montana taxable income.

Montana Waters

- There are more than 15,000 miles of cold-water rivers and streams in Montana and about 1,900 cold-water lakes totaling 400,000 acres.
- Montana contains about 6,100 miles of cool- and warm-water rivers and streams, and thousands of warm-water lakes covering an estimated 350,000 acres, from the massive Fort Peck Reservoir to an untold number of small ponds.

Fishery Status

- Montana's waters support more than 90 species of fish.
 - ▶ 59 native species.
 - ▶ 35 introduced species.
- Of the total supported species, more than 30 are classified as game fish under Montana statutes.
- Nineteen species are listed as “[species of special concern](#)” in Montana, including the pallid sturgeon that was listed as a federally endangered species in 1991; the white sturgeon, listed as endangered in 1994; and the bull trout, listed as a federally threatened species in 1998. Other closely watched species are: paddlefish, sicklefin and sturgeon chub, fluvial Arctic grayling, redband trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and burbot.

Economics of Fishing

Statewide Estimates of Resident and Nonresident Hunter & Angler Expenditures in Montana—2014, from FWP Human Dimensions Unit Research Summary No. 39.

- In 2014, it was estimated that anglers in Montana spent about \$908 million on trip related expenses – transportation, lodging, food, guide fees, and other purchases, excluding license fees.
- River and stream anglers spent \$724 million.
- Lake and reservoir anglers spent \$183.8 million.
- Nonresidents account for about 78 percent of the fishing trip-related expenditures in Montana.
- Total trip-related spending among Montana hunters & anglers – residents and nonresidents combined – was estimated to be about \$1.26 billion in 2014.
- It's estimated that this spending by hunters and anglers supports between 11,060 and 12,850 jobs in Montana.

Who Fishes in Montana – 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (Montana Data)

The focus of this national survey is on the fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation activities of United State residents 16 years of age or older . This survey is conducted every five years. The Montana specific data presented below is from the 2011 survey—the 2016 survey has yet to be completed.

- **Fishing**
 - ▶ In 2011, 267,000 people 16 years old and older fished in Montana—fishing a total of about 2.5 million days in the state.
 - ▶ Sixty-nine percent of these anglers were residents of Montana—that's 25 percent of the people in the state who are 16 years of age or older. State residents fished 2.1 million days—85 percent of all fishing days in Montana.
- **All Sportsperson** participation in fishing and/or hunting.
 - ▶ In 2011, 335,000 people 16 years old and older fished or hunted in Montana.
 - ▶ Nearly two-thirds of those sportspersons were residents of Montana—that's 29 percent of the people in the state who are 16 years of age or older.

Who Fishes in Montana & Angler Days—2014-2015 License Year

- In 2014, FWP issued a total of about 437,136 fishing licenses, including 258,846 licenses to residents and 178,290 to nonresidents.
- Residents comprise about 60% percent of the state’s fishing license buyers.
- Licensed anglers fishing on Montana waters were estimated to have exerted more than 3.3 million angler days of fishing pressure in 2015, down from the 3.5 million highest ever recorded in 2013. The previous all-time high came in 1999 at 3.18 million angler days.
 - ▶ Montana residents accounted for 64 percent—more than 2.1 million angler days.
 - ▶ Nonresidents accounted for 36 percent—more than 1.2 million angler days.
- Angling on streams and rivers accounted for 63.8 percent of statewide fishing pressure with more than 2.12 million angler days.
- Lakes, ponds and reservoirs accounted for 36.2 percent of statewide fishing pressure with more than 1.2 million angler days.

What They Catch

- About 76 percent of angler days are spent seeking cold-water trout and salmon.
- About 19 percent of angler days are spend seeking cool- and warm-water walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, channel catfish, and bass.

Where They Fish

Angling Pressure By Region—Total (2015)

Region	Angler Days	Percent of Total
Region 3—Bozeman	863,132	25.9
Region 4—Great Falls	732,486	21.98
Region 2—Missoula	492,929	14.79
Region 5—Billings	445,404	13.36
Region 1—Kalispell	445,135	13.36
Region 6—Glasgow	232,543	6.98
Region 7—Miles City	121,052	3.6

Angling Pressure By Region— Residents & Nonresidents (2015)

Region	Resident Angler Days	Nonresident Angler Days
Region 4—Great Falls	577,535	154,951
Region 3—Bozeman	407,373	455,759
Region 1—Kalispell	336,314	108,821
Region 2—Missoula	296,308	196,620
Region 5—Billings	232,434	212,970
Region 6—Glasgow	189,465	43,078
Region 7—Miles City	92,046	29,006

Top 10 Most Popular Stream Stretches (2015)

Stream	Total Angler Days	Resident Angler Days	Nonresident Angler Days
Missouri River - Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge	183,479	93,365	90,114
Madison River - Hebgen Dam to Ennis Lake	153,932	30,672	123,260
Bighorn River - Afterbay to Big Horn FAS	130,788	27,591	103,196
Gallatin River - Headwaters to Spanish Creek	61,984	21,121	40,863
Bitterroot River - Headwaters to Big Creek	61,551	36,303	25,248
Madison River - Ennis Dam to mouth	51,462	32,671	18,791
Gallatin River - Spanish Creek to East Gallatin River	51,370	30,193	21,177
Bighorn River - Big Horn FAS to Little Bighorn River	51,319	13,901	37,418
Yellowstone River - Pine Crk to Sheilds River	47,355	30,102	17,253
Clark Fork River - Bitterroot River to Flathead River	46,395	29,039	17,356

Top 10 Most Popular Lakes & Reservoirs (2015)

Lake or Reservoir	Total Angler Days	Resident Angler Days	Nonresident Angler Days
Fort Peck Reservoir	114,324	84,152	30,169
Canyon Ferry Reservoir	95,255	89,575	5,680
Holter Lake	90,470	85,838	4,632
Georgetown Lake	56,531	40,006	16,525
Hauser Lake - Causeway	43,053	42,027	1,026
Hebgen Lake	34,971	10,193	24,778
Tongue River Reservoir	31,268	15,563	15,705
Flathead Lake	29,524	21,495	8,029
Lake Elwell	28,005	27,633	372
Noxon Rapids Reservoir	26,301	23,554	2,747

Public Fishing Access Sites

- There are 335 free public Fishing Access Sites in Montana that hosted 4.36 million users in 2015.
- Improved boat ramps are available at 230 FASs.
- Camping is allowed at 99 sites.
- Overnight camping fees are charged at 59 sites:
 - ▶ \$12 per night if someone in the camping group has a fishing license, or
 - ▶ \$18 per night fee, if no one in the group has a license.
- The Fisheries Division develops and maintains existing FASs and locates and acquires new ones.
- A dollar from the sale of each resident fishing license and \$5 from each nonresident purchase funds FAS operations, maintenance and acquisition.
 - ▶ Of the license funding generated, 75 percent is used for the operation and maintenance of existing FASs and 25 percent is used to acquire new sites.
- An FAS Access Guide that profiles each site is available from all FWP offices.

When They Fish

- July was the busiest month for fishing in 2015 (587,897 angler days)—March was the slowest (94,433 angler days).
- “Fish for Free Father’s Day Weekend” – each year everyone can fish for free, without a license, over Father’s Day Weekend, the third weekend in June.
- **Montana’s Fishing Seasons**
 - ▶ Western Fishing District
 - The rivers and streams fishing season runs from the third Saturday in May through November 30.
 - Lakes and Reservoirs are open year round.
 - ▶ Central Fishing District
 - Most waters, with some exceptions for a few rivers and streams, are open year-round.
 - ▶ Eastern Fishing District
 - All waters are open year round.

Popular Fisheries Programs

Future Fisheries Improvement

- Established by Montana Legislature in 1995.
- The program aims to restore essential habitats for the growth and propagation of wild fish populations in lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Funding is provided via a portion of fishing license purchases and monies from Resource Indemnity Trust Fund.
- Between \$350,000 and \$650,000 are available each year for projects.
- Any entity proposing a project that would benefit wild fish will be considered for funding.
- Funds are used for costs to design/build, construct and maintain projects that restore, enhance, or protect habitat for wild fishes.
- There is no limit to individual grant requests, but grants are awarded based on available funding.
- Between 1996-2016 570 projects were completed.
- Application deadlines: December 1 & June 1.

Community Pond Program

- Established by Montana Legislature in 1993.
- The program aims to enhance fishing opportunities in or near Montana communities by providing funding to construct or improve public fishing ponds.
- Funding is provided via a portion of fishing license purchases.
- Program funding is typically \$25,000 per year.
- Projects that create or enhance opportunities for youth/family angling and youth/family angler education are preferred.
- Applicants must provide a minimum of 30 percent of the costs. In-kind contributions such as heavy equipment time, construction materials, labor, engineering services may be used as match.

- Between 2004-2016 23 projects were completed.
- Application Deadline is February 1.

Montana Angler Education Program Index—FY15

- Number of classroom lessons, programs and fishing clinics held across Montana: 3,131
- Number of Montanans participating in some form of fishing program, clinic, or event: 50,051
- Number of volunteers or teachers hosting or assisting at a program or fishing clinic: 2,010
- Hours donated by volunteer fishing instructors and other volunteers at clinics and events: 24,410
- Equivalent of full-time jobs donated by volunteers and teachers: 16.7
- Value of in-kind match generated by donations and volunteer hours: \$702,411
- Hours spent by classroom teachers in the Hooked on Fishing program: 7,432
- Number of free educational fishing license exemptions provided to groups, classrooms and clinics: 374
- Total value of donated materials and cash to classrooms, clinics, and events: \$69,358

Wild & Scenic Rivers in Montana

- Montana contains 368 miles of federally designated “Wild and Scenic” rivers, including:
 - ▶ Upper Missouri River—149 miles from Fort Benton to the Fred Robinson Bridge).
 - ▶ North Fork of the Flathead River—58 miles from the Canadian border to its confluence with the South Fork of the Flathead River.
 - ▶ Middle Fork of the Flathead River—101 miles from the confluence of Strawberry and Bowl creeks to its confluence with the South Fork of the Flathead River.
 - ▶ South Fork of the Flathead River—60 miles from the confluence of Young’s and Danaher creeks downstream to Hungry Horse Reservoir.
- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2018.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

- Aquatic invasive species are those that impact water bodies and wetlands. Whether they come on the trailers or hulls of recreational boats, or from the water of an angler's bait bucket, several non-native invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil and New Zealand mud snails and invasive mussel larve have found their way into Montana's water bodies. Their presence can cause severe damage to local ecosystems, industry and tourism. FWP is committed to an effective strategy of prevention, containment and control.
- **FWP Watercraft Inspection Stations-2016**
 - ▶ Program began in 2004
 - ▶ Watercraft inspections have always been mandatory for anglers and have been required for all other boaters since 2011
 - ▶ In operation annually for 15 weeks – generally May 21 through Labor Day
 - ▶ Inspected more than 37,000 watercraft in 2016
 - ▶ Provided outreach and education to 86,109 people in 2016
 - ▶ July 4th weekend is typically the busiest period for boater movement

Map 3: Montana Watercraft Inspection Locations-2016



Fishes of Montana

Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA Status
Arctic Grayling	X	X	X	
Bigmouth Buffalo	X			
Black Bullhead				
Black Crappie		X		
Blue Sucker	X		X	
Bluegill/Sunfish				
Brassy Minnow	X		Potential	
Brook Stickleback	X		Potential	
Brook Trout		X		
Brown Trout		X		
Bull Trout	X	X	X	Threatened
Burbot	X	X	Potential	
California Golden Trout		X		
Central Mudminnow				
Channel Catfish	X	X		
Chinook Salmon		X		
Cisco		X		
Clark Fork Sculpin	X			
Columbia River Redband Trout	X	X	X	
Columbia Slimy Sculpin	X			
Common Carp				
Creek Chub	X		Potential	
Deepwater Sculpin	X		X	
Emerald Shiner	X			
Flathead Chub	X			
Flathead Minnow	X			
Freshwater Drum	X			
Golden Shiner				
Goldeye	X			
Goldfish				
Green Sunfish				
Green Swordtail				
Iowa Darter	X		Potential	
Kokanee	Possibly	X		
Lake Chub	X			

Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA Status
Lake Trout	X	X	X	
Lake Whitefish	Possibly	X		
Largemouth Bass		X		
Largescale Sucker	X			
Longnose Dace	X			
Longnose Sucker	X			
Mottled Sculpin	X			
Mountain Sucker	X			
Mountain Whitefish	X	X		
Northern Pike	X	X		
Northern Pikeminnow	X			
Northern Plains Killfish				
Northern Redbelly Dace	X		X	
Northern Redbelly X Finescale Dace	X		X	
Paddlefish	X	X	X	
Pallid Sturgeon	X	X	X	Endangered
Peamouth	X			
Pearl Dace	X		X	
Plains Minnow	X		Potential	
Pumpkinseed				
Pygmy Whitefish	X	X	X	
Rainbow Smelt				
Rainbow Trout		X		
Redside Shinner	X			
River Carpsucker	X			
Rock Bass				
Rocky Mountain Sculpin	X			
Sailfin Molly				
Sand Shiner	X			
Sauger	X	X	X	
Shortfin Molly				
Shorthead Redhorse	X			
Shorthead Sculpin	X			
Shortnose Gar	X		X	
Shovelnose Sturgeon	X	X		Threatened

Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA Status
Sickelfin Chub	X		X	
Smallmouth Bass		X		
Smallmouth Buffalo	X			
Spoonhead Sculpin	X		X	
Spottail Shiner				
Stonecat	X			
Sturgeon Chub	X		X	
Tiger Muskellunge		X		
Torrent Sculpin	X		X	
Trout-perch	X		X	
Utah Chub				
Variable Platyfish				
Walleye		X		
Western Mosquitofish				
Westslope Cutthroat Trout	X	X	X	
White Bass				
White Crappie		X		
White Sturgeon	X	X	X	Endangered
White Sucker	X			
Yellow Bullhead				
Yellow Perch		X		
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	X	X		

Montana Fish Records

Visit <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/anglingData/records/> for a complete list of Montana fish records – or call 406-444-7815.

If you think you have legally caught a fish in Montana that may be a state record:

- To prevent loss of weight, don't clean or freeze the fish. Keep the fish cool – preferably on ice. Take a picture of the fish.
- Get the fish weighed as soon as possible on a certified scale (found in grocery or hardware stores, etc.) and witnessed by an observer. Get an affidavit from the store if no FWP official is present. Measure the length.
- Contact the nearest FWP office to have the fish positively identified and to determine if it is a state record.

Records as of January 1, 2017. Native fish species are shaded.

FISH	Length	WEIGHT	SITE	ANGLER	DATE
Arctic Grayling	20	3.63 lbs.	Washtub Lake	Glenn Owens	6/28/03
Big Mouth Buffalo	40.7	57.75 lbs.	Nelson Reservoir	Craig D. Grassel	6/4/94
Black Bullhead	14.37	2.60 lbs.	Smiley Slough	Birrell White	6/20/09
Black Crappie	16.7	3.13 lbs.	Tongue River Reservoir	Al Elser	1973
Blue Sucker	32.56	11.56 lbs.	Milk River	Dean Armbrister	5/14/14
Bluegill	11	2.64 lbs.	Peterson's Stock Dam	Brent Fladmo	6/3/83
Brook Trout		9.06 lbs.	Lower Two Medicine Lake	John R. Cook	1940
Brown Trout		29 lbs.	Wade Lake	E.H. "Peck" Bacon	1966
Bull Trout (Dolly Varden)	37	25.63 lbs.		James Hyer	1916
Burbot	39	17.08 lbs.	Missouri River	Jeff Eugene Iwen	4/18/89
Channel Catfish	41.75	34.8 lbs	Fort Peck Reservoir	Dan Davenport	7/26/13
Chinook Salmon	38	31.13 lbs.	Fort Peck Reservoir	Carl L. Niles	10/2/91
Cisco	18.2	2.08 lbs.	Missouri River	Troy Holstein	6/2/14
Coho Salmon	25.5	4.88 lbs.	Fort Peck Reservoir Face of Dam	Irven F. Stohl	5/29/73
Common Carp	38	40.2 lbs.	Nelson Reservoir	Jared S. Albus	5/24/98
Cutthroat Trout		16 lbs.	Red Eagle Lake	Wm. D. Sands	1955
Golden Trout	23.5	5.43 lbs.	Cave Lake	Mike Malixi	7/16/00
Goldeye		3.18 lbs.	Nelson Reservoir	Don Nevrviv	7/4/00
Green Sunfish	9.0	0.84 lbs.	Hickson's Pond	Bette Schmieding	5/25/09
Kokanee Salmon	26.8	7.85 lbs	Hauser Lake	John Bomar	9/23/03
Lake Trout	42.5	42.69 lbs.	Flathead Lake	Ruth Barber	6/23/04
Lake Whitefish	27	10.46 lbs.	Flathead Lake	Swan McDonald V	8/26/06
Largemouth Bass	22.5	8.80 lbs.	Noxon Rapids Reservoir	Darin Williams	5/2/09
Mountain Whitefish	23	5.11 lbs.	Hauser Reservoir	Walt Goodman	10/10/07
Northern Pike		37.5 lbs.	Tongue River Reservoir	Lance Moyer	1972
Northern Pikeminnow	27.125	7.88 lbs.	Noxon Rapids Reservoir	Darrel Torgrimson	5/28/91
Paddlefish	77	142.5 lbs.	Missouri River	Larry Branstetter	5/20/73
Pallid Sturgeon		60 lbs.	Yellowstone River	Gene Sattler	5/13/79
Rainbow Trout	38.62	33.1 lbs.	Kootenai River	Jack G. Housel, Jr.	8/11/97
Sauger	28.2	8.805 lbs.	Fort Peck Reservoir	Gene Moore	12/12/94
Shovelnose Sturgeon	39.75	14.125 lbs.	Missouri River	Chad Buck	5/21/10
Smallmouth Bass	21	7.4 lbs.	Flathead Lake	Jacob Fowler	5/2/16
Smallmouth Buffalo	38	38 lbs.	Nelson Reservoir	Brady Miller	4/28/07
Tiger Muskie	50	38.75 lbs.	Deadmans Basin Reservoir	Leo Cantin	9/2/12
Walleye	35	17.75 lbs.	Tiber Reservoir	Robert Hart	11/18/07
White Bass	17	2.80 lbs.	Missouri River	Vernon Pacovsky	10/13/07
White Crappie	18.5	3.68 lbs.	Tongue River	Gene Bassett	5/10/96
White Sturgeon	75	96 lbs.	Kootenai River	Herb Stout	1968
Yellow Bullhead	14.0	1.62lbs.	Ninepipes Reservoir	Frank Tepp	2/5/15
Yellow Perch	14.375	2.39 lbs.	Lower Stillwater Lake	Josh Emmert	2/19/06

Montana Fish Hatcheries

The first Montana hatchery began operation in 1892 at what is now the Bozeman Fish Technology Center near Bozeman. Currently, twelve hatcheries are operated by FWP; eleven are state owned and one, Murray Springs at Eureka, is operated by FWP. Three federal hatcheries, at Bozeman, Creston and Ennis, are operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are 11 FWP hatchery managers and 21 fish culturists.

MAP 4: State Fish Hatchery Locations



Stocking Fish

- Hatchery raised fish are released to over 800 lakes and reservoirs and around 20 rivers or streams throughout Montana to provide sport fishing opportunities and also to restore native fish species.
- Maintaining wild populations has been a priority in Montana since 1974 when a research project on the Madison River showed that releasing catchable sized trout can be detrimental to wild populations in rivers and streams.
- For 2015, Montana fish hatcheries produced 31 million coolwater fish like walleye and bass while cold water production of fish amounted to over 6.4 million. Of the cold water species, over 1.2 million were native cutthroat trout and arctic grayling. The total weight of fish produced exceeds 320,000 pounds!
- Annual stocking plans and stocking reports for specific Montana waters can be found on FWP's website at:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishing/planAFishingTrip/fishStocking/>

Montana Hatcheries Summary

Name	Location	Year Open	Type of Facility*	Species Reared
Washoe Park	Anaconda	1907	Broodstock & Production	Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Flathead Lake	Somers	1913	Production	Westslope Cutthroat trout Kokanee Salmon Arctic Grayling Brook Trout
Yellowstone River	Big Timber	1922	Broodstock & Production	Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Arctic Grayling Golden Trout
Big Springs	Lewistown	1921 (upper unit) 1960 (lower unit)	Production	Rainbow Trout Kokanee Salmon Brown Trout
Jocko River	Arlee	1948	Broodstock & Production	Rainbow Trout
Giant Springs	Great Falls	1924	Production	Rainbow Trout Kokanee Salmon Brook Trout
Bluewater Springs	Bridger	1949	Production	Rainbow Trout
Murray Springs	Eureka	1978	Broodstock	Rainbow Trout
Miles City	Miles City	1983	Broodstock & Production	Walleye Bass Catfish Pallid Sturgeon Tiger Muskie
Rose Creek	Somers	2009	Production	Westslope Cutthroat Trout Kokanee Salmon Arctic Grayling Brook Trout
Sekokini Springs	Coram	1998	Research	Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Ft. Peck	Fort Peck	2005	Broodstock & Production	Walleye Bass Catfish Pallid Sturgeon

*The primary purpose of broodstock facilities is to produce eggs for production hatcheries. Production hatcheries raise fish to the age at which they will be stocked.

2015 Montana Stocking Summary

Species	Eggs	Fry	Fingerling	Catchable	Brood	Total Fish	Pounds
Arctic Grayling	732,000	86,150	11,820	14		829,984	151
Brook Trout		2,008	85,966			87,974	1,623
Brown Trout			73,105			73,105	1,772
Channel Catfish			9,500			9,500	45
Chinook Salmon			54,534			54,534	2,266
Kokanee Salmon		285,675	1,419,375			1,705,032	5,316
Largemouth Bass			110,100	15,450		125,550	569
Rainbow Trout		162,882	2,303,779	841,886	16,194	3,324,741	288,371
Northern Pike							
Pallid Sturgeon							
Smallmouth Bass			3,500			3,500	25
Tiger Muskie			5,000	5,860		10,860	61
Walleye		26,549,996	4,133,805	14,293		30,698,094	5,233
Westslope Cutthroat Trout		105,469	142,696	31,251	2,113	281,529	14,405
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout		65,200	47,620	4,250	1,372	118,442	3,691

Fish Size Key	Fry	Fingerlings	Catchables	Brood
Cold water species	<2"	>=2" to <7"	>=7" to <12"	>=12"
Warm water species	<1"	>=1" to <3"	>=3" to <7"	>=7"

FISHERIES HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Year	Event
1864	First Montana Territorial Legislature passes a law limiting the means of taking trout to “a rod or pole, line and hook
1876	Use of explosives to kill fish is outlawed
1889	Federal government introduces brown, rainbow, and brook trout into streams in Yellowstone National Park that drained into Montana
	First game wardens hired
	First warm water fish hatchery built in Miles City
1895	First Montana Fish & Game Commission established
1907	Washoe Park Trout Hatchery built in Anaconda
1912	Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery built in Somers
1921	Big Springs Trout Hatchery built in Lewistown
	Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery built in Big Timber
1922	Giant Springs Trout Hatchery built in Great Falls
1924	Resident hunting and fishing license sales surpass 56,100
1928	Commission establishes a daily limit of 40 fish. No more than five fish can be less than seven inches long; limits apply to all species combined
	Commission closes fishing season from March 15-May 20
1939	Commission reduces the limit for trout to 15 fish
1940	First five-year stocking program for each hatchery established
1947	Jocko River Trout Hatchery obtained in Arlee
	First fish biologist hired
1949	Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery built in Bridger
1955	Montana Water Pollution Control Law
1958	First ever stream rating map developed by Montana Fish & Game, Montana State College (now Montana State University), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1959	Commission reduces the daily limit to 10 trout or 10 pounds and one fish
1963	Stream Protection Act
1970s	Montana hatcheries trimmed from 13 to eight.
1973	Commission changes trout management policy halt stocking catchable-sized trout in streams with healthy wild trout populations
	Montana Water Use Act
1974	Fish and Game stops stocking trout in nearly all rivers and streams
1975	Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act
1976	Murray Springs Fish Hatchery built in Eureka
1977	Fishing Access Site Program expands—portion of anglers’ license fee funds new FAS acquisitions
1978	First “special management area”—catch-and-release only on Madison River stretch—adopted by Commission
	Yellowstone River in-stream flow reservations adopted by Board of Natural Resources and Conservation

Year	Event
1980	Digital files now catalogue lake and stream names and locations, fish-stocking records, angler logs, fishing-pressure and other surveys
1981	Yellowstone River paddlefish regulations tightened in response to suggestions that economic sanctions against Iran might see Montana paddlefish become an affordable alternative to Caspian Sea sturgeon roe
1983	FWP assumes management of the warm-water fish hatchery in Miles City from the federal government
	FWP and The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences file a Natural Resource Damage (Superfund) lawsuit against ARCO to recover mining and smelting damages in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin near Butte
1984	Montana Supreme Court rules the Beaverhead and Dearborn rivers open to public recreational use, affirming the state constitution's intent that waters could be used for recreation without regard to riverbed ownership
1985	Montana Legislature further protects public access to Montana's streams and rivers with passage of Stream Access Law
	First study to determine the economic value of fishing in Montana begins
1991	First agreement with Big Hole River landowners and USFWS signed to ensure the survival of the last river-dwelling population of Arctic grayling in the lower 48 states
1992	Commission halts all bull trout fishing west of the Continental Divide to stem the drop in native bull trout populations
1993	First Aquatic Education Program
1994	Whirling disease found in the Upper Madison River
	Montana and North Dakota launch cooperative paddlefish plan for management and research
1995	Governor Marc Racicot appoints a Whirling Disease Task Force to examine threats presented by the disease
	First Future Fisheries Improvement Program established for river, stream, and lake restoration that improves Montana wild fish habitats
1996	Family Fishing Adventures launched to train anglers, loan equipment, offer free fishing days, and increase accessibility
	"Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs"—a national angling education pilot project—is offered by three Montana schools
1997	White sturgeon, found in the Kootenai River, listed as endangered by USFWS
	Arctic grayling and bull trout are named Endangered Species List "candidates species" by USFWS
	Warm-water fish 10-year management plan adopted for 1997-2006
1998	A partial settlement for \$215 million is reached in a Superfund lawsuit with ARCO for natural resource damages from mining and smelting in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin near Butte
	Bull trout, throughout the Columbia River basin, including Montana, are listed as threatened by the USFWS
2000	First River Conflict Policy and Boating Rules adopted by Commission, including "no-wake zones" in northwestern, west-central Montana and Tongue River Reservoir State Park
	Federal Water Resources Development Act helps fund \$20 million development of warm-water hatchery at Fort Peck
	Montana Attorney General's opinion holds that the public may use a county road right-of-way to access streams
2001	Commission adopts new rules on the Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers to reduce crowding and user conflicts
2002	First Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan
	First Recreation Management Specialist hired River Recreation Advisory Council appointed

Year	Event
2003	Fort Peck Hatchery construction begins
	First survey of many of Montana's 4,200 warm-water prairie streams fund via federal State Wildlife Grants
2004	Montana opens experimental fishing season for threatened bull trout on three waters in western Montana
2005	First special recreation permit for commercial use, competitive events or organized group activities approved by Commission
	Fort Peck Hatchery opens
2006	The restoration of a part of the largest Superfund complex in the western United States begins in the Upper Clark Fork Basin. The project seeks to remove two million cubic yards of contaminated sediment and then the Milltown Dam near Missoula
2007	Montana Legislature allows FWP to convert irrigation water rights to instream use rights on 12 streams
	First finding of Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive water weed, in Montana
2008	Milltown Dam is removed at the confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers near Missoula allowing fish, for the first time in 100 years, to migrate upstream the two free-flowing rivers
2009	Montana Legislature passes HB 190 providing public access to streams and rivers from county roads or bridge right-of-ways
2010	Montana new Invasive Species Act goes into effect with a \$600,000 appropriation to battle aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds
	Thirty-two Big Hole Valley landowners sign "Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances" with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect themselves from Endangered Species Act penalties if they improve Arctic grayling habitat
2011	First mandatory watercraft inspection stations at strategic highway locations and boat ramps to battle aquatic invasive species
	Fishing Access Site Program, and management of more than 330 FASs, becomes sole responsibility of the Fisheries Division
	Montana Legislature establishes Montana's first ever free-fishing for all over Father's Day Weekend
	Exxon Mobil pipeline bursts near the Yellowstone River by Billings. Twenty-miles of river affected by 1,000 barrels of crude oil
2012	Montana WILD opens. The facility is created to build outdoors skills, assist teachers, and promote stewardship of the land, water, and wildlife that support hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other outdoor pursuits
2013	First Statewide Fisheries Management Plan guides regulation setting, budget and project priorities, and routine management for the next six years
2014	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that the Upper Missouri River's Arctic grayling don't need ESA protection. The ruling is rooted in Big Hole River Valley landowners' grayling habitat restoration projects
	FWP guidelines in place for rapid response to illegal fish introduction, which now include more than 50 fish species and are found in every drainage in the state
2016	"'15 & Forward" project creates new vision and sets agency direction for next 10 years
	U.S. District Court issues preliminary injunction to stop U.S. Corps of Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Recreation from further implementing the Intake Irrigation Diversion Dam project on the Yellowstone River near Glendive
	FWP closes the Yellowstone River and its tributaries for about five weeks between Gardiner and Laurel to help limit the chance of the spread of a parasite that killed hundreds of whitefish

MONTANA'S WILDLIFE

Montana's wildlife management program emphasizes conservation of the habitats that support Montana's fish and wildlife populations. [Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy](#) looks at species on a broad scale, showing how all species are connected when tied to specific habitats, and how conserving the habitat of one species can benefit many others.

State Animal—Grizzly Bear

State Bird—Meadowlark

Big Game—12 species & Population Estimate

Species	Population estimate
Antelope	138,280
Bighorn Sheep	6,550
Bison	
Black Bear	12,070
Elk	163,343
Grizzly Bear*	
Mule Deer	297,231
Mountain Goat	
Mountain Lion	5,330
Shiras Moose	
White-tailed Deer	208,150
Woodland Caribou*	

*No open hunting season

Upland Game Birds—10 species

Species	
Blue or Dusky Grouse	Sage Grouse
Chukar Partridge	Sharp-tailed Grouse
Hungarian Partridge	Spruce or Franklin's Grouse
Merriam's Turkey	Ring-necked Pheasant
Ptarmigan*	Ruffed Grouse

*No open hunting season

Migratory Game Birds —40 species

Type	# of Species
Ducks	30
Geese	4
Swans	2
Sandhill Crane	1
Coot	1
Common (Wilson's) Snipe	1
Morning Dove	1

To hunt waterfowl, a federal duck stamp and a Montana Migratory Bird License is required at age 16. A federal duck stamp isn't required to hunt mourning doves, common (Wilson) snipe or sandhill cranes (a crane permit is required, see current waterfowl regulations).

Furbearer—10 species

Species	
Beaver	Mink
Bobcat	Muskrat
Fisher	Otter
Lynx*	Swift Fox*
Marten	Wolverine*

*Harvest seasons closed

Species in Need of Management— Gray Wolf

FWP obtained full authority to manage wolves in Montana upon the federal delisting of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf in May 2011. FWP is committed to using its authority to responsibly manage Montana's wolf population while addressing conflicts with livestock and other wildlife populations. Montana's wolf management includes regulated science-based hunting and trapping. FWP is committed to allowing hunters and trappers, who are showing a real interest in pursuing wolves, to become even more involved in Montana's approach to wolf management. The focus will be on ensuring that Montana's conservation and management program keeps the wolf off the federal endangered species list while pursuing a wolf population level below current numbers to manage impacts on game populations and livestock.

Furbearers Classified as Nongame or Predatory Species—4 species

Species	
Badger	Skunk
Coyote	Spotted Skunk or Civet Cat
Raccoon	Weasel
Red Fox	

- Residents are not required to have a license to trap or hunt predatory species.
- Nonresidents must have a license to trap legally defined predatory animals.
- Nonresidents do not need a license to hunt legally defined predatory animals.

Nongame Wildlife—742 species

Species	
413 birds	22 crustaceans
124 mollusks	18 reptiles
96 mammals	13 amphibians
56 fish	

- Nongame wildlife are defined by state law as, “Any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state.”
- 87 percent of Montana’s wildlife species are nongame.
- Nongame that are sometimes hunted—and that may be pursued without a hunting license—include tree squirrels and rabbits.
- Nongame that are sometimes trapped due to the commercial value of their fur—and that can be trapped by Montana residents without a trapping license—include: badger, raccoon and red fox. Nonresidents must have a trapping license to trap these species—but not to hunt them.

Montana Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species—An endangered species—there are five in Montana—is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; a threatened species—there are seven in Montana—is any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future.

- **Endangered** — Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- **Threatened** — Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- **Nonessential-Experimental Population** — A population of a listed species reintroduced into a specific area that receives more flexible management under the ESA.

- **Critical Habitat** —The specific areas with the physical or biological features essential to conserve the species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

Common Name	Status	Range
Black-footed Ferret	Endangered Nonessential- Experimental	Eastern Montana: prairie dog complexes
Whooping Crane	Endangered	Eastern Montana: wetlands
Least Tern	Endangered	Eastern Montana: Yellowstone and Missouri river sandbars, beaches
Pallid Sturgeon	Endangered	Central and Eastern Montana: bottom dwelling in Missouri and Yellowstone River
White Sturgeon	Endangered	Northwestern Montana: bottom dwelling in Kootenai River
Grizzly Bear	Threatened	Western Montana: alpine/subalpine coniferous forest
Piping Plover	Threatened Critical Habitat	Northeastern Montana: Missouri and Yellowstone river sandbars, alkali beaches. Alkali lakes in Sheridan County; riverine and reservoir shoreline in Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt and Valley counties
Bull Trout	Threatened Critical Habitat	Western Montana: Clark Fork, Flathead, Kootenai, St. Mary river basins; cold water rivers & lakes. Portions of rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs within Deer Lodge, Flathead, Glacier, Granite, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders counties
Canada Lynx	Threatened Critical Habitat	Western Montana: core habitats in montane spruce/fir forests; secondary habitat montane spruce/fir forest
Red Knot	Threatened	Migrant; eastern Montana plains along shorelines
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Threatened	West of Continental Divide: riparian areas with cottonwoods and willows
Northern Long-eared Bat	Threatened	Eastern Montana: caves, abandoned mines; roosts in live trees and snags

Montana’s Delisted Species—Delisted species are those that were formerly listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA but have since been removed because of recovery.

Species	Year Listed	Year Delisted	Montana Population Estimate
Bald Eagle	1966	2007	700 nesting pairs
Peregrine Falcon	1970	1999	More than 90 nesting pairs
Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf	1973	2011	At least 536

Montana Species of Concern—206 Species

Montana Species of Concern are native animals breeding in the state that are considered to be “at risk” due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, or restricted distribution.

	Species of Concern	Potential Species of Concern	Total
Mammals	24	16	40
Birds	66	17	83
Amphibians	6	0	6
Fish	23	5	28
Invertebrates	87	54	141
All	206	92	298

Montana Wildlife Information	Find it Here
Species of Montana	http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/speciesOfMontana.html
Montana Hunting Guides	http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/huntingGuides/
Species of Interest or Concern	http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/species/
Montana Wildlife Field Guides	http://fieldguide.mt.gov/displayClasses.aspx?Kingdom=Animalia
Montana Natural Heritage Program	http://mtnhp.org
State Wildlife Action Plan	http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/conservationInAction/action-Plan.html
Montana Bird Distribution Database	http://mtnhp.org/mtbird/
Montana Bird Field Checklist	http://mtAudubon.org/birding/birding-montana/

Popular Wildlife Programs

- **Habitat Montana**
 - ▶ Established by Montana Legislature— House Bill 526—in 1987.
 - ▶ A portion of certain big game hunting license purchases is earmarked for the protection of “important habitat that is seriously threatened.”
 - ▶ Funds are used to conserve wildlife habitat in a balanced fashion via conservation easement or fee title acquisition while often maintaining the traditional agricultural uses of the land for generations to come.
 - ▶ In 2005, the Legislature made the program permanent.
 - ▶ In 2015, Legislature called a halt to all new land purchases, but continued to allow the spending of the \$3-5 million the program generates for land easements, leases or acquisitions.
 - ▶ Nearly 470,000 acres were conserved via easement or acquisition between 1987 and 2015.
 - ▶ Twenty percent of the Habitat Montana revenue is used for operation and maintenance of all FWP wildlife lands—about \$800,000 annually.

- **Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program**
 - ▶ Established by Montana Legislature— House Bill 499—in 1999.
 - ▶ The program aims to conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations to provide quality public hunting opportunities.
 - ▶ Landowners with at least 160 contiguous acres can benefit from a cost-sharing program, known as Open Fields, while improving their land and making it more inviting for Montana’s upland game birds.
 - ▶ There are more than 376 contracts, for 373,000 project-acres, that provide access to more than 823,000 acres.
- **Block Management Program**
 - ▶ Established by Montana Legislature in 1985.
 - ▶ Block Management is a cooperative effort between FWP, private landowners, and public land management agencies to help landowners manage hunting activities and provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public lands.
 - ▶ Landowners may receive a complimentary sportsman’s license, limited liability protection, livestock loss reimbursement, and compensation—up to \$12,000—to offset potential public hunting impacts. FWP also provides signs, maps, permission books, and, on some BMAs, staff to patrol & assist hunters. The program aims to conserve and enhance upland game bird habitats and populations to provide quality public hunting opportunities.
 - ▶ The program is funded by portions of various hunting license fees, sales of Supertag lottery chances, and federal excise taxes.
 - ▶ In 2016, 1,262 landowners enrolled more than 7.3 million acres in the program.
- **Wildlife Management Areas**
 - ▶ Montana’s 83 WMAs maintain vital wildlife habitat for the protection of species and the enjoyment of the public.
 - ▶ WMAs protect and provide critical habitat for bear, bighorn sheep, birds, deer, elk, furbearers, moose, mountain goats, wolves, waterfowl, and an array of other game and nongame wildlife.
 - ▶ WMAs also represent FWP’s commitment to working with local ranching communities to reduce wildlife depredation problems. For instance, Montana has established 18 elk wintering areas as state WMAs and support about 15 percent of the state’s elk herd.
 - ▶ Though the primary purpose of WMAs is to provide wildlife habitat, they are open to public hunting, wildlife watching, photography, and hiking.
 - ▶ Several WMAs are closed to the public soon after hunting season through May 15 to protect wintering wildlife.
- **Landowner/Wildlife (Game Damage) Assistance**
 - ▶ Longtime FWP program for landowners that allow hunting on their lands.
 - The Livestock Loss Reimbursement Program, reimburses landowners for injury to or loss of livestock directly attributed to allowing public hunting on their property. The average annual payment is about \$1,000

- ▶ The Livestock Loss Board, established by Montana Legislature in 2007, and administered by the Montana Department of Livestock, reimburses landowners for injury to, or loss of livestock, due to confirmed or probable wolf and grizzly bear depredations.
- **[Landowner Guide to FWP Landowner Programs](#)**
 - ▶ Montana landowners are central to the work of conserving Montana’s wildlife, fish and important habitats. FWP is committed to working with Montana’s landowners through a variety of programs that acknowledge and support their role in maintaining Montana’s conservation legacy.
 - A guide of about 10 programs is online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWild-life/landowners/>

Hunting Licenses and Seasons

- Montana issues a number of different hunting licenses and permits for nearly 20 game species.
 - ▶ a license provides an opportunity to “harvest” the species for which the license is valid
 - ▶ a permit enhances one’s hunting opportunity
 - a permit does not allow a hunter to “harvest” the species for which the permit is valid—the permit must be used in conjunction with a license.
- Detailed information on licenses and seasons can be found online or in specific regulation books.
- Some specific discounts exist for seniors (62 and older), youth, nonresident college students, active military and veterans, and former Montana residents.

Hunter Education Requirements

- Hunter education became mandatory in 1957.
- Residents and nonresidents born after January 1, 1985 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 any hunting license.
- Each year, about 1,200 volunteer Hunter Education instructors donate 30,000 hours teaching 350 classes to certify 6,500 individuals.

Bowhunter Education Requirements

- Bowhunter education started in Montana in 1991.
- To archery hunt in Montana, one must, regardless of age, show proof of having successfully completed a bowhunter education course to purchase a \$10 bow and arrow license.
- Proof can be a bowhunter education certificate, a previous year’s archery license from any state or province, or the prospective bowhunter can sign an archery-license affirmation.
- About 2,800 students complete the training each year.
- \$1 from the sale of each bow and arrow license helps support Montana Bowhunter Education.

Resident Licensing

- Resident hunters need two licenses to get started:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$8; cost is included in resident sportsman’s package.
 - ▶ base hunting license—\$10; cost is included in resident sportsman’s package.

Nonresident Licensing

- Nonresident hunters need two licenses to get started:
 - ▶ conservation license—\$10; cost included in nonresident combination packages.
 - ▶ base hunting license—\$15; cost included in nonresident combination packages.

Residency

- One becomes eligible for resident fishing, hunting and trapping licenses after six months legal residence in Montana.
- Individuals may claim only one state of residence and must claim all income as Montana taxable income.

Youth Hunting Basics

- Resident and nonresident youths may purchase or apply for a license if they will be 12 years old before or during the season for which they are applying.
- Resident youth who will turn 12 before January 16 may hunt in any legal season after Aug. 15 of the prior year.
- Montana’s “[Apprentice Hunter](#)” law, enacted by the 2015 Legislature, offers the opportunity for youth 10-17 years of age to hunt without completing hunter education. The hunter and the hunter’s mentor must meet several requirements.

Special Licensing & Permit Drawing Calendar

- **January 1**—Nonresident combination applications and resident deer and elk permits available.
- **March 15**—Application deadline for nonresident combination licenses and resident deer and elk permits.
 - ▶ Results: Mid-April via [MyFWP](#).
- **Early April**—Big Game Regulations available in print and online at fwp.mt.gov.
- **May 1**—Application deadline for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and bison.
 - ▶ Results: Third week of June via [MyFWP](#).
- **June 1**—Application deadline for special elk, antelope and deer licenses.
 - ▶ Results: Mid July via [MyFWP](#).

When you go Hunting

- Hunters must have landowner permission (verbal or written) to hunt on private property in Montana.
- Hunters, with or without a harvested animal, must stop at established game checking stations—both on their way to and back from hunting areas.
- Hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist visible at all times when hunting big game during the firearms season.
- Archers must wear hunter orange if a firearms season for the species the archer is pursuing is open in the area where they are hunting.

Economics of Hunting

(Statewide Estimates of Resident and Nonresident Hunter & Angler Expenditures in Montana—2014, FWP Human Dimensions Unit Research Summary No. 39)

- In 2014, it was estimated that Montana hunters spent a total of about \$348 million in 2014 on trip-related expenses – transportation, lodging, food, guide fees, and other purchases, excluding license fees.
 - ▶ Deer hunters spent \$148.9 million
 - ▶ Elk hunters spent \$137.8 million
 - ▶ Waterfowl hunters spent \$17.8 million
 - ▶ Pheasant hunters spent \$15.6 million
 - ▶ Sharp-tailed grouse hunters spent \$10 million
 - ▶ Antelope hunters spent \$8.5 million
 - ▶ Hungarian partridge hunters spent \$7.4 million
- Nonresidents account for about 53 percent of the hunting trip-related expenditures in Montana.
- Total trip-related spending among Montana hunters & anglers – residents and nonresidents combined – was estimated to be about \$1.26 billion in 2014.
- It is estimated that this spending by hunters and anglers supports between 11,060 and 12,850 jobs in Montana.

Who Hunts in Montana

2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated

Recreation (Montana Data)—The focus of this national survey is on the fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation activities of United State residents 16 years of age or older . This survey is conducted every five years. The Montana specific data presented below is from the 2011 survey—the 2016 survey has yet to be completed.

- **Hunting**

- ▶ In 2011, 150,000 people 16 years old and older hunted in Montana—hunting a total of about 2.5 million days in the state.
- ▶ Seventy percent of those hunters were residents of Montana—that’s 14 percent of the people in the state who are 16 years of age or older. State residents hunted 2 million days—80 percent of all hunting days in Montana.

- **All Sportsperson participation in fishing and/or hunting.**

- ▶ In 2011, 335,000 people 16 years old and older fished or hunted in Montana.
- ▶ Nearly two-thirds of those sportspersons were residents of Montana—that’s 29 percent of the people in the state who are 16 years of age or older.

- **Wildlife Viewing**

- ▶ In 2011, 230,000 thousand people participated in “away-from-home” watchable wildlife activities in Montana—spending approximately \$292 million on trip related expenditures in the state.
- ▶ Thirty-one percent of those watchable wildlife enthusiasts were residents of Montana—that’s 12 percent of the people in the state who are 16 years of age or older.

2014 License Year

- In 2014, FWP’s issued a total of about 240,700 hunting licenses, including 197,020 licenses to residents and 43,682 to nonresidents.
- While general hunter numbers nationwide have inched upward in recent years after several years of decline, hunters in Montana have remained stable at about 240,000.
- Residents comprise about 82 percent of the state’s hunting license buyers.
- About 33 percent of all adult Montana residents purchase hunting licenses annually.
- In total, nearly 197,020 residents and 43,682 nonresidents held Montana hunting licenses in 2014.
- Archery license sales statewide increased – from more than 26,000 in 1998 to more than 40,000 in 2015.

Where They Hunt – The Montana Landscape

- **Geography**
 - ▶ Montana is the fourth largest of the 50 states at 147,046 square miles, about the size of Japan.
 - ▶ The U.S. Census's 2015 population estimate shows 1.03 million people Montana, 44th among the U.S. states.
 - ▶ Montana's population density is 6.86 people per square mile, 48th among the U.S. states.
- **Land Ownership & Management**
 - ▶ More than 60 million acres, about 64 percent of the state, are private and Indian Reservation lands.
 - ▶ About 27 million acres, 29 percent of the state, are federal lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others.
 - ▶ About 5 million acres, 5 percent of the state, are State lands.
 - Of this, as of 2016, FWP manages a total of about 689,000 acres, a fraction of a percent.
 - ◆ FWP administers 319,595 acres in fee title lands. More than 270,000 acres are managed for wildlife.
 - ◆ Approx 376,000 acres have been conserved through Conservation Easement and Fee Title purchase from 1987-2016 using Habitat Montana in partnership with other funding sources.
- **Hunter Access to Private Land**
 - ▶ Hunters must have landowner permission (verbal or written) to hunt on private property in Montana.
 - ▶ In 2016, hunters can enjoy hunting free of charge on more than 7 million acres of land provided through the Block Management Program and participating landowners.
- **Public Land Hunting Opportunities**—With about 30 million acres of state and federal lands, nearly one third of the state, Montana has excellent public land hunting opportunities.
 - ▶ **Access Public Lands**—Access Public Lands is an FWP program that seeks to improve access to state and federal lands and to help reduce the conflicts. Funding is used for agreements that provide access corridors to public lands, land owner incentives like fencing, cattle guards, and water crossings on access routes, signing to indicate public/private land boundaries, and more. FWP relies on a cooperative approach that considers the needs of landowners, sportsmen, and land managers to resolve conflicts over access to state and federal lands.

Access to State Lands

- **School Trust Lands**
 - ▶ There are 5.5 million acres of state school trust lands in Montana, with most accessible to hunters.
 - ▶ Contact: [DNRC](#) at 406-444-2074.
- **State Wildlife Management Areas**
 - ▶ Montana [Wildlife Management Areas \(WMA\)](#), 83 in all, are owned and managed by FWP provide free public hunting opportunities statewide.
 - ▶ Contact: the appropriate [FWP Regional Office](#).
- **Fishing Access Sites**
 - ▶ A number of Montana [Fishing Access Sites \(FAS\)](#) allow hunting.
 - ▶ Contact: the appropriate [FWP Regional Office](#).
- **Montana Department of Corrections**
 - ▶ The Montana State Prison Ranch offers big game and bird hunting on 23,000 acres of land managed by the Department of Corrections at Warm Springs near Deer Lodge.
 - ▶ Contact: FWP Region 2 Headquarters at 406-542-5530.

Access to Federal Lands

- **National Forest Lands**
 - ▶ National forests in Montana comprise nearly 16 million acres. Most that are legally accessible via a public road, navigable waterway, or adjacent state or federal land are open to hunting.
 - ▶ Contact: [Forest Service Northern Region Office](#) at 406-329-3511.
- **Bureau of Land Management**
 - ▶ BLM manages more than 8 million acres of mostly range land and some forested land across the state. Most that are legally accessible via a public road, navigable waterway, or adjacent state or federal land are open to hunting.
 - ▶ Contact: [BLM State Office](#) in Billings at 406-896-5004.
- **National Refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas**
 - ▶ The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 10 national wildlife refuges in Montana most of which allow hunting during some portion of the season. USFWS also oversees hundreds of waterfowl production areas that provide waterfowl, upland bird, and limited big game hunting opportunities.
 - ▶ Contact: [Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Lewistown at 406-538-8706.
- **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lands**
 - ▶ The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation administers approximately 200,000 acres of land and 100,000 acres of surface water in Montana. Where there is legal public access, BOR managed land is open to hunting, fishing and other recreational activity.
 - ▶ Contact: [BOR Great Plains Office](#) in Billings at 406-247-7610.

Conservation Easements Held By FWP - As of 10/31/2016

Region	Site Name	Division	Acres	Transaction Date
1	Bull River Vista CE	Wildlife	574.09	February 9, 2005
1	Dancing Prairie CE	Wildlife	680.00	October 27, 1995
1	Haskill Basin Watershed CE	Wildlife	3,020.00	February 16, 2016
1	Kootenai Valleys CE	Wildlife	27,991.20	December 13, 2012
1	North Swan Valley CE	Wildlife	7,203.64	September 1, 2006
1	Roundhorn CE	Wildlife	20.01	December 10, 1993
1	Seabaugh Wylie Slough CE	Wildlife	449.00	September 27, 2004
1	Swan River CE	Fisheries	4,871.83	December 1, 2010
1	Thompson-Fisher CE	Wildlife	142,015.24	September 26, 2003
1	West Swan Valley CE	Fisheries	4,477.00	December 3, 2010
2	Blackfoot River CE	Fisheries	1,225.00	November 2, 1983
2	Blackfoot-Clearwater CE	Wildlife	6,849.48	March 15, 2004
2	Bolin Ranches CE	Wildlife	5,204.00	May 20, 1997
2	Brown Valley CE - 1	Wildlife	1,800.47	December 18, 1995
2	Brown Valley CE - 2	Wildlife	68.42	December 27, 2000
2	Brown Valley CE - 3	Wildlife	204.50	October 8, 2008
2	Clearwater Junction CE	Wildlife	253.60	January 15, 1998
2	Dalton Mountain CE - 1	Wildlife	2,729.15	September 9, 2008
2	Dalton Mountain CE - 2	Wildlife	2,182.38	August 26, 2008
2	Douglas Creek CE	Wildlife	1,360.00	May 24, 2013
2	Elliot-McKinstry CE	Fisheries	129.62	December 22, 1986
2	Gillies Ranch CE	Wildlife	1,554.00	October 17, 1997
2	Lewis Ranch CE	Wildlife	155.00	July 23, 1997
2	Lost Creek Corridor CE	Fisheries	30.00	June 9, 2009
2	Manley Ranch CE	Wildlife	4,636.00	March 13, 2001
2	Mannix CE	Wildlife	3,000.00	October 26, 1994
2	Murnik-Stasny CE	Fisheries	78.66	September 21, 1998
2	Murray Creek CE	Wildlife	1,437.20	May 24, 2013
2	Murray Douglas CE	Wildlife	7,930.16	May 24, 2013
2	North Chamberlain CE	Fisheries	13,410.55	July 27, 2010
2	Opsata CE	Wildlife	374.00	March 10, 2003
2	Reinoehl CE	Wildlife	634.00	January 15, 1998
2	Sinelnik CE	Fisheries	80.00	March 21, 1985
2	Sunset Hill CE	Fisheries	3,440.00	July 26, 2010
3	Bear Creek Angus CE	Wildlife	5,278.00	November 21, 1994
3	Bear Creek Angus CE	Wildlife	640.00	November 29, 2001
3	Dome Mountain CE	Wildlife	160.00	September 28, 1990
3	Dragging Y CE	Wildlife	14,650.00	January 4, 2001
3	Fred & Lynn Hirschy CE	Wildlife	1,360.00	January 7, 1998
3	Grady Ranches CE	Wildlife	12,931.68	April 1, 1998
3	Hahn CE	Wildlife	1,685.00	July 10, 1998
3	Jack Hirschy Livestock,Inc.CE	Wildlife	9,468.75	December 11, 1997
3	Keogh CE	Wildlife	7,105.99	March 22, 1996

Region	Site Name	Division	Acres	Transaction Date
3	Maher CE	Wildlife	880.00	November 10, 1994
3	Mill Creek CE	Fisheries	270.00	November 24, 1987
3	O'Connell Lyons Creek CE	Wildlife	4,153.84	September 4, 1996
3	Odell Creek Wetlands CE	Wildlife	225.00	May 22, 2008
3	Sieben Lyons Creek CE	Wildlife	4,040.00	September 4, 1996
3	Sieben Rattlesnake Creek CE	Wildlife	10,866.90	September 4, 1996
3	Sourdough Creek CE	Wildlife	230.00	December 22, 1980
3	Storey Ranch CE	Wildlife	1,922.04	December 12, 1998
3	Storey-Madison Ranch CE	Wildlife	1,605.36	November 30, 1998
3	WH Ranch CE	Wildlife	1,584.22	October 9, 1996
4	Bay Ranch CE	Wildlife	3,869.00	December 17, 1996
4	Bird Creek CE - 1	Wildlife	1,310.42	May 16, 2007
4	Bird Creek CE - 2	Wildlife	2,292.00	May 16, 2007
4	Burleigh CE	Fisheries	68.87	October 17, 1986
4	Chokecherry Bend CE	Wildlife	801.07	January 20, 2012
4	Coffee Creek CE	Wildlife	800.00	December 6, 2010
4	Edwards CE	Wildlife	318.00	April 30, 1995
4	Harris Land & Cattle Co. CE	Wildlife	10,013.05	April 2, 1998
4	Machler CE	Fisheries	62.00	January 2, 2007
4	Moline CE	Wildlife	4,900.82	December 31, 2010
4	Pheasant Bend CE	Wildlife	294.00	June 15, 2015
4	Raundal Coulee CE	Wildlife	2,595.76	February 26, 2014
4	Riverdale CE	Wildlife	850.00	December 28, 2010
5	Pictograph Cave	Parks	50.00	August 30, 1994
6	Buffalo Coulee CE	Wildlife	2,778.45	November 13, 2014
6	Cottonwood Bend CE	Wildlife	159.00	October 14, 2010
6	Cowell CE	Wildlife	4,489.00	February 1, 2001
6	Gordon Cattle CE	Wildlife	15,157.00	October 30, 2003
6	Hart CE	Wildlife	402.00	January 8, 2007
6	Lower Beaver Creek CE	Wildlife	462.00	January 18, 2011
6	Milk River Brazil Creek CE	Wildlife	612.00	June 27, 2008
6	Pintail Flat CE	Wildlife	1,760.00	June 30, 2016
6	South Ranch CE	Wildlife	18,172.53	January 24, 1994
6	Tampico Ranch CE	Wildlife	3,802.90	January 21, 1994
7	Bice CE	Wildlife	13,440.00	July 3, 2002
7	Brewer CE	Wildlife	17,849.50	January 21, 1994
7	Buxbaum CE	Wildlife	6,044.53	September 17, 1997
7	Fluss Ranch CE	Wildlife	13,851.00	November 29, 2000
7	Hirsch Ranch CE - 1	Wildlife	10,668.77	November 23, 1999
7	Hirsch Ranch CE - 2	Wildlife	2,668.00	July 3, 2002
Total			469,666.65	

Harvest Facts

- In license year 2015, 37 percent of mule deer bucks harvested had antlers with less than four points on both sides, and 63 percent had antlers with four or more points on at least one side.
- In license year 2015, 24 percent of white-tailed deer bucks harvested had antlers with less than four points on both sides, and 76 percent had antlers with four or more points on at least one side.
- In license year 2015, 58 percent of bull elk harvested had antlers with less than six points on both sides, and 42 percent had antlers with six or more points on at least one side.

Harvest Estimates

2015 Deer, Elk & Pronghorn Antelope Sample Summary

Species	Total Licenses Issued	Total Licenses Sampled	Total Hunters Sampled	Total Licenses Responding	Total Hunters Responding	Survey Response Rate
Deer	229,173	135,045	110,686	84,795	68,761	63%
Elk	181,620	106,117	91,051	64,837	55,475	61%
Antelope	26,013	17,224	15,761	11,087	10,126	64%

2015 Deer Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Bucks	Harvest Does	Harvest Fawns
All Deer	155,191	NA	86,582	68,242	17,610	705
Mule Deer	NA	NA	41,733	38,894	2,740	98
White-tailed Deer	NA	NA	44,823	29,347	14,870	607

2015 Elk Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Bulls	Harvest Cows	Harvest Calves
Elk	113,959	1,049,003	30,924	13,703	15,732	1,486

2015 Pronghorn Antelope Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Bucks	Harvest Does	Harvest Fawns
Antelope	17,057	58,678	10,891	7,773	2,995	120

2015 Moose, Sheep & Goat Sample Summary

Species	Total Licenses Issued	Total Licenses Sampled	Total Hunters Sampled	Total Licenses Responding	Total Hunters Responding	Survey Response Rate
Moose	364	364	364	278	278	76%
Sheep	813	813	813	595	595	73%
Goat	243	243	243	215	215	88%

2015 Moose Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Bulls	Harvest Cows	Harvest Calves
Moose	347	4,233	268	232	35	1

* Includes harvest of animals for which age and sex were unknown at the time of interview

2015 Bighorn Sheep Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Rams	Harvest Ewes	Harvest Lambs
Sheep	645	4,518	227	122	99	0

2015 Mountain Goat Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Billies	Harvest Nannies	Harvest Kids
Goat	218	1,065	179	121	58	0

2015 Turkey Sample Summary

Total Licenses Issued	Total Licenses Sampled	Total Hunters Sampled	Total Licenses Responding	Total Hunters Responding	Survey Response Rate
27,918	18,834	15,813	11,561	9,698	61%

2015 Turkey Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest*	Harvest Male	Harvest Female
Spring	5,160	19,806	2,532	2,532	0
Fall	4,736	19,497	2,453	1,422	884
Both (Combined)	8,836	37,381	4,985	3,954	884

2015 Upland Game Bird Sample Summary

Total Licenses Issued	Total Licenses Sampled	Total Hunters Sampled	Total Licenses Responding	Total Hunters Responding	Survey Response Rate
115,422	30,833	30,833	18,741	18,741	61%

2015 Upland Game Bird Hunting and Harvest Survey Summary Estimates

Species	Hunters	Days Afield	Total Harvest
All Upland Game Birds	36,875	394,870	308,173
Pheasant	21,037	116,464	132,169
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge	7,455	53,264	38,328
Chukar Partridge	315	2,369	1,198
Sharp-Tailed Grouse	10,504	68,625	57,470
Sage Grouse	741	3,134	1,632
Ruffed Grouse	8,954	69,797	39,543
Dusky (Blue) Grouse	7,583	54,885	26,244
Spruce Grouse	2,760	20,526	8,085
Unknown	591	3,813	1,859

Detailed hunting and harvest statistics for big game species can be accessed from the FWP Hunt Planner at <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/harvestReports.html>

* Includes harvest of animals for which age and sex were unknown at the time of interview

Montana Big Game Records

Species	MT Minimum Scores			MT Top Scores		
	Boone & Crockett	Pope & Young	Boone & Crockett	Record Holder	Pope & Young	Record Holder
AMERICAN ELK NON-TYPICAL	370	320	429 1/8	John Luthje	409	Terry V Crooks
AMERICAN ELK TYPICAL	360	260	419 1/2	Fred C Mercer	409 1/4	Chuck Adams
BIGHORN SHEEP	175	135	204 1/4	Toni Sannon	199	Robert E Seelye
BISON	110	96	135	Unknown	122 1/4	H E Lillis
BLACK BEAR	19	17	21 1/2	Pat R Descheemaeker	21	Colin Andrews
GRIZZLY BEAR	23	-	25 9/16	Ted Johnston	-	-
MOUNTAIN LION	14 1/2	13	15 3/4	Stan Stamey	15 7/16	Cody Stemler
MULE DEER NON-TYPICAL	215	165	275 7/8	Peter Zemljak Sr	274 1/8	Andrew Keim
MULE DEER TYPICAL	180	140	207 7/8	Unknown	187 1/8	Reynolds Larry
PRONGHORN ANTELOPE	80	65	92 3/4	Don Yates	84 1/4	Ron J Hoagland
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	47	38	54	Jason D Beatty	51 1/4	Ted G Quillen
WHITETAIL DEER NON-TYPICAL	185	150	252 1/8	Frank A Pleskac	210 7/8	Todd Jensen
WHITETAIL DEER TYPICAL	160	120	199 3/8	Thomas Dellwo	182	Dennis Young
WYOMING (SHIRAS) MOOSE	140	120	199 3/4	Polite H Pepion	169 1/4	Sam A Terakedis

Hunters and Anglers in Montana 1983-2013

License Year	Resident Anglers	Non-resident Anglers	Total	Resident Hunters	Non-resident Hunters	Total
2014	258,846	178,290	437,136	197,020	43,682	240,702
2013	254,473	170,415	424,888	196,101	43,441	239,542
2012	241,519	157,763	399,282	189,696	39,621	229,317
2011	224,942	138,233	363,175	184,708	38,269	222,977
2010	238,942	154,184	393,126	192,384	43,237	235,621
2009	244,797	155,119	399,916	199,874	43,696	243,570
2008	237,070	152,812	389,882	199,738	45,812	245,550
2007	233,794	162,460	396,254	196,082	47,669	243,751
**2006	230,426	159,108	389,534	193,484	47,129	240,613
2006	230,426	159,108	389,534	193,484	47,129	240,613
2005	223,709	155,788	379,497	188,299	43,637	231,936
2004	222,634	156,618	379,252	190,034	42,835	232,869
2003	223,580	159,794	383,374	190,604	41,672	232,276
*2002	219,999	163,109	383,108	189,455	37,910	227,365
2000	228,782	146,250	375,032	205,395	74,332	279,727
1999	231,178	153,628	384,806	206,641	77,174	283,815
1998	227,924	149,744	377,668	204,949	75,433	280,382
1997	225,388	142,090	367,478	205,126	72,585	277,711
1996	230,202	141,894	372,096	211,750	72,947	284,697
1995	236,372	146,701	383,073	216,516	74,259	290,775
1994	240,713	149,107	389,820	220,109	75,042	295,151
1993	233,824	156,832	390,656	214,779	57,253	272,032
1992	230,089	148,871	378,960	212,209	54,077	266,286
1991	227,988	147,416	375,404	212,065	53,662	265,727
1990	235,166	151,701	386,867	224,003	35,353	259,356
1989	231,771	143,451	375,222	220,800	34,533	255,333
1988	233,683	134,842	368,525	222,397	33,841	256,238
1987	247,140	135,852	382,992	233,638	28,142	261,780
1986	250,006	129,376	379,382	235,369	27,433	262,802
1985	236,744	112,851	349,595	218,306	32,070	250,376
1984	232,036	104,098	336,134	222,185	32,070	254,255
1983	217,617	113,455	331,072	218,992	29,435	248,427
PRDJ-Summary	* Skipped 2001 due to ALS's ability to pull information without waiting a year					
	** Used 2006 data over again for 2007 due to the determination by Feds to wait one complete year for data.					

Special Drawing Statistics 1984-2016

Total for Deer & Elk Permits, Moose, Sheep, Goat, Deer B, Elk B, Antelope
and Antelope B Licenses

Year	Total		
	Resident	NonResident	Total
1984	178,602	22,962	201,564
1985	194,982	25,492	220,474
1986	172,839	18,998	191,837
1987	190,910	20,806	211,716
1988	160,360	18,332	178,692
1989	177,068	19,616	196,684
1990	184,767	19,978	204,745
1991	185,495	19,435	204,930
1992	182,391	18,942	201,333
1993	190,686	19,711	210,397
1994	174,649	19,842	194,491
1995	175,093	20,672	195,765
1996	170,072	23,931	194,003
1997	153,427	22,948	176,375
1998	147,102	21,350	168,452
1999	154,263	22,556	176,819
2000	156,049	23,083	179,132
2001	171,337	27,311	198,648
2002	186,317	26,260	212,577
2003	197,781	26,825	224,606
2004	187,652	26,386	214,038
2005	188,916	26,785	215,701
2006	182,380	27,326	209,706
2007	187,223	28,859	216,082
2008	199,177	31,351	230,528
2009	201,620	30,629	232,249
2010	208,585	32,340	240,925
2011	216,257	30,970	247,227
2012	208,955	32,610	241,565
2013	212,410	31,656	244,066
2014	206,800	30,261	237,061
2015	224,884	33,067	257,951
2016	128,381	24,929	153,310

Special Drawing Statistics 1984-2016: Deer and Elk Permits

Year	Deer Permit			Elk Permit		
	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total
1984			0	68,776	8,622	77,398
1985			0	76,304	7,771	84,075
1986			0	69,926	6,563	76,489
1987	6,240	711	6,951	75,688	6,768	82,456
1988	3,308	651	3,959	55,066	5,835	60,901
1989	3,600	621	4,221	61,570	6,478	68,048
1990	4,132	616	4,748	63,819	6,632	70,451
1991	4,625	562	5,187	61,515	5,165	66,680
1992	5,306	565	5,871	63,963	5,005	68,968
1993	5,779	570	6,349	68,012	5,140	73,152
1994	5,747	459	6,206	63,416	4,828	68,244
1995	6,133	574	6,707	66,074	5,220	71,294
1996	6,338	616	6,954	65,245	5,379	70,624
1997	3,848	318	4,166	60,950	4,850	65,800
1998	4,557	504	5,061	61,283	5,599	66,882
1999	6,796	936	7,732	63,159	5,943	69,102
2000	9,841	1,448	11,289	62,456	6,029	68,485
2001	11,382	1,274	12,656	64,262	6,381	70,643
2002	12,780	1,352	14,132	66,254	6,040	72,294
2003	14,015	1,478	15,493	67,294	6,430	73,724
2004	14,394	1,649	16,043	57,236	5,024	62,260
2005	16,076	1,774	17,850	54,526	4,595	59,121
2006	16,905	1,859	18,764	51,055	4,205	55,260
2007	17,884	2,001	19,885	52,331	4,110	56,441
2008	18,872	1,938	20,810	53,144	4,780	57,924
2009	18,416	1,899	20,315	52,895	4,937	57,832
2010	17,808	2,204	20,012	38,527	4,907	43,434
2011	18,621	2,296	20,917	40,121	5,247	45,368
2012	20,746	2,519	23,265	43,195	7,637	50,832
2013	20,116	2,337	22,453	41,815	7,335	49,150
2014	19,826	2,491	22,317	41,239	7,116	48,355
2015	22,379	2,775	25,154	45,830	7,840	53,670
2016	23,221	2,859	26,080	48,626	7,899	56,525

Special Drawing Statistics 1984-2016: Deer, Elk and Antelope Licenses

Year	Deer B			Elk B			Antelope			Antelope B		
	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total
1984	35,412	7,161	42,573				48,842	5,730	54,572			
1985	39,754	8,933	48,687				49,296	7,030	56,326			
1986	29,888	4,271	34,159				44,018	6,404	50,422			
1987	27,853	4,223	32,076				47,176	6,958	54,134			
1988	25,317	3,249	28,566				42,551	6,614	49,165			
1989	28,770	2,700	31,470				45,157	7,536	52,693			
1990	29,509	2,180	31,689				46,708	8,021	54,729			
1991	31,447	2,405	33,852				46,723	8,419	55,142			
1992	29,762	2,785	32,547				44,234	8,206	52,440			
1993	31,043	2,909	33,952				44,579	8,535	53,114			
1994	29,652	2,888	32,540				40,904	8,865	49,769			
1995	30,413	3,283	33,696				40,483	8,931	49,414			
1996	30,232	6,424	36,656				36,951	8,668	45,619			
1997	22,475	6,273	28,748				34,413	8,298	42,711			
1998	15,753	4,010	19,763				34,594	7,836	42,430			
1999	13,949	3,958	17,907				35,919	7,989	43,908			
2000	13,169	3,776	16,945				37,014	8,087	45,101			
2001	19,203	4,587	23,790				38,899	8,623	47,522			
2002	23,249	4,941	28,190				42,317	7,565	49,882			
2003	24,606	4,621	29,227	1,646	40	1,686	45,957	7,617	53,574			
2004	24,682	4,464	29,146	2,834	107	2,941	44,454	7,659	52,113			
2005	25,164	4,477	29,641	2,918	157	3,075	43,550	7,582	51,132			
2006	22,493	4,284	26,777	4,148	146	4,294	41,198	7,756	48,954			
2007	22,796	4,282	27,078	4,692	281	4,973	41,777	7,978	49,755			
2008	23,453	4,191	27,644	5,105	554	5,659	49,133	8,696	57,829			
2009	22,430	4,024	26,454	6,539	661	7,200	51,811	8,104	59,915			
2010	20,710	3,766	24,476	29,591	1,442	31,033	43,915	7,993	51,908	10,760	492	11,252
2011	20,994	3,280	24,274	34,447	1,442	35,889	42,676	6,292	48,968	11,680	474	12,154
2012	17,804	2,681	20,485	34,624	1,588	36,212	35,943	5,252	41,195	11,217	416	11,633
2013	19,493	2,458	21,951	37,939	1,823	39,762	35,580	4,684	40,264	11,173	341	11,514
2014	9,293	341	9,634	36,321	1,918	38,239	33,318	4,324	37,642	10,474	288	10,762
2015	14,024	1,245	15,269	39,098	2,031	41,129	35,503	4,697	40,200	11,210	313	11,523
2016	16,803	2,097	18,900	34,872	2,211	37,083	35,606	5,155	40,761	11,274	388	11,662

Special Drawing Statistics 1984-2016: Moose, Sheep and Goat Licenses

Year	Moose			Sheep			Goat		
	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total	Res.	NR	Total
1984	14,909	588	15,497	6,448	585	7,033	4,215	276	4,491
1985	17,245	747	17,992	7,550	725	8,275	4,833	286	5,119
1986	16,402	722	17,124	7,821	734	8,555	4,784	304	5,088
1987	18,982	874	19,856	9,565	887	10,452	5,406	385	5,791
1988	18,842	755	19,597	9,654	902	10,556	5,622	326	5,948
1989	21,457	847	22,304	10,428	1,088	11,516	6,086	346	6,432
1990	22,755	906	23,661	11,378	1,199	12,577	6,466	424	6,890
1991	22,688	1,002	23,690	11,915	1,419	13,334	6,582	463	7,045
1992	21,487	792	22,279	11,309	1,246	12,555	6,330	343	6,673
1993	22,241	748	22,989	12,387	1,398	13,785	6,645	411	7,056
1994	17,973	798	18,771	10,912	1,552	12,464	6,045	452	6,497
1995	16,372	672	17,044	9,819	1,570	11,389	5,799	422	6,221
1996	16,387	803	17,190	10,127	1,690	11,817	4,792	351	5,143
1997	16,008	848	16,856	10,003	1,865	11,868	5,730	496	6,226
1998	15,295	824	16,119	9,783	2,007	11,790	5,837	570	6,407
1999	17,369	961	18,330	10,632	2,122	12,754	6,439	647	7,086
2000	16,812	958	17,770	10,282	2,102	12,384	6,475	683	7,158
2001	18,576	1,781	20,357	11,692	3,227	14,919	7,323	1,438	8,761
2002	20,300	1,593	21,893	13,383	3,364	16,747	8,034	1,405	9,439
2003	21,136	1,609	22,745	14,318	3,527	17,845	8,809	1,503	10,312
2004	20,808	1,818	22,626	14,469	3,937	18,406	8,775	1,728	10,503
2005	21,467	1,994	23,461	15,751	4,289	20,040	9,464	1,917	11,381
2006	20,892	2,102	22,994	15,995	4,847	20,842	9,694	2,127	11,821
2007	20,914	2,295	23,209	16,828	5,497	22,325	10,001	2,415	12,416
2008	21,737	2,532	24,269	17,481	5,998	23,479	10,252	2,662	12,914
2009	21,242	2,480	23,722	17,863	5,989	23,852	10,424	2,535	12,959
2010	19,917	2,440	22,357	17,164	6,403	23,567	10,193	2,693	12,886
2011	20,214	2,492	22,706	17,145	6,666	23,811	10,359	2,781	13,140
2012	18,714	2,560	21,274	16,650	6,928	23,578	10,062	3,029	13,091
2013	19,018	2,549	21,567	16,893	7,101	23,994	10,383	3,028	13,411
2014	23,266	2,910	26,176	20,161	7,500	27,661	12,902	3,373	16,275
2015	23,477	2,978	26,455	20,232	7,676	27,908	13,131	3,512	16,643
2016	23,015	2,984	25,999	20,135	7,662	27,797	13,384	3,525	16,909

Non-Resident Combination License Statistics 1996-2015

(After HB-195 and License Structure changes)

Number of Applicants

Type	Quota or Target after 161	(Demand for licenses)														(Recession effect)					(Post I 161)				
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015				
Big Game Combination:		17,000	14,865	14,994	14,031	15,518	15,918	15,411	15,312	13,116	14,897	16,121	17,731	18,856	19,444	17,766	17,790	14,158	13,555	12,740	11,936	12,762			
BG General																									
Elk General																									
BG Pref																									
Elk Pref																									
*BG Outfitter	0	5,213	5,127	4,798	4,875	5,588	4,971	4,382	4,164	4,663	5,318	5,943	5,473	4,846	3,536	3,037	0	0	0	0	0	0			
*Elk Outfitter																									
Come Home to Hunt	500																								
Deer Combination:																									
General	4,600	8,314	8,024	8,166	8,585	9,759	10,464	9,697	9,086	10,665	11,376	11,924	12,074	12,364	11,582	11,688	6,491	6,012	6,188	6,164	7,084				
*Outfitter	0	3,114	2,395	1,994	2,143	2,304	2,183	2,150	2,027	2,298	2,443	2,511	2,733	2,292	1,759	1,757	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Landowner	2,000	2,940	3,148	2,776	2,671	2,810	2,937	2,721	2,552	3,012	2,784	2,909	2,778	2,787	2,661	2,656	1,892	1,545	1,318	1,002	980				
Come Home to Hunt	500																								
TOTALS:	24,600	40,196	39,307	38,990	41,643	45,769	46,777	36,982	33,042	37,841	40,320	43,339	44,118	43,768	39,073	39,432	24,543	23,699	22,768	21,745	23,944				

In 2008: In accordance with 87-2-512 MCA and the 2008 Annual Rule, Deer licenses separated from the B10 Elk Combination

licenses were issued via the nonresident combination drawing rather than being issued through an additional drawing process.

In 2012 the 2,195 additional General Deer combination licenses issued from separated Elk Only Combination licenses were not available until August

In 2013 the 2,476 additional Deer combination licenses from separated Elk Only Combination licenses and 684 undersubscribed LO sponsor were added to the general Deer quota.

In 2014 the 2,616 additional Deer combination licenses from separated Elk Only Combination licenses and 998 undersubscribed LO sponsor were added to the general Deer quota.

Non-Resident Combination License Statistics 1996-2015

(After HB-195 and License Structure changes)

Type	(Licenses Issued)										(Recession effect)					(Post I 161)				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Big Game Combination:																				
BG General	5,750	5,881	5,525	5,172	3,675	2,652	10,188	10,430	10,358	10,482	10,519	10,623	10,707	10,727	10,722	14,158	13,555	12,738	11,936	12,762
Elk General			440	481	292	281	1,312	1,070	1,142	1,018	981	877	793	773	778	1,783	2,508	2,476	2,616	3,098
BG Pref	5,750	5,619	5,315	5,538	7,040	8,082	0	0	0	0										
Elk Pref			220	309	493	485	0	0	0	0										
*BG Outfitter	5,213	5,127	4,798	4,875	5,588	4,971	4,359	4,164	4,663	5,318	5,943	5,473	4,846	3,536	3,037	0	0	0	0	0
*Elk Outfitter			533	580	621	748	652	649	658	655	646	591	520	438	800	0	0	0	0	0
Come Home to Hunt															205	124	45	21	12	9
Deer Combination:																				
General	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	3,512	3,418	6,491	5,055	6,168	6,164	7,084
*Outfitter	3,114	2,395	1,994	2,143	2,304	2,183	2,148	2,027	2,300	2,443	2,511	2,733	2,292	1,759	1,757	0	0	0	0	0
Landowner	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,101	2,093	2,089	1,892	1,545	1,316	1,002	980
Come Home to Hunt															139	95	34	21	15	10
TOTALS:	24,127	23,322	23,125	23,398	24,313	23,702	22,959	22,640	23,421	24,216	24,900	24,597	24,771	22,744	22,945	24,543	22,742	22,740	21,745	23,943

In 2008: In accordance with 87-2-512 MCA and the 2008 Annual Rule, Deer licenses separated from the B10 Elk Combination licenses were issued via the nonresident combination drawing rather than being issued through an additional drawing process.

* Denotes additional General Deer combination licenses issued from separated Elk Only Combination licenses AND/OR undersubscribed Landowner Deer combination Licenses.

* Denotes additional Landowner Deer combination licenses issued from separated Elk Only Combination licenses.

In 2012 the 2,195 additional General Deer combination licenses issued from separated Elk Only Combination licenses were not available until August

In 2013 the 2,476 additional Deer combination licenses from separated Elk Only Combination licenses and 684 undersubscribed LO sponsor were added to the general Deer quota.

In 2014 the 2,616 additional Deer combination licenses from separated Elk Only Combination licenses and 998 undersubscribed LO sponsor were added to the general Deer quota.

WILDLIFE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Year	EVENT
1869	First laws protecting game birds—quail and partridge seasons close for three years
1870	First grouse hunting season set—bag limit is 100 prairie chickens
1872	First “closed season” runs February 1-August 15 for buffalo, moose, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, antelope and hares
	Yellowstone National Park established
1874	Passenger pigeon extinct
1876	First closed seasons for furbearers and waterfowl
1877	Law prohibits killing of game animals for hides alone—hunters must use or sell meat
	Law prohibits hunting or chasing game animals with dogs
	Law prohibits the market sale of game birds
1879	Bounty on mountain lion established
1883	Law prohibits destruction of game bird and waterfowl nests and taking of eggs from nests
	Hunting prohibited in Yellowstone National Park
1889	Montana statehood
	First game wardens hired
1893	First year-around closed season for moose and elk
1892	Malnutrition, starvation and loss of winter range impact northern Yellowstone elk herd
1895	First Fish and Game Board authorized by Legislature
	Big game season set by Legislature runs September 1–January 1; limits are eight deer, eight bighorn sheep, eight mountain goats, eight antelope, two moose, and three elk
1897	First daily bag limit on game birds—20 grouse or prairie chickens per day
	W.F Scott, first State Fish & Game Warden (Director), appointed by Legislature
1901	Bobwhite introduced at Kalispell
	First license required—nonresidents only—\$25 for game animals and \$15 for game birds
1903	Guide license required
1905	First resident hunting and fishing license required—\$1 per family
	Ring-necked pheasant introduced to Bitterroot Valley
1909	First daily bag limit on wild ducks—20 per day
1910	First elk transplanted in Montana from Yellowstone National Park to Fleecer Mountain, near Butte
1911	First game preserves established by Legislature—Snow Creek near Glendive for antelope and Pryor Mountain near Billings
	59,291 hunting and fishing licenses purchased
1913	Montana Fish and Game Commission organized
	Sun River Game Preserve near Augusta established by Legislature
1915	Season closes on bighorn sheep and remains closed until 1953
1916	Migratory Bird Treaty between Great Britain (Canada) and the U.S. allows federal management of migratory game birds and protection of many nongame birds
1919	Restrictions on automobile use to hunt game established
	14,000 Yellowstone National Park elk die of starvation
1921	Legislature establishes five member Fish and Game Commission—appointed by Governor—to allot Fish and Game Districts and to close or open seasons
	Law prohibits use of dogs for bear hunting
1923	Grizzly bear and black bear protection follows classification as a game animals

Year	EVENT
1924	Hungarian partridge purchased from Europe for eventual stocking
1925	Antelope population estimated at 3,000
1926	First land acquired for game management—27 acres at Red Rock Lakes near Dillon
	6,000 Hungarian partridge stocked throughout Montana
1927	First ring-necked pheasant season
1929	First Hungarian partridge season
	First game farm at Warm Springs near Anaconda
1931	First big game resident hunting license for deer and elk—\$1
1934	First federal duck hunting stamp on sale—\$1
1935	46 state game preserves in operation
1936	Statewide deer “buck” law sees 29,699 resident hunters purchase \$1 big game license
	First winter deer ranges leased in Sanders, Missoula and Powell counties
	C.M. Russell Game Range (Fort Peck Game Range) created by Congress (97,000 acres)
1939	State vs. Rathbone case establishes important precedent to game damage problems
	First “wildlife technology” degree granted at University of Montana
1940	First “game range” acquisition—Judith River Game Range, near Lewistown, for elk winter range
	First “big game manager” position established
1941	Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman Robertson or P-R) program established
	First wildlife biologist hired
	Fish and Game Commission obtains authority to open and close seasons, set bag limits, and create game preserves
	Commission establishes science-based program for wildlife management
	First mountain goats transplanted in Montana from Deep Creek near Choteau to Crazy Mountains southeast of White Sulphur Spings
1942	First bighorn sheep transplanted from Sun River near Augusta to the Gates of Mountains near Helena
	Antelope surveys estimate population at 14,000 in central and eastern Montana
1943	First mule deer transplanted from National Bison Range in Moiese to badlands near Glendive
	Antelope hunting reopens—750 permits offered
1945	First white-tailed deer transplanted from Bowser Lake north of Kalispell, to East Rosebud near Red Lodge
	Moose seasons resume in portions of Park, Gallatin, Madison and Beaverhead Counties after a 50-year moratorium
1947	Sun River Game Range near Augusta acquired
	Killing bear cubs and females with cubs prohibited
1948	Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range near Seely Lake acquired
	Use of bait to harvest black bears prohibited
	Wildlife management curriculum offered at Montana State College, Bozeman, in cooperation with Montana Fish and Game
1950	First statewide mountain goat and bighorn sheep studies completed
	Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit founded at the University of Montana, Missoula
	Gallatin Game Range near Big Sky acquired to provide elk winter range
1952	First Montana Fish & Game studies on the effects of insecticides on bird life completed in eastern Montana

Year	EVENT
1953	Limited permit system established for bighorn sheep hunting
	Mountain goat hunting changes to limited permit system
	Freezout Lake waterfowl hunting area acquired near Fairfield
	First special bow and arrow licenses established
1954	First wild turkeys transplanted in Judith Mountains near Lewistown with 13 birds from Colorado
1956	First statewide deer archery season
1957	First deer and elk hunting units
	The Wildlife Laboratory, Montana Fish and Game, starts operations at Montana State University
1958	First statewide either-sex deer seasons
1959	Antelope, moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat special season units grouped into administrative districts
	First special turkey license
1960	Bitterroot and Madison-Wall Creek elk winter ranges acquired near Hamilton and Ennis respectively
1961	Montana, west of the Continental Divide placed in the Pacific Flyway
1962	Cooperative Gallatin Elk Management Plan initiated with Montana Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Park Service
	Fleecer Mountain Game Range near Butte acquired for elk winter range
	Bounty on mountain lion ends
1963	Studies begin to determine the effect of DDT on mountain grouse from a 10-year, three-million acre spraying program to control spruce budworm on the Bitterroot National Forest
	Statewide mountain goat harvest exceeds 500, compared to 30 in 1941
1964	Statewide deer harvest exceeds 100,000 for tenth year in a row—and hunter success exceeds 90 percent for ninth consecutive year
	Big game license form changes—hunters can buy deer tags and elk tags separately
1965	Pacific Flyway boundary moved eastward from Continental Divide
1967	Sportsman's and youth licenses available
	First grizzly bear license and grizzly bear trophy license issued
	Tenth year of turkey hunting—nearly 5,000 harvested since first 13 were planted in 1954
1968	Canyon Ferry Game Management project for waterfowl habitat development and public hunting begins
	Statewide elk harvest estimated at 16,000 (equaling the previous peak harvest in 1955)
1969	Conservation License created
	Twelfth consecutive year that statewide moose harvests have exceeded 400—hunter success between 70-80 percent
	Investigations of mercury contamination of game birds frequenting grain-growing areas begin
	Deer hunter success at 80 percent—exceeds 80 percent in 13 of past 15 years and is double that before 1952
1970	Studies to determine the effects of logging on elk ecology being in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and University of Montana School of Forestry
	First swan season at Freezout Lake—500 permits offered
	The Beartooth Game Range near Helena, acquired for elk winter range and other wildlife habitat
	Mountain lion classified as a game animal

Year	EVENT
1971	Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) enacted by Montana Legislature
	New State Constitution declares that Montana's Legislature, "Shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources."
	First sandhill crane season
1973	Endangered Species Act of 1973 enacted by U.S. Congress
1974	Legislature protects the Yellowstone River fishery by placing a moratorium on granting major new water rights
1975	Grizzly bear classified as an threatened species in the lower 48 states by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1977	Grizzly bear studies along Rocky Mountain East Front focus on oil and gas exploration and other activities to help develop management guidelines
1978	Board of Natural Resources and Conservation grants a major instream water allocation for fish and wildlife and other purposes in Yellowstone River Basin
1981	Endrin insecticide warnings issued on potential contamination of game birds and waterfowl
1983	Whistling swan season in Montana's portion of Central Flyway
1985	Legislature establishes wild buffalo as a game animal
	Bighorn sheep license auction created with proceeds earmarked for habitat enhancement
1986	Block Management Program established to help landowners manage hunters and provide the free public hunting access to private land
	First Montana Waterfowl Stamp on sale
1987	Legislature passes House Bill 526, landmark legislation that provides a source of funds for habitat protection
	Legislature passes a law requiring bowhunter education for youngsters 12-17
	Pheasant Habitat Enhancement Program established
1988	Moose license auction created with proceeds earmarked for habitat enhancement
	Montana's elk harvest exceeds 25,000—post-season elk population estimated at 88,000
1989	Robb Ledford Wildlife Management Area is established near Sheridan
	Gov. Stan Stephens, the Montana Congressional delegation and the recently established Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation help FWP acquire more elk winter range at Dome Mountain in southwestern Montana to support Yellowstone's northern elk herd
1991	Montana Fish and Game Commission name changed to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission
	Legislature eliminates license to hunt bison, although bison still remain game animals in Montana
	Mountain lions now occur in 47 of 56 Montana counties
	Fifty permits offered for a spring grizzly bear season along the Rocky Mountain East Front—hunters take three male bears before the season is halted via a federal court ruling
	Legislature establishes the third week in September as "Hunting Heritage Week"
	FWP and Department of Livestock given authority by Legislature to revise Montana "game farm" regulations
1992	"Habitat Montana" program created
	Montana Landowner-Sportsman Council created to maintain and improve communications between landowners and sportsmen and -women
	Gov. Stan Stephens, Montana hosts the first-in-the-nation Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage
	Licenses required to hunt on state school trust lands
	FWP develops a Statewide Elk Management Plan

Year	EVENT
1993	Legislature passes House Joint Resolution 24, calling for a Private Lands/Public Wildlife Advisory Council
	Application deadline for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat is moved to May 1
1994	FWP publishes a final EIS on the future management of black bears in Montana
	Endangered black-footed ferrets from a captive population in Wyoming are reintroduced to Montana at the U.L. Bend National Wildlife Refuge south of Malta
	FWP hosts its first—Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop
1995	FWP Commission celebrates its 100th anniversary
	Legislature passes House Bill 195—establishing a variable-priced license for nonresident clients of outfitters with the proceeds dedicated to improving public hunting access to private lands and the Block Management Program
	FWP produces final EIS to guide mountain lion management
	Endangered Rocky Mountain gray wolves from Canada are reintroduced to Yellowstone National park and central Idaho
1996	FWP joins the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact—nine states now allow suspension of hunting/fishing/trapping privileges to violators convicted in any member state
	FWP Commission reduces deer licenses by 30,000 in response to mule deer decline related to drought and winterkill
	FWP launches Internet website
1998	Adaptive Harvest Management implemented to manage deer and set regulations that reflect the dynamic nature of deer populations
	Environmental Impact Statement for Wildlife Program complete
1999	Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) found in an elk in a game farm near Phillipsburg—herd is eliminated
	Legislation creates continuing hunter education program for adults and a mandatory course for convicted violators of fish and game laws
	Legislature requires landowner permission for all hunting on private property
2000	140,000-acre conservation easement between FWP and Plum Creek Timber Company in the Thompson and Fisher river valleys in northwest Montana is the largest of its kind in Montana's history
	A statewide FWP weed coordinator hired
	Fishing and upland game bird license prices reduced 50 percent for Montana youth ages 15-17
2001	Remedial hunter education course is required by those who lose hunting privileges as a result of a hunting violation—the online course is offered via FWP's website
2002	Automated Licensing System (ALS) launched
	First phase of wolf conservation and management planning process begins in anticipation of federal wolf delisting
	First director of Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center hired
2003	4,000 first-time 12- to 17-year-old hunters received free youth sportsman's licenses
2004	For the first time in 40 years, antlerless elk hunting seasons are extended in some districts
	Unlimited antelope special archery-only licenses are widely available
	Paid advertising appears for the first time in the deer, elk and antelope hunting regulations
	FWP adopts updated elk management plan
2005	A second antlerless elk license offered for first time in some elk management units
	FWP's offers online help for hunters and others seeking information about Montana's wolf population and how to live with wolves
	Nearly 6,200 hunters apply for Montana's 90-day bison hunting season
2006	SuperTag hunting license lottery offers \$5 chances to draw a license for popular big game species

Year	EVENT
2007	Grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem and bald eagles are removed from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Threatened and Endangered Species list
	FWP Commission adopts rules to guide the commercial use of FWP managed lands including Wildlife Management Areas and Fishing Access Sites
2008	Legislature allows municipalities to manage wildlife for public health and safety in response to spike in “urban deer” populations—with FWP authorization
	Status of wolves under federal law changes twice—wolves are delisted in the spring and relisted by court order by fall
2009	Black bear population study across the species’ 8,000-square-mile range concludes Montana’s harvest is sustainable—only three percent of female black bears are taken by hunters annually
	Montana’s first regulated wolf hunting season opens—statewide quota of 75 wolves across three wolf management units—72 wolves are harvested
	A newly crafted bighorn sheep conservation strategy is drafted to keep the bighorn sheep population on track
2010	Five-year, federally funded study begins to determine where brucellosis occurs in elk in Montana
	First youth hunt for deer opens for two days prior to the general big game season opener
	Montana voters approve a ballot initiative that eliminates “outfitter guaranteed” hunting licenses for nonresidents
2012	60 disease-free bison from a Quarantine Feasibility Study north of Yellowstone National Park are translocated to the Fort Peck Indian Reservaiton
	Montana WILD opens
	First regulated wolf trapping season
2013	Permit system allows motorists to salvage roadkilled wildlife for food. Nearly 7,000 carcasses are collected from Montana roadsides in a typical year
2014	New state law allows landowners to take up to 100 wolves a year that potentially threaten livestock, domestic dogs or human safety
2015	Grizzly bear populations surpass federal recovery targets with 714 grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and 1,050 grizzlies in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem
	Governor Steve Bullock signs final executive order for the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy. Pilot elk “shoulder season” in 5 hunting districts, allowing hunting before and after the general season to increase harvest and improve management in specific areas
2016	’15 & Forward project creates new vision and sets agency direction for next 10 years
	First elk “shoulder seasons” open in about 40 hunting districts, allowing hunting before and after the general season to increase harvest and improve management in specific areas

MONTANA STATE PARKS

Mission

- To preserve and protect our state’s heritage and the natural beauty of our public lands for the benefit of our families, communities, local economies and out-of-state visitors.

Objectives

- To provide excellent land stewardship, public safety and service through recreation, innovation and education.

Goals

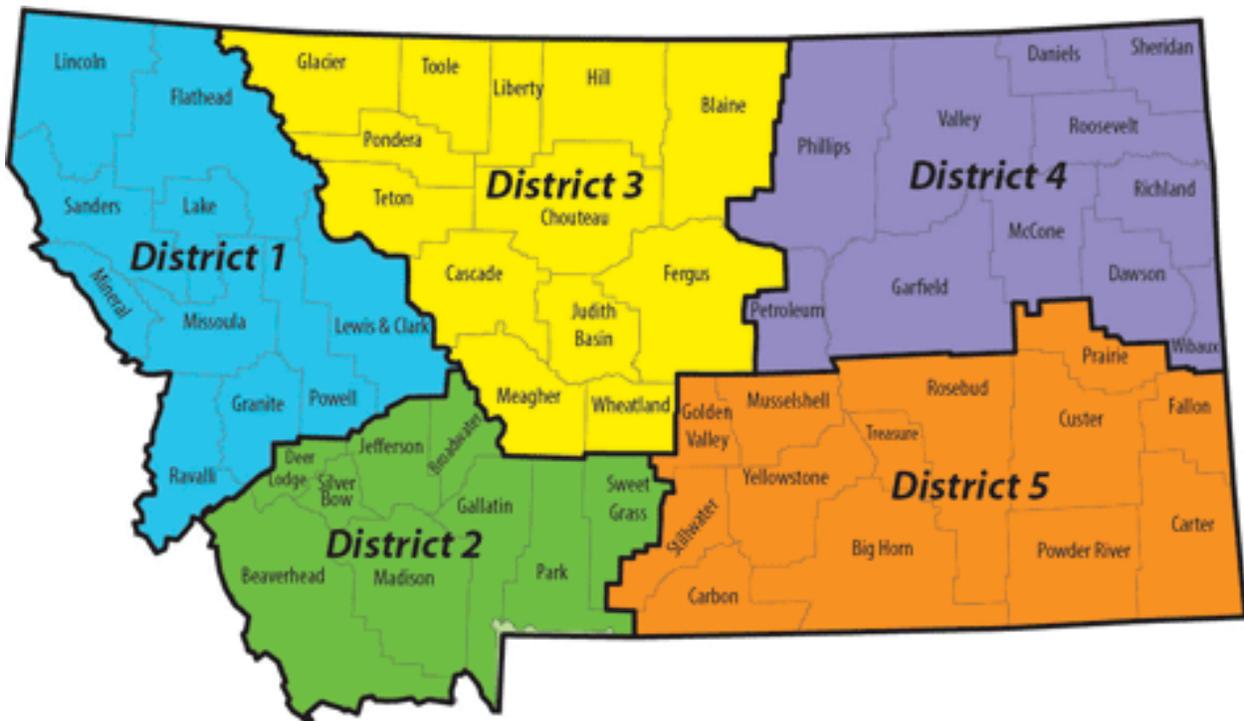
- To provide an extraordinary experience for our visitors and to keep our state park system strong now and for generations to come.

Montana State Parks & Recreation Board

The Governor appoints the five-member Montana State Parks & Recreation Board from five geographical districts.

MAP 5: [Montana State Parks & Recreation Board](#)

The Montana State Parks & Recreation Board sets policies and provides direction for the management, protection, conservation and preservation for Montana’s 55 state parks and associated recreational resources



Montana State Parks & Recreation Board Members

District 1

Diane Conradi
Whitefish
406-863-9681
dconradi@conradianderson.com

District 2

Jeff Welch
Livingston
406-586-2280
jeff.welch@mercurycsc.com

District 3

Mary Sexton, Vice-Chair
Choteau
406-590-2751
msexton@3rivers.net

District 4

Doug Smith
Dagmar
406-765-3411
dsmith@co.sheridan.mt.us

District 5

Tom Towe, Chair
Billings
406-248-7337
t.towe@bresnan.net

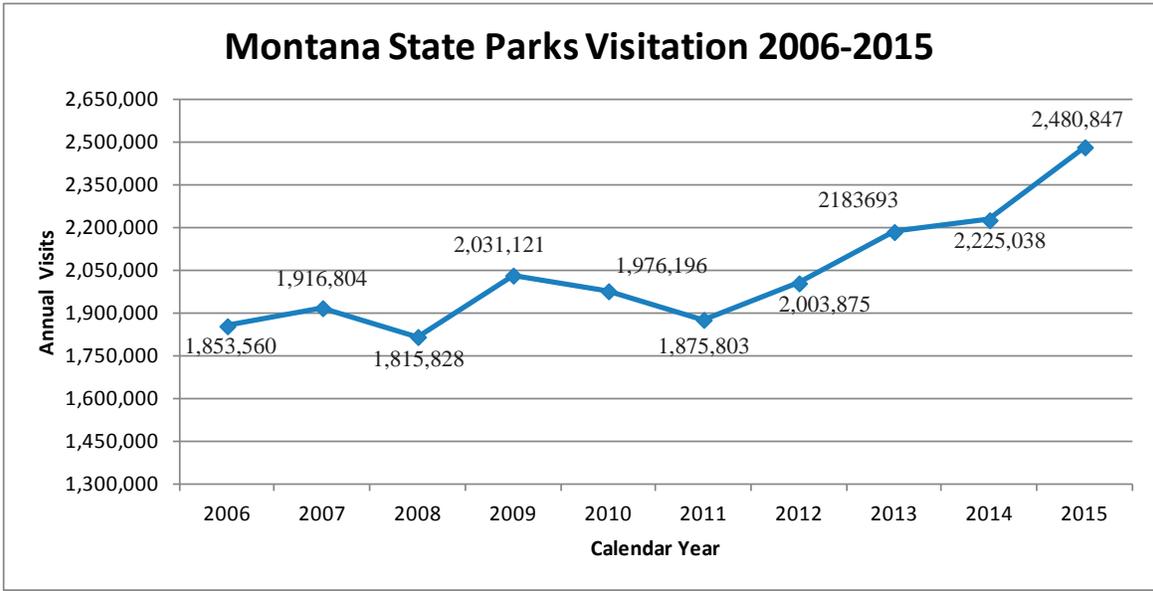
Website: <http://stateparks.mt.gov>

Montana State Parks Basics

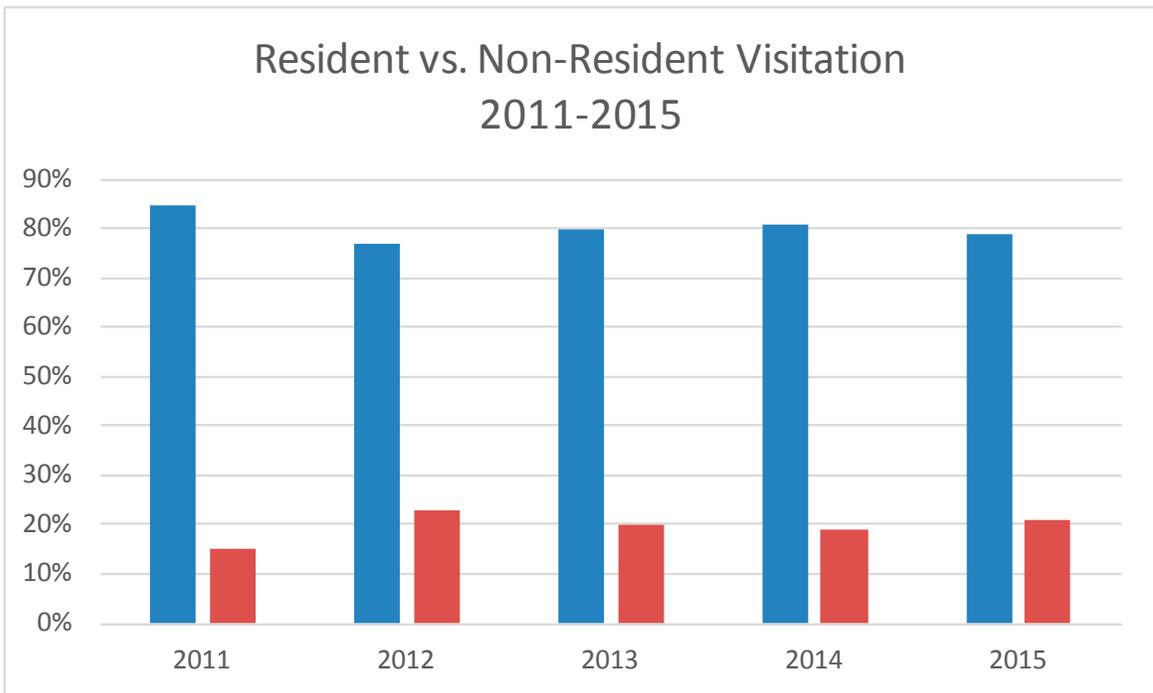
- **Montana's parks system consists of 55 state parks.**
 - ▶ Largest—Makoshika near Glendive, with 11,531 acres.
 - ▶ Smallest—Granite Ghost Town State Park, with .6 acres (1.5 buildings)
- **Reserve a Campsite**
 - ▶ Reservations are available at 20 state park campgrounds.
 - ▶ Online: montanastateparks.reserveamerica.com.
 - ▶ Phone: 1-855-922-6788.
- **Visitation Statistics—2015**
 - ▶ Montana's parks system hosted 2.48 million state parks visitors—the fifth year in a row that park visitation has increased.
 - ▶ Statewide visitation was up 11 percent from 2014 and up 34 percent since 2006.
 - ▶ Giant Springs State Park had the highest visitation of all state parks with more than 419,000 visits—also the highest visitation for a single park ever since 2006.
 - ▶ On average, there were about 207,000 visits per month, the highest average on record.
 - ▶ Busiest month: July with more than 494,000 visits.
 - ▶ Peak season visitation – May through September – was the highest on record, with more than 1.76 million visits, up 25 percent since 2005.
 - The top five parks for peak season visitation were:
 1. Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls: 239,343 visits (up 33%).
 2. Flathead Lake State Park near Kalispell: 225,413 visits (no change).
 3. Cooney State Park near Robers: 138,836 visits (up 14%).
 4. Spring Meadow Lake State Park near Helena: 123,841 visits (up 19%).
 5. Lake Elmo State Park in Billings: 117,050 visits (up 7%).

- ▶ Shoulder season visitation – February through April and October through November – set new records in 2015.
- ▶ March saw a 100 percent increase in visitation from 61,000 visits in 2011 to 123,000 visits in 2015.

Parks 10 Year Visitation Info Graphic For 2006-2015



Parks Resident Vs Nonresident Visitation Info Graphic For 2011-2015



Funding

- Montana State Parks receive no general fund dollars and no funding from hunting and fishing licenses.
- Since 2004, when Montanans register their vehicles, they offer their support for Montana State Parks.
- The \$6 fee is the largest source of funding for Montana's 55 State Parks and offers no daily entrance fees for resident.
- Funds are used for maintenance and operational costs at the state-owned facilities. Here's a breakdown of how the \$6 fee is used:
 - ▶ \$5.37 Montana's 55 State Parks.
 - ▶ \$0.25 Montana's 320 Fishing Access Sites.
 - ▶ \$0.38 Virginia City and Nevada City Heritage Sites.
- Nonresident Parks Fees
 - ▶ Because nonresidents do not contribute to Montana's park system through the vehicle registration fee, they continue to pay a \$5 daily entrance fee per vehicle at a Montana State Park.
 - ▶ Nonresidents can purchase a \$35 Montana State Parks Annual Pass which allows for an unlimited number of visits.
- Camping Fees
 - ▶ At state parks that charge camping fees, the fees range from:
 - Hike-in/Bike-in, \$6-\$12
 - Campsite without electricity, \$12-\$18
 - Campsites with electricity, \$24
 - Senior/Disabled rates are half of the general fee
 - ▶ Camping fees at State Parks are reduced by \$4 from the listed in-season rates from October 1-April 30.

Economics

- University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research – Survey Assessment of state park visitors – 2010.
 - ▶ Total spending among resident and nonresident visitors: \$289 million, up 35 percent from 2002 when park visitors spent \$214 million.
 - ▶ In 2010, nonresident visitors state parks visitors:
 - spent \$122.3 million.
 - produced 1,600 jobs, \$41.5 million in labor income and \$126.7 million in industry sales.

Recreation Programs

- Montana State Parks administers four state and federal outdoor programs that fill a multitude of recreation needs. These programs, and the funds that support them, are completely separate from all Montana State Park revenues, camping fees, and related funding.
- The programs include:
 - ▶ **Recreational Trails**
 - Grant Application deadline: Winter to Spring.
 - ▶ **Off-Highway Vehicle**
 - Grant Application deadline: Winter to Spring.
 - OHV Registration and Permits—OHVs operating on public land for recreational purposes must be registered and display a decal.
 - ◆ Residents: OHVs must be registered at the County Treasurer’s office in the county where the owner resides. This is a one-time registration and valid until the current owner sells the OHV.
 - ◆ Nonresidents: must purchase a \$27 Nonresident Annual Use Permit, which is valid for the calendar year, allows OHV use on trails only. Residents of Idaho and North Dakota are exempt.
 - **Snowmobile**
 - ◆ Grant Application deadline: Winter to spring.
 - ◆ Montana has more than 4,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.
 - ◆ Snowmobile Registration and Permits.
 - Residents: Snowmobiles must be registered at the County Treasurer’s office in the county where the owner resides. This is a one-time registration and valid until the current owner sells the snowmobile.
 - To operate on a groomed snowmobile trail, a Montana resident must purchase a Trail Pass decal. Trail passes are valid for three seasons and must be clearly displayed.
 - Nonresidents: Snowmobiles not registered in Montana are required to have a current nonresident permit before being ridden on public lands.
 - **Land & Water Conservation Fund**
 - ◆ Grant Application deadline: varies
 - ◆ Eligible projects include: ball fields, open space acquisitions, public parks, outdoor swimming pools, playgrounds, picnic facilities, walking trails and more.

PARKS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

YEAR	EVENT
1929	State Land Board is authorized to set aside state lands for parks
1936	Lewis and Clark Caverns is donated as Montana's first state park
1939	First comprehensive legislation establishes a state Park System and a separate State Park Commission
1947	State Parks receive their first legislative appropriation
1953	Administration of state parks is transferred to the Highway Commission with a \$45,000 annual budget
1955	First boating lifesaving equipment law passed. Wardens begin enforcement of boat safety laws
1963	Fish and Game Department appropriation includes legislative intent to allocate funds for development of fishing and boating facilities in state parks
	Motorboat fuel tax is separated from gas tax for state boat park creation, im-provement, and maintenance (now 0.9 percent)
1964	Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is established to provide up to \$900 million annually for park development nationally
1965	Administration of state parks and the LWCF program is transferred to the Fish and Game Commission
	Montana Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee is established (eliminated by 1971 Executive Reorganization Act)
1975	Coal Tax park acquisition trust fund is established at 2.5 percent of Coal Sever-ance Tax receipts
1982	LWCF funding for state and local park development projects in Montana is reduced to \$0 from a maximum of \$3.4 million in 1979
1986	All Coal Tax earnings earmarked for the parks trust are diverted to the General Fund until June 30, 1989; parks trust interest earnings are diverted solely to park maintenance
1987	All General Fund support of the State Park System is eliminated
	Net loss of \$1 million per year since 1985 from Coal Tax and Gen-eral Fund for state park repairs and improvements
1989	State Park System celebrates its Golden Anniversary
	Entrance fees are initiated at state parks
1990	State Park Futures Committee's report to the governor recommends an additional \$6.3 million per year over five years and 30 new full-time employees to upgrade the Park System
1991	Floaters are charged fees on the Smith River for the first time
1994	The 53rd Legislature passed a bill designating and establishing certain Montana State Parks as "primitive parks, and eliminating user fees for Montana residents who visit primitive parks
1995	The Parks Division initiates a comprehensive plan for the Montana State Parks System, the —2020 Vision for Montana State Parks
	The legislature approved funding to begin planning for the new visitor center at Ulm Pishkun, and a new animal shelter and nature center to be located at Spring Meadow Lake
1996	Draft management plans for Lewis and Clark Caverns and Chief Plenty Coups were underway. In addition, final management plans for Wild Horse Island and the Smith River were completed. The new State Park System Plan was started
1997	Visitation exceeds 1.4 million at Montana's State Parks
1998	A comprehensive Blackfoot River Corridor Recreation Management Plan completed
	Parks Division "2020 Vision Plan" completed
	Commercial use fee/registration process initiated for FAS and other FWP lands (Alberton Gorge)
	31 fishing access sites now on camping fee list, 108 fishing access sites considered "primitive" by Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM)
	Three tipis and one yurt are now available for renting at selected state parks to complement the three cabins already available
1999	The Ulm Pishkun Visitor Center was dedicated and a grand opening was held in early June

YEAR	EVENT
2000	The FWP Commission determines that Native Americans do not have to pay daily entrance fees at four park sites located on reservation lands: Chief Plenty Coups, Big Arm, Finley Point and Yellow Bay
	The Six Year Plan for Montana State Parks completed, as well as, the State Trails Plan and Trails Programmatic EIS
	Management plans established for Bannack, Giant Springs, Lewis & Clark Caverns, Chief Plenty Coups, Frenchtown Pond and the Blackfoot River
2001	The Parks Passport available online, the first FWP license to be sold on the Internet
	Traveler’s Rest, the historic Indian campsite that provided respite for the Lewis and Clark Expedition near Lolo, becomes Montana’s newest State Park under a unique management agreement with TRPHA
2002	The Montana State Park Futures Committee II established to follow-up on work begun by the first State Park Futures Committee in 1989
	Seven local government entities across the state received nearly \$150,000 to fund boating improvement projects
2003	A new law passed by the Montana legislature eliminated daily and annual state park entry fees for Montana residents beginning in 2004. Revenue to operate, maintain and improve state parks is raised by an optional \$4 added to vehicle registrations. Montana is the first state in the nation to use this type of fee structure
	Legislature passes a new law establishing a permanent decal boating registration system
2004	Tower Rock State Park near Cascade became an official state park
	River recreationists and communities participated in shaping new statewide rules to help manage recreation and reduce conflicts on Montana's busy and popular rivers
	Brush Lake State Park near Plentywood became an official state park
2005	Legislature passes a new permanent validation system for boats in Montana
2007	Legislature appropriated \$10 million for new parks and Fishing Access Sites
	Ulm Pishkun State Park’s name is changed to First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park
	First Heritage Coordinator is hired by the FWP Parks Division
	Rosebud Battlefield State Park is named a National Historic Landmark
2008	Nearly 95,000 people participate in interpretive programs and special events in Montana State Parks
	Visitation exceeds 1.9 million in Montana's State Parks
	updated Smith River State Park & River Corridor Recreation Management Plan is adopted
2009	Pictograph Cave State Park's new 2,700 square foot visitor center is completed
2010	New state parks established at Milltown and Fish Creel
2011	Online campsite reservation system launched in March
2012	Montana State Parks AmeriCorps program is launched
2013	Montana Legislature creates Montana State Parks & Recreation Board
2014	75th Anniversary of Montana State Parks –year long celebration
	“Charting a New Tomorrow Strategic Plan” adopted as guiding framework for parks system management through 2020
2015	First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park designated a National Historic Landmark
	Montana State Parks & Recreation Board Montana approves policy for classifying and prioritizing park resources
2016	First year of mandatory food storage in Smith River State Park

ENFORCEMENT

Daily Activities

The Enforcement Division monitors compliance with state regulations and conducts investigations related to a number of outdoor activities including: fisheries, wildlife, parks, boating and water safety, snowmobile operations and safety, off-highway vehicle operation and safety and commercial licensing and permits.

Game Wardens

- Montana's first deputy game wardens were appointed in 1889.
- The Montana Department of Fish & Game was created in 1901—eight game wardens hired.
- In 2016, of 103 sworn officers, 63 were assigned to field or patrol districts.
- One field warden is employed for every 2,000 square miles of land and water in Montana, an area nearly more than six times the size of New York City.

Public Interaction

- Game wardens have personal contact with up to 109,000 hunters, anglers, and other recreationists—and with more than 7,500 landowners—each year. Annual contacts include:
 - ▶ 33,500 hunters
 - ▶ 38,000 anglers
 - ▶ 15,000 boats
 - ▶ 7,000 snowmobiles
 - ▶ 7,500 landowners
 - ▶ 5,000 OHVs
 - ▶ 8,900 park users
 - ▶ 1,100 outfitters
 - ▶ 1,000 trappers

Game wardens write nearly 4,000 citations, 2000 written warnings and 5,700 verbal warnings annually.

- Verbal and written warnings—about 7,700—out number citations.
- Nearly \$700,000 in fines (\$540,000) and restitution (\$156,000) are assessed each year.
- Half of each fine is deposited in the Montana General Fund, the state's checkbook, and half goes to the county where the violation occurred.
- All restitution goes back to FWP to fund criminal investigations into poaching.

- The most common Enforcement cases involve:
 - ▶ Wildlife—31 percent
 - Mule deer are the most frequently poached big game species.
 - ▶ Fisheries—22 percent
 - ▶ Water Safety—17 percent
 - ▶ State Parks—8 percent
 - ▶ Miscellaneous—8 percent
 - ▶ Snowmobiles—4 percent
 - ▶ Trespassing—4 percent
 - ▶ OHVs—3 percent
 - ▶ Residency Fraud—2 percent
 - ▶ Outfitter Issues—1 percent

Game Warden Educational Requirements

- Montana game wardens must have at least a Bachelor's degree in fish or wildlife management, parks or recreation management, criminal justice or a related field.
- Candidates must pass rigorous written and physical testing, and are subject to an in-depth background check and extensive psychological evaluation.
- Newly appointed wardens must then complete the Montana Law Enforcement Academy's 12-week resident training program and receive a Law Enforcement Basic Certificate.
- The next step is successful completion of the division's three-month Field Training and Evaluation Program.
- Upon qualifying for permanent status, wardens must periodically re-certify in critical law enforcement professional skills and evaluations for the rest of their career.

Help Stop Violations

Call: 1-800-TIP-MONT

- Montana's violation hotline TIP-MONT program's began in 1985 – the TIP-MONT hotline number is 1-800-847-6668.
- Report Violations Online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/enforcement/tipmont/>.
- From 2010 through 2015 TIP-MONT paid \$85,000 in rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who commit crimes in the outdoors.
- TIP-MONT received approximately 4,000 calls in 2015 which led to 2,500 reports requiring enforcement action.
- TIP-MONT has a display trailer with anti-poaching messages that travels the state for educational purposes.
- Individuals and agencies interested in helping increase TIP-MONT rewards may contact FWP Enforcement at (406) 444-2452.

- **Vehicle-Killed Wildlife Salvage Permits**
- The 2013 Legislature passed a bill that allows for the salvage of deer, elk, moose, and antelope killed as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle.
- A free permit is required to salvage wildlife.
- Only deer, elk, moose and antelope can be salvaged.
- Permits are available either through law enforcement officers on the scene of collisions or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/licenses/salvagePermit/default.html>

Salvage Permit Tally – 2013-15

Species	2013	2014	2015
Mule Deer	123	687	723
White-tailed Deer	34	190	238
Elk	23	165	257
Moose	6	32	40
Antelope	1	4	17
Total	187	1078	1275

Boat Registration

- A total of 66,622 motorboats, personal watercraft and sailboats over 12 feet in length are registered in Montana as of the summer of 2016.
- Each must obtain and display one permanent registration decal (valid for as long as the owner has the vessel) and two validation decals (valid for a 3-year period).

Boating Education

- Youngsters 13-14 year of age who operate a motorboat (over 10 horsepower) or jet ski must possess a motorboat operator certificate or be accompanied by an adult.

Life Jacket Requirements

- Operating a watercraft without a sufficient number of life jackets aboard is the most common violation of Montana’s water recreation laws.
- All watercraft must be equipped with life jackets for all riders (a seat cushion is not sufficient).
- Children under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket at all times when aboard a boat under 26 feet that is in motion.
- Anyone operating or riding on a jet ski must wear a life jacket.
- Anyone water skiing or being towed must wear a life jacket.
- Watercraft 16 feet and longer must carry a Type IV throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) on board.

Alternative Livestock Facilities

- Since the passage of ballot Initiative 143 in 2000, FWP stopped issuing new alternative livestock licenses.
- As of January 2016, there were 31 licensed alternative livestock—commonly called “game farms”—facilities in Montana, compared to 78 in 1998.
- Chronic wasting disease, a fatal brain disease of deer and elk, appeared for the first time in Montana in captive elk at an alternative livestock operation near Philipsburg in 1999. All the animals there were destroyed and the facility was quarantined.
- FWP wildlife reserchers have tested more than 14,000 wild elk or deer in Montana for CWD and has not yet found any evidence of the disease.
- In addition, 5,000 captive deer and elk from Montana’s alternative livestock facilities have been tested for CWD. All samples tested negative for CWD. FWP continues year-round testing of all animals that appear sick or emaciated.

Commercial Wildlife Facility Licensing

- The Enforcement Division issues licenses to alternative livestock facilities, game bird farms, fur farms, zoos, roadside and wild animal menageries, shooting preserves and other private use of game birds, commercial and private fishponds, taxidermists, falconry, and raptor propagators in Montana.
- Most commercial licenses are renewed on an annual basis following payment of a renewal fee and submission of required information and reports.

Commercial Licenses in 2016—Administered by Enforcement

License Type	Number Issued
Alternative Livestock Facility	31
Controlled Species Permit	8
Falcon	109
Fur Farm	14
Game Bird Farm	43
Nonresident Fur Dealer	2
Raptor Propagator	16
Resident Fur Dealer	80
Resident Fur Dealer Agent	4
Shooting Preserve	115
Taxidermist	425
Zoos & Manageries	13

Exotic Species Regulation

Exotic species are classified into three categories in Montana:

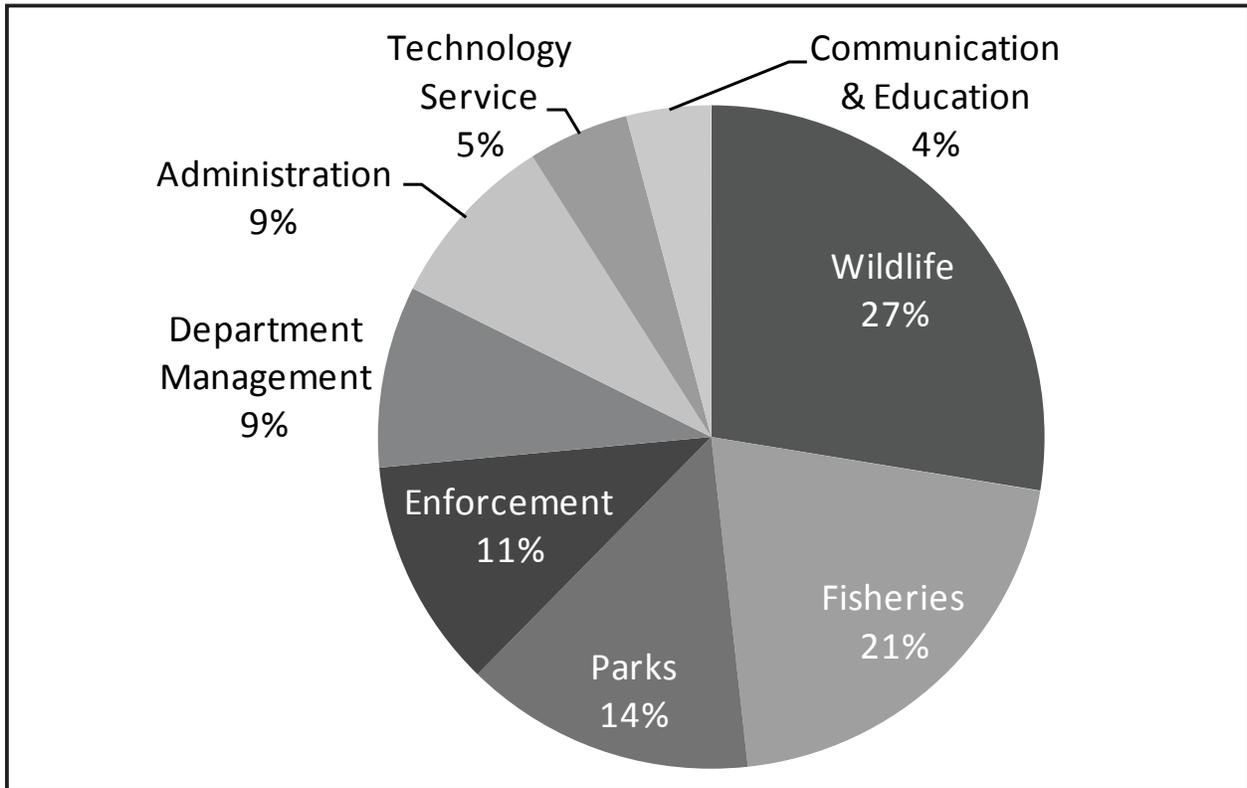
- **Controlled** – live, exotic wildlife species, subspecies, or hybrid of species that may not be imported, possessed, sold, purchased or exchanged in Montana unless a person obtains written authorization from FWP. In Montana, these include:
 - ▶ 19 birds
 - ▶ 2 fish
 - ▶ 1 mammal
 - ▶ 1 crustacean
- **Noncontrolled** – live, exotic wildlife species, subspecies, or hybrid of that species that may be possessed, sold, purchased or exchanged in the state without a permit. They may not be released into the wild unless authorized in writing by FWP. May not be released or transplanted within the state may be possessed or sold as pets in Montana without a permit. In Montana these include:
 - ▶ All tropical and subtropical fish for common aquarium uses
 - ▶ 38 reptiles
 - 26 lizards
 - 12 snakes
 - 10 turtles
 - ▶ 24 amphibians
 - 15 frogs
 - 9 salamanders
 - ▶ 11 birds
 - ▶ 8 mammals
 - ▶ 4 limbless amphibians
 - ▶ 2 scorpions
 - ▶ 1 crustaceans
- **Prohibited** – live, exotic wildlife species, subspecies, or hybrid of that species, including viable embryos or gametes, that may not be possessed, sold, purchased, exchanged, or transported in Montana. In Montana these include:
 - ▶ 35 mammals
 - ▶ 12 snakes
 - ▶ 11 fish
 - ▶ 3 mollusks
 - ▶ 2 birds
 - ▶ 2 frogs
 - ▶ 1 crustacean

MONEY MATTERS—FISCAL YEAR 2017

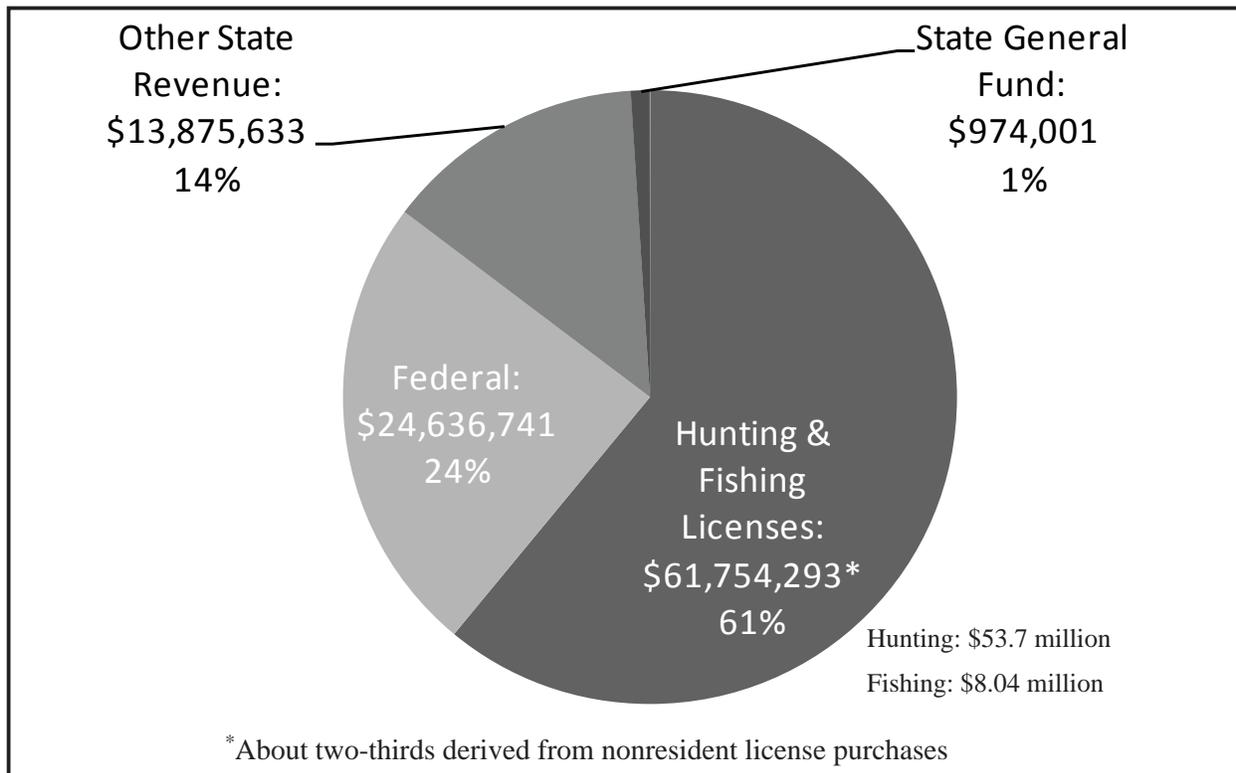
FWP spending is comprised of:

- **Operations**—day-to-day management of Montana’s fish, wildlife and parks.
Operations Budget for FY 2017: \$88,070,168
- **Capital**—major repair and maintenance of FWP properties, renovation and construction of facilities, and protection, enhancement and acquisition of critical habitats.
Capital Budget for FY 2017: \$13,170,500

Expenditure Allocations



2017 FWP Revenue Sources



Hunting and Fishing Licenses

- All license sales, license auctions, interest earnings and miscellaneous revenue.

Federal

- Wildlife Restoration Program or “Pittman-Robertson”: excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition, handguns and certain archery equipment.
- Sport Fish Restoration Program or “Dingell-Johnson”: excise taxes on fishing equipment, electric trolling motors, a federal fuel tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.
- State Wildlife Grant Program for research and management programs for species that have special conservation needs.
- Land & Water Conservation Fund for state parks and local communities.

Other State Revenue

- Nongame tax check-off contributions and other miscellaneous funding.
- State Parks is in part funded via portions of the state’s Lodging Facilities Use (Bed) Tax, light vehicle registration fees, nonresident state parks fees, interest earnings from coal severance tax receipts, motorboat fuel and fuel taxes, OHV and snowmobile registration fees.

State General Fund

- Assistance for the Aquatic Invasive Species program as directed by the Montana Legislature.

Unique Fisheries Funding Programs Explained

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program

- Established by Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 and amended in 1984 by the Wallop-Breaux Amendment.
- How it works
 - ▶ A federal excise tax on fishing equipment, along with a portion of federal fuel taxes associated with motorboats, rifles, handguns, ammo, and archery equipment.
 - ▶ States receive funds based on land and water area and number of people who purchase fishing licenses.
 - ▶ Montana must match \$1 in state funds for every \$3 in Sport Fish Restoration funds spent on eligible projects.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ Every paid license holder generates about \$5 for Montana's Sport Fish Restoration Program apportionment—a total of about \$8.2 million in 2015.
 - ▶ Funds are used for fishery biologists, hatchery staff, hatchery renovations, aquatic education, research, habitat protection, angler surveys, fishing access site maintenance and acquisitions.
 - ▶ Fifteen percent of the funds must be used for motorboat access projects.
 - ▶ Up to 15 percent can be spent on aquatic education.
 - ▶ \$1 from each resident, and \$5 from each nonresident fishing license purchase is for fishing access site operations, maintenance and acquisition.
 - About 75 percent of these funds is used for operations and maintenance of existing fishing access sites
 - About 25 percent is used to acquire new sites.

State Wildlife Grant Program

- Established by Congress in 2000—and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—to help state fish and wildlife agencies conserve sensitive fish and wildlife species, especially those not traditionally hunted or fished.
- How it works
 - ▶ SWG is a discretionary program, meaning it is funded through annual Congressional appropriations. Grant funds are disbursed to States for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75% for planning grants and 65% for plan implementation grants.
 - ▶ States are required to maintain an approved [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) to receive SWG funds. Each Plan identifies the state's species of greatest conservation need, their key habitats and threats, and the actions needed to conserve them.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ From 2002 through 2015 Montana received more than \$12 million in SWG funding or about \$1 million annually for both Fish and Wildlife programs.
 - ▶ Montana FWP Fisheries in 2015 used funding for native fisheries habitat restoration of Arctic Greyling in the Big Hole valley, Westslope Cutthroat in the Missouri River drainage, and for fish passage restoration on the Musselshell River.

Unique Wildlife Funding Programs Explained

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program

- Established by Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937
- How it works
 - ▶ A federal excise tax on rifles, handguns, ammo, and archery equipment
 - ▶ States receive funds based on land area and number of people who purchase hunting licenses.
 - ▶ Montana must match \$1 in state funds for every \$3 in Wildlife Restoration funds spent on eligible projects.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ Every paid license holder generates about \$6 for Montana's Wildlife Restoration Program apportionment—a total of about \$21 million in 2015.
 - ▶ Funds are used for wildlife management, research, hunter education, land acquisition, and the Block Management Program for hunting access to and through private lands.

State Wildlife Grant Program

- Established by Congress in 2000—and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—to help state fish and wildlife agencies conserve sensitive fish and wildlife species, especially those not traditionally hunted or fished.
- How it works
 - ▶ SWG is a discretionary program, meaning it is funded through annual Congressional appropriations. Grant funds are disbursed to States for approved grants at a maximum federal share of 75% for planning grants and 65% for plan implementation grants.
 - ▶ States are required to maintain an approved [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) to receive SWG funds. Each Plan identifies the state's species of greatest conservation need, their key habitats and threats, and the actions needed to conserve them.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ From 2002 through 2015 Montana received more than \$12 million in SWG funding or about \$1 million annually for both Fish and Wildlife programs.
 - ▶ In 2015 State Wildlife Grant funds were spent on 1) habitat conservation projects such as riparian restoration and native shrub plantings, 2) species of concern investigations and conservation such as research on the hoary marmot, and 3) species in need of inventory monitoring for species like forest owls and high elevation finches.

Habitat Montana

- Established by Montana House Bill 526 in 1987.
- How it works
 - ▶ A portion of certain big game hunting license purchases is earmarked for the protection and acquiring and interest in “important habitat that is seriously threatened.”
 - ▶ Funds are used to conserve wildlife habitat in a balanced fashion while maintaining the traditional agricultural uses of the land for generations to come.
 - ▶ More than 90 percent of Habitat Montana revenue comes from the purchase of nonresident hunting licenses.
 - ▶ Twenty percent of the Habitat Montana revenue is used for operation and maintenance of all FWP wildlife lands.
 - By law, 50 percent of these funds are deposited in a Habitat Trust Account. The remaining 50 percent and interest from the Habitat Trust Account are available for funding maintenance projects like fence and road repair and weed control.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ Currently generates about \$5.5 annually.
 - ▶ As of December 2012, FWP held 46 Habitat Montana wildlife conservation easements covering 233,023 acres and costing approximately \$26.6 million.
 - ▶ Fee title ownership purchased through the program totaled 115,209 acres, costing \$41.6 million in Habitat Montana funds.
 - ▶ Habitat Montana projects were 63 percent easement, 31 percent fee title and 6 percent lease.
 - ▶ O&M funds total about \$800,000 annually in recent years.

Under the Habitat Montana Umbrella—Additional programs that benefit Montanans and wildlife habitat conservation:

Expenditure Allocations

Program	Funding in 2015
Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement	\$560,000
Migratory Bird Habitat Enhancement	\$305,000
Bighorn Sheep License Auction	\$288,000*
Moose License Auction	\$54,000*
Elk License Auction	\$28,500*
Mule Deer License Auction	\$22,500*
Rocky Mountain Goat License Auction	\$17,100*
SuperTag Lottery	\$281,165

*amount after 10 percent administration and participation fee is awarded to auctioning organization

Montana Hunting License Auction Program

- Established by the Montana Legislature in 1985 and amended several times to include an auction for five big game licenses: bighorn sheep, elk, moose, mountain goat and mule deer
- How it works
 - ▶ The Fish & Wildlife Commission annually solicits proposals from conservation groups to conduct an auction or lottery for five big game hunting licenses.
 - ▶ The conservation group retains 10 percent of the auction proceeds for its use.
 - ▶ The successful bidder for each auction license is allowed to hunt during the open season in any hunting districts as described in the hunting regulations.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ Funds are used for the beneficial management of each of the five species, and are typically used for research and survey work, capture and relocation efforts, habitat enhancement, herd health issues and habitat protection.
 - ▶ FWP received \$413,200 in auction funding in 2016.
 - Bighorn Sheep – \$305,000
 - Elk – \$40,000
 - Moose – \$32,500
 - Mountain Goat – \$14,700
 - Mule Deer – \$21,000

Montana SuperTag Lottery

- Established by the Montana Legislature in 2005 and later amended to include a \$5 chance for eight big game licenses: antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain lion.
- How it works
 - ▶ Each year, Montana awards one SuperTag for antelope, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, and mountain lion.
 - ▶ Residents and nonresidents can purchase an unlimited number of the lottery chances at \$5 each.
 - ▶ The SuperTag winner can use the license in any hunting district in Montana-including Montana's legendary trophy districts.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ From 2006 through 2015 Montana received more than \$3,081,800 in SuperTag Lottery funding.
 - ▶ Revenue from SuperTag sales is used to enhance hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts.
 - ▶ FWP received \$266,910 in SuperTag Lottery funding in 2016.
 - Antelope – \$7,280
 - Bighorn Sheep – \$126,610
 - Bison – \$15,320
 - Deer – \$14,670
 - Elk – \$39,990
 - Moose – \$35,870
 - Mountain Goat – \$22,935
 - Mountain Lion – \$4,235

Unique Parks Fund Programs Explained

Parks Funding Sources

The Parks Division has 16 different operational funding sources, with most earmarked for specific uses. Here are Park's largest funding sources:

Source	Percent of Funding
Earned Revenue—light vehicle registration fee — entry, camping & special use fees	47 percent
Lodging Facilities Use (Bed) Tax	17 percent
Other—grants for communities and trail users	14 percent
Motorboat State Fuel Tax	13 percent
Coal Severance Tax for parks development and maintenance	9 percent

Resident Vehicle Registration Fee

- Established by the Montana Legislature in 2003.
- Since 2004, when Montanans register their vehicles they offer their support for Montana State Parks by paying an optional \$6 fee.
- How it works
 - ▶ The \$6 fee is the largest source of funding for Montana's 54 State Parks, generating about \$3.87 million annually.
- Value to Montanans
 - ▶ Every passenger in a car or light truck with a Montana license plate is granted free entry in every Montana State Park.
 - ▶ Montana residents can also walk or bicycle in free of charge.
 - ▶ The funds are used to maintain and operate state parks.

Land & Water Conservation Fund

- Established by Congress in with The Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965.
- It's a federal program to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the nation.
- How it works
 - ▶ LWCF is a discretionary program, meaning it is funded through annual Congressional appropriations. No funds were available for the program between 1995-99.
 - ▶ LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program that pays for 50 percent of the project and the sponsor—usually local governments—pays 50 percent of project costs.

- ▶ Funds are provided for the acquisition of land and water, and easements on land and water, for recreation and the protection of national natural treasures in the forms of parks and protected forest and wildlife areas.
 - FWP administers these matching funds with about half going to local governments and half used in the State Parks system.
- Value to Montana
 - ▶ Montana has received more than \$37 million for outdoor recreation—including community parks and fishing access sites—since the inception of LWCF in 1965.
 - ▶ The U.S. Congress appropriated \$403,992 to Montana in 2015 and \$896,436 in 2016.

FWP Pays Taxes

- FWP makes annual payments to local governments—at the same rate a private landowner would pay real property taxes.
- FWP makes these payments to counties when the total FWP-managed land ownership in the county—which includes wildlife management areas, fishing access sites, and state parks—exceeds 100 acres.
- In 2015, payments to counties totaled \$761,057, compared to \$488,449 in 2006. That’s an increase of more than 55 percent.
- The highest payment in 2015 was \$95,994 to Lake County and the lowest was \$81 to Fallon County. Carter County was the lone county to receive no payment.

Top 10 FWP Tax Payments to Montana Counties in 2015

County	FWP Tax Payment
Lake	\$95,994
Yellowstone	\$81,809
Lewis & Clark	\$59,293
Anaconda/Deer Lodge	\$54,467
Mineral	\$52,505
Missoula	\$50,899
Flathead	\$47,398
Gallatin	\$44,331
Teton	\$34,467
Powell	\$31,694

10-Year License Sales Comparison

License sales revenue from 2006 - 2015 is compared in the table on the next page.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

10-Year License Sales Comparison

LICENSE TYPE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Res. Conservation	88,265	81,850	46,231	93,909	91,070	91,397	94,973	93,366	94,727	102,612
Res. Conservation, fish for free		10,765	50,502							
Disabled Res. Conservation	1,779	2,062	2,321	2,392	2,432	2,422	2,518	2,718	2,485	2,411
Res. Cons/Fishing	130,223	126,620	124,598	129,978	126,680	119,592	128,833	132,063	132,696	135,752
Res. Youth Cons/Fishing		7,029	6,767	6,800	6,491	5,882	6,799	7,284	7,528	7,825
Resident TWO DAY FISHING	1,791	2,523	2,989	3,206	3,013	3,335	3,284	3,129	3,090	3,212
Res. Fishing	2,648	2,518	2,846	2,959	2,711	2,819	3,533	3,528	3,886	4,131
Res. Youth Fishing	211	183	186	194	148	174	210	198	191	241
Res. Paddiefish	6,855	4,214	4,413	4,475	4,185	4,482	4,651	4,241	4,035	4,500
Res. Bird	29,140	29,917	29,397	28,672	27,644	25,466	26,011	26,820	26,417	28,105
Res. Youth Bird	1,523	1,585	1,525	1,428	1,294	1,209	1,304	1,299	1,289	1,533
Res. Turkey	22,371	24,404	26,267	25,519	24,995	22,759	24,188	25,071	24,656	27,169
Waterfowl Stamp	16,632	18,599	18,033	17,763	16,685	17,521	18,266	18,870	19,015	18,889
Res. Sportsman (w/o bear)	17,977	20,607	20,315	19,635	18,812	19,782	18,706	19,126	19,330	18,945
Res. Sportsman (w/bear)	13,065	14,445	13,417	12,822	12,234	12,508	14,872	15,977	16,536	16,422
Res. Youth Sportsman	5,066	5,359	2,941	5,673	5,761	6,168	6,219	6,305	6,426	6,232
Res. Senior Sportsman	1,342	821	69	1,037	1,058	1,191	1,298	1,548	1,842	1,926
Military Recognition Sportsman	428	447	1,040	1,141	1,155	1,311	1,298	904	856	740
Cooperators Sportsman	1,017	1,022	1,024	1,032	1,049	1,044	665	629	614	607
Res. Free Youth Sportsman	4,954	4,923	4,941	5,018	5,439	5,051	4,976	5,194	4,872	4,661
Elk - Adult	63,342	63,206	62,606	61,977	58,380	56,826	56,249	55,880	56,232	59,800
Elk-Senior, Youth, Disabled	19,448	20,743	23,718	21,390	21,519	22,492	22,842	23,407	23,669	25,226
Deer A - Adult	84,448	84,044	85,564	84,451	79,132	75,539	75,339	74,105	72,488	76,485
Deer A - Senior, Youth, Disab.	23,064	24,453	27,895	25,648	25,613	26,347	27,023	27,511	27,543	32,682
Res. Deer B	88,601	95,597	106,729	89,924	76,854	66,394	61,769	56,102	34,020	38,622
Res. Black Bear	8,885	9,526	9,427	10,003	10,379	10,592	11,864	11,751	11,618	13,756
Res. Mountain Lion	3,206	3,803	3,529	3,832	3,535	3,788	4,964	5,007	5,016	5,221
Res. Hound Training	488	423	471	424	441	405	352	364	389	239
Res. Wolf				15,415		18,314	18,555	22,020	18,204	16,577
Res. Moose	595	592	611	569	443	432	366	349	354	335
Res. Sheep	489	521	606	585	499	445	384	371	410	702
Res. Goat	273	273	301	293	295	279	277	262	257	218
Res. Bison	123	89	33	24	33	37	25	58	55	67
Bison Tribal	10	4	8	8	10	8	4	7	4	10
Res. Elk B	3,822	3,935	8,223	8,766	19,635	20,180	20,001	22,289	21,047	24,475
Res. Antelope	53,888	55,564	48,737	47,269	43,308	32,001	24,166	22,011	21,676	23,874
Resident HUNTING ACCESS ENHANCEMENT	166,036	171,656	171,360	169,936	162,382	161,790	163,558	164,486	163,974	172,356
Res. Bonus Point Fee	64,177	65,600	68,871	67,776	72,296	67,930	88,727	89,246	150,007	162,782
Nonres. Conservation	130,883	136,715	132,498	134,845	132,399	120,330	135,183	141,142	145,769	154,137
Nonres. Cons/Fishing	24,650	26,721	25,818	26,418	26,281	23,821	27,008	27,929	28,738	31,188
Nonres. Season Fishing	843	912	803	864	825	681	949	970	1,056	1,198
Nonres. Paddiefish	1,077	752	959	946	779	847	895	795	813	969
Nonres. 2-Day Fishing	113,127	116,584	109,354	112,940	110,100	100,234	113,694	117,892	121,712	130,015
Nonres. 10-day Fishing	23,372	24,031	24,268	24,589	24,813	23,763	26,363	28,933	30,907	31,710
Nonres. Bird	7,740	7,973	7,555	6,795	6,633	5,568	6,373	5,144	5,215	5,590

2016 License & Permit Availability Chart

2016 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
Base Hunting License	\$10.00	\$15.00		Required prerequisite for hunting or applying for a permit or license.
Conservation	\$8.00	\$10.00		Required prerequisite.
Antelope – 900 Archery – Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	
– Disabled – Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Special disabled antelope application fee required. For information call (406) 444-2950.
– Drawing	\$19.00	\$205.00	June 1*	Must have a current conservation license and a base hunting license to apply.
Big Game Combination – General Drawing		\$1001.00	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses.
– Youth (12-17)		\$505.50		Sales begin Feb 1. Includes conservation, deer, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey) base hunting & season fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950.
Bighorn Sheep – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 2*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Bison – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1250.00	May 2*	There is a \$10 Resident/\$50 Nonresident nonrefundable application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Black Bear	\$19.00	\$350.00	Spring - April 14 Fall - August 31	Can purchase after deadline dates, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use license.
Bow and Arrow License	\$10.00	\$10.00		Required during the Archery Only Season for any species or to archery hunt in an Arch-Equip only area or hunting district.
College Student Combination		\$505.50		Certification required for nonresident students attending a Montana college full-time. For information call (406) 444-2950. License available at any FWP office after September 13.
Combat Disabled/Active Duty Veteran – Antelope	\$7.00	\$100.00		50 licenses - issued thru Helena Licensing only. For information call (406) 444-2950.
– Deer, General	\$8.00	\$125.00		
– Deer B	\$5.00	\$37.50		

Key: * = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date. ** = Must be received by 5 pm. MST on deadline date.

2016 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
Coming Home to Hunt – Deer Combination		\$308.50	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950.
– Big Game Combination		\$510.50	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950.
Deer – General (18-61 yrs)	\$16.00			
– General (Disabled, Senior (62+) & Youth (12-17))	\$8.00			
Deer B – Drawing	\$15.00	\$80.00	June 1*	
– Over-the-Counter and Single-Region Antlerless	\$10.00	\$75.00		Over-the-counter. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 8.
Deer Combination – General Drawing		\$597.00	March 15*	Includes conservation, deer, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses.
– Landowner Sponsored Drawing		\$597.00	March 15*	
Deer Permit – Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	March 15*	Application fee only. Permit must be used with general deer license. Residents must have current year general deer license to apply. Nonresidents must also apply for a deer license when applying for a deer permit.
Elk – General (18-61 yrs)	\$20.00			
– General (Disabled, Senior (62+) & Youth (12-17))	\$10.00			
Elk B License – Drawing	\$25.00	\$275.00	June 1*	Antlerless only.
– Over-The-Counter	\$20.00	\$270.00		Over-the-counter. Antlerless only. Valid in specific district(s). Purchase beginning August 8.
Elk Combination – Drawing		\$851.00	March 15*	Includes conservation, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses.
Elk Permit – Drawing	\$9.00	\$9.00	March 15*	Residents must have current year general elk license to apply. Nonresidents must also apply for an elk license when applying for an elk permit. A permit must be used with a General Elk License.
Hound Training License	\$5.00			

Key: * = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date. ** = Must be received by 5 pm. MST on deadline date.

2016 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
Nonresident Montana Native – Bird License		\$55.00		For Montana native born with current Montana resident relative; other qualifications apply. For information call (406) 444-2950. Deer Combo includes conservation, deer, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), base hunting & season fishing licenses. For information call (406) 444-2950. Big Game Combo includes all of the Deer Combo plus an elk license.
– NR Deer Combination License		\$303.50		
– NR Big Game Combination License		\$505.50		
– Season Fishing License		\$43.00		
Migratory Bird – (12 - 15)		\$25.00		Federal Stamp is not required.
– (16 - 17)	\$3.25	\$25.00		Federal Stamp also required.
– (18+)	\$6.50	\$50.00		Federal Stamp also required.
Moose – Drawing	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 2*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Mountain Goat	\$125.00	\$1,250.00	May 2*	There is a \$10 resident/\$50 nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Mountain Lion – General License	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 31	Can purchase license after deadline date, but then there is a 5-day wait period to use the license.
– Special License – Limited Entry Drawing	\$19.00	\$320.00	August 11**	Application fee is only \$5.00. The license cost must be paid if successful in the drawing.
Off-Highway Temporary Use Decal		\$27.00		
Sandhill Crane – Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	July 28**	Cost is the application fee only.
Sportsman – Military Recognition	\$10.00			Must go through certification process only at FWP offices. Includes conservation, season fishing, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey), deer & elk licenses. \$10.00 fee is for base hunting license.
– with Bear	\$85.00			Includes conservation, deer, elk, bear, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey) & season fishing licenses.
– without Bear	\$70.00			Includes conservation, deer, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey) & season fishing licenses.
– without Bear – Senior (62+) & Youth (12- 17)	\$35.00			Includes conservation, deer, elk, state lands, upland bird (excluding turkey) & season fishing licenses.

Key: * = Must be postmarked on or before deadline date. ** = Must be received by 5 pm. MST on deadline date.

2016 LICENSE TYPE	Resident COST	Nonresident COST	DEADLINE	NOTES
State Lands Recreational License – General (18-59)	\$10.00			Required for recreational use on state school trust lands. The State Lands Recreation License is included in the Montana Conservation License specifically for the purpose of hunting, fishing, and/or trapping (HFT). All other recreational use on state school trust lands requires this State Lands Recreation License.
– Youth (12-17)	\$5.00			
– Senior (60+)	\$5.00			
– Family	\$20.00			
Swan Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	Sept 1**	Cost is application fee only.
Turkey License – Over the Counter	\$6.50	\$115.00		If nonresident has already purchased an Upland Bird License, then turkey licenses are \$57.50 each.
– Drawing	\$5.00	\$5.00	Spring - March 3** Fall - July 28**	There is a \$5 resident or nonresident application fee required with the application. The license cost is paid if successful in the drawing.
Upland Bird – General (18-61)	\$7.50	\$110.00		
– Youth (12-17)	\$3.75	\$55.00		
– Senior (62+) or disabled	\$3.75	\$110.00		
– 3 Day		\$50.00		Valid for three calendar days (which are indicated on the license). Not valid for sage grouse at any time or for ring-necked pheasants during the opening week of the season.
– 3 Day Preserve		\$20.00		Valid only on state-licensed shooting preserves.
Wolf	\$19.00	\$50.00	August 31	Can purchase after the deadline, but then there is a 24-hour wait period to use the license. Limit 5 licenses per hunter.

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