

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 26, 2023 8:48:31 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 26, 2023 9:17:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:55
IP Address: 216.47.54.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Steve Kamps**
City/Town: **Ovando**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **12kamps@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

A gradual and continued decline in the wolf population in Montana is exactly what Montana needs. We are finally on the right track and now there's a proposal to prematurely close the season if new reduced quotas are met? Please don't. This last year was one of the very few years that marked a small decline. Was that because of harvest? Harvest was one factor, but there are many others. Fluctuations are natural, lets not over react and suddenly have populations well over what we have now again. I do not agree at all with the statement in the press release that FWP "predicts the proposed harvest quotas will continue that (downward) trend". We all know how smart and adaptable wolves are. If there populations were to decline any more, harvest will also decline since there will be less wolves to harvest on the landscape having an offsetting effect at which point the populations will level off. Simply put, if there's less wolves out there, they'll be harder to find and harvest. Give the current system without these reduced quotas a try and you'll see. As prolific as wolves are, the population is going to ebb and flow right back up above where they are now. Just be patient.

There's finally been some progress, please don't throw that away. Keep in mind, Montana is way, way above the minimum populations we agreed to keep. And also keep in mind every animal the wolves kill and eat is another animal that's taken away from sportsmen and especially our young hunters to harvest. Simply put, having more wolves takes away opportunity from sportsmen. We can all share, but the balance point has to be a lower wolf population than we have. Again we are way above the minimum thresholds. Please leave things as they are.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:42:39 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 11:52:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:24
IP Address: 66.135.71.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Todd Orr
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tworr@frontiernet.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I think your jumping gun as far as lowering Quota on Wolves Especially in R1. 1st you cut season back because Humpyback Longclaws isnt Asleep!! Then you get temporary injuction to start the 22-23 Season off. Barely won!! Now your Proposal is to cut Quota from 185 to 120 in R1. Stating that "Your management of wolves is working. There are less Wolves." See injuction was because YOU hadnt done population Survey but 2 ways you do surveys is Bogus.

Reason the Take was down !! Was because you wouldnt let us start trapping until Humpyback Longclaws went to bed!! Then we got dumped on 2 days after the opening date and then again 5 days later so most of R1 Wolf Trappers didnt even get to start until Jan 1st week!!

Plz Leave Quota as is! Especially since you dont Have a population number!!

You Have a SWAG I would call it just a WAG though!!

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 2:57:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:02:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:31
IP Address: 192.161.70.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mike Quesenberry**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mike@quesenberryagency.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I trap wolf's and coyotes in region 3 , i do agree with the new wolf quota for 2023/2024 season. As trappers we do not want to over harvest any furbearer or Predator , but we do need to keep the population in check with adjusting quotas either up or down depending on the population.

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:30:52 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:33:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 212.102.47.81

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Josh Katanik
City/Town:	Post Falls
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	Katanikj@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I believe that Montana and Idaho should be on board to manage wolves in the same way. We share a boarder and that means we share ungulate and predators. Idaho seems to be managing wolves properly, especially with the assistance of F4WM. Please consider making wolf management a priority and allowance for all Montana Sportsmen/women. Please allow wolves to be harvested all year round by both trapping and hunting. Thank you!

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 4:20:08 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 4:31:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:29
IP Address: 216.47.59.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bob Rowland**
City/Town: **Ovando**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lbrdbob@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

At this point the claim is wolf numbers are falling.....As a rancher and hunter I say the numbers haven't fallen far enough. The 4 pivots on this ranch in the evening once had about 100 whitetail deer per pivot. Now there are not even 50 whitetail on the whole ranch. We always had coyotes, black and grizzly bears and lions. The only change we have seen is the number of wolves in the area. Winters are long in this country and being chased every day by wolves doesn't help their chances of survival. The wolf population is still too high at this point to be talking about quotas.

thank you for your time
Bob Rowland

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:20:11 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:35:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:09
IP Address: 129.222.4.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **james r harmony**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **james.harmonay@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

To state this as briefly as possible, I have issues with the WMU 313 plan. The 6 wolf quota is too small and the WMU is too large. Either reducing the size of the WMU or increasing the quota would be beneficial. When the quota was 18 wolves, there was a redistribution of wolves but ultimately the population would recover. I understand there are political issues with YNP however, YNP will always be a safe haven for wolves and will continue to produce wolves that move outside of its boundaries. This is the same for many species, such as elk, and the take of elk is politically acceptable. This should be the goal for Montana and wolves as well, in my opinion. Taking wolves will not take away from tourism in Gardiner and the surrounding communities, as people primarily move through the park based on the logistics of their travels.

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 5:58:26 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:00:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 23.164.80.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Sprague**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **grizzsprague@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Looking at overall results. I'd run the same season and harvest as last year

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 30, 2023 10:01:26 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 30, 2023 10:04:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:42
IP Address: 69.146.142.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Walrod
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: davidwalrod@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'd like to see the quota numbers implemented as they stand except for 313 near Yellowstone I believe it is. That number should be at or near what FWP had wanted it to be. I don't feel that 10 wolves is too many for that location and certainly would not harm the populations of the wolves in that location.

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 02, 2023 1:38:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 02, 2023 1:40:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 107.122.173.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Marchwick
City/Town: Eureka
State/Province: CA
Email Address: john.marchwick@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission

I saw you proposed a lower wolf hunting quota. In a way it sounds nice, the quota was lowered from 450 to 289, if you don't have context about the situation that is.

The Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks commission is still proposing to maintain a quota of 6 wolves in wolf management unit 313 which is the wolf unit that borders Yellowstones northern boundary. That quota of 6 is still not good enough, recommendations from former and current wolf biologists in Yellowstone called for a 1-2 quota system in that area, that is what the best available science supported and yet the commission is still ignoring this scientific fact. Keep in mind that quota of 6 in wolf management unit 313 when it was implemented, 4 Yellowstone wolves (3 year old dispersing female 1229F from Junction Butte, 2 year old male 1326M from 8 mile, 2 year old male 1278M from Rescue Creek and an uncollared male from Rescue Creek) were killed in that area between late 2022 to early 2023. There's also no recommended 1-2 quota system and the restoration of wolf management unit 110 that bordered Glacier National Park either. We still have no idea how wolves in Glacier are being impacted by House Bill 224, House Bill 225, Senate Bill 267 and Senate 314 that were passed by Montana Lawmakers in 2021, which none of them have any scientific degree nor work in wildlife management ever.

The suggested number of wolves in Montana, the 1087 wolves Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks is now saying that are in Montana, that's also most likely NOT an accurate number either. The current method Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks uses to count wolves is called IPOM, and new research suggests that's not the best way to count wolves. Oregon, California, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming in the Northwest corner of the state do minimum counts of wolves and here's the difference between IPOM and minimum counts. IPOM relies on counting an animal population through sightings, minimum counts require on the ground field work, aerial flyovers, radio collaring, trail cameras, DNA technology, etc.

If you want to do more to avoid relisting, maybe start investing serious resources into wolf management aside from approving and supporting politically driven wolf management agendas.

Sources

<https://www.kxih.com/news/fwp-proposes-new-wolf-hunting-quotas>

<https://hungryhorsenews.com/news/2021/nov/17/glacier-taking-wait-and-see-approach-wolf-trapping/>

https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/montana-institutes-six-wolf-quota-in-the-area-north-of-yellowstone-national-park/article_bfe88e32-248d-11ed-8681-5f3d07da9666.html

<https://youtu.be/-tXplYRCUpk>

<https://dailymontan.com/2022/10/31/groups-sue-montana-alleging-fwp-fails-to-count-wolves-accurately/>

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2023 6:51:48 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2023 6:59:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: 76.127.184.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jonathan G Way
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jw9802@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I live and recreate in Montana (and surrounding areas) specifically to see wildlife. At the top of the list are predators including bears, mtn. lions, and wolves, as well as coyotes. I am against any plan to increase the hunting of these ecologically important, sentient animals. Stop catering to a small minority and protect these animals. Montanans should be proud to have these animals in abundance. All the special interest MT game and parks want is to kill these animals. It is pathetic and the entire structure of fish and game agencies needs to change. Your management of predators reflects that. My tax money is spent watching these animals, not killing them. So protect them. Now! I want more of these animals in more places.

There should be a buffer zone around Yellowstone and Glacier Parks with no hunting allowed to allow park wolves to move in and out of the edges of these areas. Again, the special interests that hunt predators are small and their voice is way over-amplified. People from all walks of life, and all political parties, come to watch these animals. They should be protected not shot and killed for fun.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2023 2:10:57 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2023 2:17:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:16
IP Address: 174.56.51.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Stephen Capra
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: stephen@bvconservation.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We have reached a point where it is clear that IPom the method used to count wolves is seriously flawed, thus you are being sued over it. We cannot continue to allow this abuse of our wildlife. Trappers contribute nothing to our state. Trapper licensing fees bring in perhaps \$325,000 a year, while wolf viewing brings in more than \$80 million. Wildlife is not to be raised to satisfy sadistic behavior. Trapping must be banned in Montana. Bold Visions Conservation is working to do just that and we want to be clear that the continued efforts by a commission that profits off the loss of predators as is the direct case of Commissioner Tabor, cannot continue. Finally, we strongly support no killing or trapping anywhere near the Yellowstone border, last year the quota was six, this year it should be zero. The numbers should also be lowered across the state.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2023 3:35:53 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2023 3:42:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:25
IP Address: 174.234.3.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cole Erickson
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cehunter17@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Maybe the wolf numbers are going down because there are way to many mountain lions and the deer are being killed to almost nothing with the huge amount of CWD tags given out. Not only that but at the same time limiting hunter opportunities near these deer units. Wolves don't even seem to be hunted all that much. Wolves seem plentiful to me and they have resulted in a lot less hunting opportunities for me through the years because they seem to be doing fine and keep the elk on the run and quiet. Bears and mountain lions seems to be especially prolific and their numbers are not being increased. So increasing predator numbers and decreasing prey numbers seems like a bad combination eventually they will come back into cycle. I don't think wolves are declining due to hunters I believe it's due to other carnivores and prey.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 06, 2023 8:49:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 06, 2023 8:59:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:52
IP Address: 107.191.169.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	James Call
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	xo6915@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I believe that there is way more Wolves in Lincoln County Montana than the wolf Biologist says there is. We as Trappers and Hunters think we should have longer seasons and more tools I am boxes. Please take the time to reconsider the Quotas for us . Thank you for your time James Call 🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 07, 2023 7:32:54 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 07, 2023 7:38:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:28
IP Address: 98.97.35.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Paul Antczak
City/Town:	Marion
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	predatorsnprey@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The thought among many trappers and sportsman when it come to wolves is we were better under Bullock!
There's no good reason to change wolf quotas. Politics is the only reason.

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 07, 2023 11:55:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 07, 2023 11:59:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 192.161.70.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	George Quesenberry
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mike@quesenberryagency.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I do not agree with lowering the Wolf Quotas , the number of Wolf's in Montana is buy your account 2.5 times greater than the number agreed upon with the USFW.

So why cut the quota when that number is clearly much higher than the agreement. Keep the quotas as is.

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2023 8:48:46 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2023 8:52:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:14
IP Address: 107.191.171.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mason Wilkins
City/Town: Libby mt
State/Province: MT
Email Address: masonwilkins2017@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I do not want the quota to change on the wolf, I'm a wolf trapper and we need to keep the quota the same, the Elk, Deer and moose over there in Lincoln county is getting smaller and smaller from the wolves killing them so I hope you keep the quota the same as last year so we can continue to be able to keep food on the table.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2023 8:56:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2023 9:10:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:41
IP Address: 72.255.191.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bruce Duncan
City/Town: Big Timber
State/Province: MT
Email Address: duncanwreaths@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Leave quotas alone as the wolves move around a lot. We are seeing more wolves here that have moved in. Ranchers are seeing more activity now than in the past. By lowering the quotas will not help in this area of Region 5. The wolves are coming in from south and west of Big Timber and are being seen 30-40 miles north of Big Timber now as their territory is expanding and ranchers are not going to be happy with your commission. The bobcat population is lower than it was in the past because trappers have not been pushing for them in the last few years. So going to 75 instead of 50 would be better.

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 2:07:26 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 2:09:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:04
IP Address: 50.52.64.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dorian Boling
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: dogsmontana@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I support the lower quotas to keep a healthy population and not letting our wolf numbers get to low so the feds want to take wolf management over.

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 8:42:03 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:13:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:26
IP Address: 107.191.169.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kathy Call**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **xo6915@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

They say the Management Objective is 400 Wolves in Montana, but as of 2021 they said there was 1143. How can you lower the Quota if Montana can only house 400 Wolves . Please help us keep our Elk, Moose and Deer Herds alive. Thank you for your help and time which is running out for the wildlife 🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌🦌

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:03:00 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:15:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:53
IP Address: 50.46.7.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **William Hoffman**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **hoffmanw993@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Lowering the wolf quota in NW Montana is pure madness. The moose, deer and elk herds have been on a decline since the reintroduction of the wolf's. Montana can only sustain 400 total wolves according to your studies. Once again the government does what they want to do.

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:16:53 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:25:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:59
IP Address: 172.58.44.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Allen
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Why are they going to lower the wolf quota in our area? When they introduced the wolf the studied showed our ecosystem was only large enough for 400 wolves and the number is up from that.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:14:57 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:18:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:07
IP Address: 98.97.113.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan moen
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wynter.kilgore@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The quota needs to stay the same or go up if anything. There's too many wolf's in region 1 and running out of sustainable habitat. That's why wolf's are moving so much dominating are elk herds and moose.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:08:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 12:15:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:40
IP Address: 174.234.9.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Case dewit
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	case.dewit@wnins.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I grew up in the 80s and when I would bow hunt along the Idaho border I would sometimes get 8 different bulls to answer my bugles in one drainage ... when I went to place my dads ashes in there recently there were no elk and lots of wolves howling ... the elk are gone and it's unbelievable elk habitat . Now when I go in there and bugle I call on wolves or when I go in there bear hunting I see wolves ... they are looking for the remaining 8 percent of elk herd that is left .. back then we would camp at a lake and see moose come out at night. Now all I find are the bones from likely the last moose in there . Let's manage wolves like we do bears and cougars and keep their numbers in check .. they breed like rabbits so a healthy cull of 40 percent of the existing wolf populations would be a good starting place. Case

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:53:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:58:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:25
IP Address: 50.37.136.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jason wise
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: elkhunting4ever@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need to lengthen seasons for wolves and no setbacks the wolf population is thriving with us trappers and sportsmen not putting a dent in the population we're way over the agreed population of 400 wolves for Montana with a realistic number of 1200 plus help us manage these devastating animals that are whipping out our game are game numbers continue to decline with the wolf numbers increasing yearly

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:12:32 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:22:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:18
IP Address: 98.97.9.108

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I recommend snare and trap use be limited to the smallest area and shortest time frame legally required. Otherwise, the current recommendations for the upcoming season are acceptable.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:39:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:42:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 174.215.0.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Levi carlberg**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Lcarlberg73@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

There should only be 400 wolves in the whole state ,why are we lowering quotas ,come on people grow a back bone,please don't lower quotas

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 2:58:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:01:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:35
IP Address: 184.167.66.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gloria Phillip
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gloria.phillip@mso.umt.edu

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am opposed to wolf trapping and hunting. This apex predator is necessary to cull elk and deer as nature provided to keep all the wildlife populations strong. People should not mess with this at all!

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:38:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:07:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:58
IP Address: 207.34.170.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephani Horstman**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **stephani.horstman@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Snares and traps are awful. As a hunter, fisherman, and general enjoyer of the outdoors, this is non-sportsman-like behavior. I have more than one friend whose pet dogs have been harmed, two of them fatally, by traps. While wolves are a controversial subject, they are a keystone species which means they help keep the balance in the ecosystem. This includes favorable effects to other sensitive species such as grizzly bears. We have plenty of elk here and reliable accounts of wolves killing livestock are few and far between. Wolves are like the boogey man to too many Montanans. From nearly all accounts, the model used to estimate wolf populations that is used to set kill quotas is error-ridden and unreliable. As someone with a computer science degree from MSU and over 10 years experience as a software developer, if the data stinks, the results cannot be relied upon. That is very true in this case. Real hunters eat what they kill. There is no such thing as wolf that is good to eat. Real hunters can coexist with wolves because we know that wolves are part of a health and balanced ecosystem, which helps keep our deer and elk populations healthy.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 6:00:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 6:12:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:13
IP Address: 71.15.196.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nicholas Kovalcik
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nick.kovalcik@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing today to voice my opposition to the 2023-2024 wolf hunting and trapping seasons. I do not believe that the state's wolves, or any other animals for that matter, should be subjected to such arbitrary, unscientifically sound, and cruel methods of recreational killing. If there are individual wolves or packs that are causing a problem for ranchers, then FWP personnel should be the ones to humanely euthanize the animals. Not recreational hunters and trappers. Thank you.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 10:49:56 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 10:56:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:20
IP Address: 174.234.4.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Garett Bacon**
City/Town: **East Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gbbacon@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do NOT REDUCE the wolf Quota!!!

They exceed the agreed upon sustaining number by volumes!! We have worked hard with FWP to get the wolf down to manageable numbers and now FWP is pulling this nonsense in reducing the quota?????

Where is the science/biology in this???

Did the anti people take this over. ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE. LETS GET BACK TO SOUND MANAGEMENT AND INCREASE THE WOLF QUOTA!!!

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:12:20 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:16:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 209.137.242.134

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a hunter and avid outdoorsman I believe that there continues to be a liberal wolf season. I'm very familiar with districts 121,122 & 314. While I'm not a trapper I support their efforts and part in helping maintaining a healthy balance in the eco scheme of things
Guy Engebretson

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:31:02 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:34:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:08
IP Address: 174.234.4.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **GB**
City/Town: **Eh**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Buysellwesternstates@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need to increase the quota of wolf harvests!!

They are way above sound biology management. What is eith FWP trying to decrease this after all the good will trappers have shown working with FWP?????

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:04:39 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:10:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 98.97.33.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Edwin Johnson
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: edwin@montanaguide.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I hunt on the boundary of Yellowstone Park. We have too many wolves in our area and need to up the wolf quotas around Yellowstone Park. The park considers any wolf that comes out of the park a Yellowstone Park Wolf and any bison that leaves the park to be Montana's issue to deal with.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:36:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 1:54:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:08
IP Address: 174.212.224.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Forrest
City/Town: Erickson
State/Province: MT
Email Address: forresterickson52@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hunters have strict limitations on other big game such as elk, deer, antelope and moose..in most cases, only one animal is the bag limit for the aforementioned animals .yet there are 600,000 deer, and 120,000 elk in the state ...there are only 1200 wolves in the state yet hunters are allowed to kill up to 20 wolves per hunter per year ...there. is a serious disconnect here...why is there such a huge bag limit on a very small population of wolves and a bag limit of only one animal on other game animals like deer and elk with comparatively huge populations?...this is a violation of equal protection of the law .stop singling out wolves for special treatment and apply the law equally for all game animals...

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 2:19:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 2:23:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:47
IP Address: 75.134.130.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ellen Sanford
City/Town: Duluth
State/Province: MN
Email Address: esanford@q.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I oppose the hunting and trapping of gray wolves. Here in Northern MN, we probably have more PACKS than MT has wolves, and they are protected by order of the governor. Killing wolves backfires through pack instability and unbalancing the ecosystem. Please don't do it. Trapping is especially cruel.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:28:18 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:31:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:09
IP Address: 98.97.117.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Babcock
City/Town: Frenchtown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cfcinfisel@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Lift quota
Get rid of all
Bitches & pups first

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:29:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:38:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:56
IP Address: 69.146.142.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Walrod
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: davidwalrod@bresna.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The quota should remain at the 400 as it has been now for a few years. They are not harvesting too many wolves and are not impacting negatively the wolf numbers across the state. Their numbers are healthy.

Unit 313 should have the quota set at 10 which was the previous agreed upon number.

The Floating trapping opening date in wolf management areas that potentially have grizzly bears in them is not necessary. There have been I believe only one instance of a grizzly bear being caught in a wolf trap in the state of Montana for all of the years that trapping has been allowed in the state. There just isn't any justification for this to be in effect. Please consider doing away with this floating date.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2023 7:38:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2023 7:40:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:52
IP Address: 72.255.163.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Deb Solum
City/Town: Rudyard
State/Province: MT
Email Address: barl4@mtintouch.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Commissioners: Please leave the wolf quota at last year's numbers. There are too many wolves now and cutting quota numbers will only allow more of them to populate the state. If anything, we need more hunting and trapping opportunities to lower the population numbers. Thank you for your consideration.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:16:36 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2023 9:23:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:11
IP Address: 98.97.112.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Darr
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trailcreek430@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

There is absolutely no reason to lower wolf hunting quotas again. If numbers are trending down, which most of us are highly skeptical of, then we are finally on the right track. Elk numbers in 313 are still dismal. If anything the quota here should be lifted again. I challenge anyone who reads this to come here and find a moose. There was plenty until the wolves showed up. Quit bowing to the crazy eco crowd and help our big game herds.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:50:32 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2023 2:54:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:30
IP Address: 98.125.199.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joel G Vignere**
City/Town: **Lakeside**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **aba303@centurytel.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Asinine! What else can I say. Slaughter as many as possible. What a SHIT solution. Trapping is nothing less than barbaric. It illustrates how despicable the human race has become.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:15:26 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:20:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:37
IP Address: 184.63.172.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John C. Locke**
City/Town: **Frenchtown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rustynutsvtp@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

There is NO logical reason to reduce the Wolf quota in any of the regions.

The wolf population has already exceeded goals, and current management is NOT damaging the wolf population. LEAVE IT ALONE.

And yes "I live amongst them" (Wolves).

John C. Locke
Bear Paw Ranch
Huson, MT

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:26:43 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:31:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:13
IP Address: 216.14.241.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kevin Cottn
City/Town: Seeley Lake
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wilderness64@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Keep wolf harvests healthy. The current refs are starting to help our Deer Elk, Moose populations. I actually saw a cow moose this year in 285. First one for years

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 9:29:16 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 10:03:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:34:19
IP Address: 66.113.45.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ken Crandell
City/Town: Libbh
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Eagle3655@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

According to Montana State Wolf management guide lines , Wolves in Montana are mandated to be regulated and managed at a population of no more then 400 wolves. Currently according to Montana Fish and Game there are over 1000 wolves in population in this state and harvest quotas should not be lowered but raised to a higher quota. And further more if the mandate of managing the population of wolves at 400 in this state is not met ,the state should explore and present a plan to bring the wolf population down from over a 1000 to the mandatory 400 wolves witch has yet to be done . Longer trapping and harvesting seasons ,and better access to to restricted areas is a good start and solution to the problem of overpopulation of wolves in Montana .

Management of these predators at the mandatory population of 400 contributes to conservation and betterment of healthy Moose, Elk, and Deer populations in Montana. It is in our best interest for future generations to properly manage and maintain healthy ecosystems for wildlife and our wilderness hear Montana. Thank you for your help in making this possible.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 6:00:26 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 6:01:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:02
IP Address: 107.131.233.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mary Shabbott
City/Town: Hot Springs
State/Province: AR
Email Address: mshabbott@sbcglobal.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Montana FWP has ignored non-lethal, science based methods far too long. Your motto has been kill as many wolves as you can. There have been no accurate number counts; no management; only a slaughter. Wolves bring in millions of tourist dollars to your state because people want to see living wildlife. You, however, choose to ignore these facts and dismiss the non-consumptive, wildlife watching community. It is trappers and outfitters you coddle and cater to, and neither of those groups care about wolf/wildlife conservation or know the first thing about science. People throughout the world are paying attention and so is USFWS. Nearly 150,000 square miles are public lands that belong to all citizens; not just Montana trappers, outfitters and trophy hunters.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:15:30 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:18:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:44
IP Address: 98.127.129.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane Huf
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: winyanone@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm glad to hear night-vision hunting won't be allowed for fur bearing animals. Trapping is inhumane for any use and erases the "fair chase" that allows the animal to have at least a chance of escape. That's what our forefathers/mothers did and it's still a good idea. I live in Helena and my vote is no trapping at all for any of them. Thank you.

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:22:15 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2023 7:41:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:48
IP Address: 174.215.17.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linette Ratay**
City/Town: **Gulfport**
State/Province: **FL**
Email Address: **linetteratay@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

Please represent us non-consumptive tourists that visit your state when making decisions regarding wolves . We ask that you limit wolf killing throughout the state (especially by trapping) and allow no more than one wolf to be killed in WMU 313.

We come to your state by the thousands and spend our hard earned money to enjoy your beautiful resources. One of the biggest attractions for us is your wolves!

We bring millions of dollars to your state. While here we buy equipment to watch wolves, we eat at restaurants and book hotels. That is not all! We hire fly fishing guides, wolf watching guides, snowmobile guides, atv guides and support gateway communities to Yellowstone. We would gladly pay a wolf tourist tax above and beyond other state taxes to see your wolves alive and not stuffed in a bar or restaurant.

Please help us share what a great state you are for tourists! Please limit wolf trapping and killing this year. Especially around the parks!

Respectfully,
Linette Ratay
3001 DuPont st s
Gulfport, Florida 33707

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 7:30:46 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:02:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:32:03
IP Address: 108.174.115.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Steven Clevidence**
City/Town: **Stevensville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sclevidence@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Commissioners and MFW&P

I am writing to voice my feelings towards recommendations and proposals for the upcoming 2024 Wolf hunting and trapping season. I support a wolf quota reduction in the proposals, and setting a wolf quota of 5 total from trapping or hunting for the season. I also recommend a Wolf Quota 1 for unit 110 outside Glacier National Park and 1 for unit 313 outside Yellowstone National Park.

The Wolf Trapping dates should be set December 31 - February 28, and opening later/closing sooner based on grizzly activity in applicable areas.

I highly recommend that snaring of wolves should only be permissible on private land and land must be posted, accordingly, if in block management. Trapping or snaring must be regulated and required to have a 24 hour mandatory minimal trap check requirement, and all wolves harvested by hunting or trapping must be tagged and presented to the nearest regional MFW&P office for data collection. All traps and snares placed by an individual or group must be removed within 24 hours at the closing of the season or closure of the unit where the traps and snares were placed.

I am adamantly opposed to any form of baiting or night hunting of wolves.

Myself and family own and maintain a 1200 acre ranch in the Bitterroot valley of western Montana that has been in existence since the 1800s. My Grandchildren are now 6th generation Montanans. We have raised livestock all during this time and have co-existed with several types of predators upon our ranch and around the general vicinity with minimal loss if any of our livestock to predators as our practices are constantly changing to insure a peaceful co-existence . All of our ranch is presently being made into a trust to insure its continued existence as open land in an area that continues to be highly subdivided into housing developments. Open corridors for wildlife is drastically necessary for Montana's wildlife.

Thank you,

Steven H. Clevidence
153 Garnet Dr.
Stevensville, Mt. 59870
406-369-0755

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:50:58 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:55:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:50
IP Address: 174.198.132.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kelly Little**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kelly.aughney@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

WOLF
Support the wolf quota reduction in the proposals.
Wolf quota 5 total from trapping or hunting.
Wolf Quota 1 for unit 110 outside Glacier National Park and 1 for unit 313 outside Yellowstone National Park.
Wolf Trapping dates December 31 - February 28, and opening later/closing sooner based on grizzly activity in applicable areas.
Snaring for wolves permissible only on private land and land must be posted, accordingly, if in block management.
24 hour or at minimum daily mandatory trap checks.
Wolves killed by hunting and trapping must be tagged and presented to regional office for data collection.
Wolf traps and snares must be removed by season end date or within 24 hours of region/unit closing.
No party trapping, i.e. one tag per trap/snare and no pre-baiting.
Registering of trap lines with the department.
Prohibit the use of bait for hunting wolves.
Prohibit night hunting of wolves.

BOBCAT
SUPPORT reducing Region 5 bobcat quota of 100 to 50.
SUPPORT reducing bobcat quota Region 6 from 50 to 25.

MARTEN
SUPPORT closing marten trapping in the portion of Montana North of 1-90 and east of I-15.

MOUNTAIN LION:
OPPOSE the increased quotas

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 3:20:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 3:29:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:38
IP Address: 107.191.164.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **jay sheffield**
City/Town: **libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jcs271ebay@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I believe that reducing the Wolf Harvest Quota from 195 down to the proposed 120 is ill advised. The wolf population in Region 1 is growing (as ungulate numbers continue to decline) and a harvest of 120 will not come close to keeping the current population in check. I would suggest that you seriously consider increasing the wolf harvest quota, NOT reduce it.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:00:48 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:05:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 162.213.184.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Valerie Esche**
City/Town: **ABSAROKEE**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **wetrap@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I was very disappointed to see you decreasing wolf quotas in all regions. We have a strong wolf population and I don't feel there is any reason to be decreasing wolf numbers. I had talked with the biologist for region 5 and he told me that he felt the quota for my area should remain the same. He felt we have a healthy population. I hope you will reconsider these numbers. I know the ranchers in my area would not be happy to see this. Thank you.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:16:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 4:27:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:22
IP Address: 69.145.131.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gretchen Grayum
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: woodsongdesigns@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolf trapping and hunting should just stop. Period. The slaughter and cruelty towards these magnificent animals is horrendous. There are jeeps and trucks all over Helena with night lights mounted on them for night killing. Wolves are being eradicated like they were in the old days when they did not know anything about balance of natural ecosystems and other species. I work at a ranch a few times a year seasonally in my profession as a gardener. I see the innocent new calves being watched over and protected. That is different. This killing that you keep the doors open for just produces fun and thrills for blood thirsty killers. Wolf packs are families. They care for their young and mates and the elders. The wolf hunts are totally unfair and they have to stop. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:46:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:48:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 174.234.13.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris George
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: PATRIOTFARMS2016@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolf numbers are higher than they have ever been. We can not lower the quotas as we have no less than 3 times the population that the fish and wildlife have deemed we have suitable habitat for. We should increase the quotas to save our dwindling elk herds.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:03:38 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:10:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:40
IP Address: 67.143.192.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeff Rader
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jlrader2001@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

When making your decisions on seasons/quotas for trapping, hunting and fishing, please keep in mind that the biological "science" should be followed in conjunction with the North American Model of Wildlife Management principles. Please remember that sociology, social science, and political science are not true science. Let the biologists follow true science and let them do their job, Montana has some of the best biologists in the world.

Jeff Rader

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 10:34:56 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 10:36:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 98.97.33.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gerald B Mercer
City/Town: TROY
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mountit@fronrier.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I absolutely do not support lowering the quota on wolves! If anything we should be raising the quota.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:23:59 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 12:33:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:43
IP Address: 47.45.200.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jeanette Copeland
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jeanette@bigsky.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I propose that you end ALL trapping, snaring, baiting of ANY animal in the entire state of Montana. It's cruel and inhumane. Trapping is a thing of the past and is no longer a part of twenty-first century Montana. Tourists come and spend money here to see live animals, not dead ones.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 1:17:46 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:00:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:40
IP Address: 63.153.3.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Bell
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mttroutbum@littleappletech.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I support reducing the state-wide wolf harvest to 289 wolves. I do believe that the statewide distribution numbers need to be amended to reduce the harvest in WMU 313 to two (2). For this reason I support Alternative B.

STATE-WIDE QUOTA: The integrated Patch Occupancy Model (iPOM) does not give an accurate population estimate. Because of this flaw Montana does not have any science based protocols to accurately determine a wolf quota for the 2023/2024 season. Using an average of the harvest from the last 5 years is an alternative until a more accurate method for determining the wolf population is implemented. For this reason I support a state-wide harvest of 289 for 2023/2024.

DISTRIBUTION: The harvest quota for WMU 313 should be amended to two (2) to minimize pack disruption for the Yellowstone National Park wolves. A remarkable new study was completed after the last FWP Fish and Wildlife Commissioners meeting. This study " Human-caused mortality triggers pack instability in grey wolves" was published on January 17, 2023 in the journal Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment. This study should be reviewed by the commissioners for a better understanding of the profound impact transboundary mortality has on YNP wolf packs.

WMU 313 COMPROMISE: A second viable alternative for managing WMU 313 could be to have two quotas, reaching either threshold would trigger a closure. A quota of six (6) would remain in place if the wolves cannot be identified as YNP wolves and quota of two (2) if the wolves can be positively identified as YNP wolves. Collared park wolves would be positive identification as would DNA confirmation from YNP park officials. This compromise would allow Montana to comply with the Legislative mandate and enhance the relationship between the two agencies along the boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

Thank You James Bell

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:02:48 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:09:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:55
IP Address: 63.153.79.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kathryn Tilly
City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kitilly281@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department,

I am a Bitterroot Valley resident who would like to submit a comment on the proposed changes for wolf hunting and trapping. First of all, regarding the new map of grizzly bear-occupied territory that is used for mapping where there will be a floating start to the wolf trapping season, the occupied territory depicted is less than in 2022, despite recent sightings in the Pryor Mountains and north of Livingston. Please revise this map to reflect actual grizzly occupancy, which your research has demonstrated. Second, I support the reductions in wolf quotas, but think that the quota in WMU 313 should be further reduced to 1 wolf. This reduction is important in order to maintain the numbers of Yellowstone wolves and ensure that this population remains genetically diverse and viable. Finally, I think that the trapping season length should be reduced and snaring should only be allowed on private land. Wolves are a vital part of the ecosystem, as your scientists and others have demonstrated. They help maintain healthy populations of deer and elk and keep them in balance with the rest of the ecosystem. Reducing wolf numbers drastically would lead to overpopulations of these ungulates, damaging the plants on which they feed. I also have a personal interest in the trapping season length and use of snares. I have three huskies and ski and hike with them on the Bitterroot National Forest all winter long. Having traps and, especially, snares endangers my beloved companions. I do not see why a few trappers have the right to put out devices that can kill or maim the pets of the far-more-numerous winter recreationists on public lands. I am happy to know that we share the woods with large predators and hope that does not change.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Tilly
Hamilton, MT

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:10:36 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 2:15:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:38
IP Address: 71.233.199.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Anne Wheelock**
City/Town: **Jamaica Plain**
State/Province: **MA**
Email Address: **annewheelock@earthlink.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing in hopes of persuading you to do everything possible to limit the hunting of wolves on public lands in Montana. Montana has a treasure in its wolf population, and from what I read it may be declining. I am a dedicated wildlife-oriented tourist and have plans to visit the state in hopes of seeing wolf sightings. Please take action on behalf of preserving wolves and their habitats.

Sincerely, Anne Wheelock

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 5:01:42 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 5:20:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:05
IP Address: 71.32.57.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Keith Kubista**
City/Town: **Mr.**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kredtailhawk@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The statewide quota for the wolf season should target a 30% reduction of the overall wolf population. The current population of 1160 seems to be at a static level even with liberalizing methods and means of harvest which had no impact or rapid reduction on the population and is likely to hold at this size.

I recommend going to statewide quota or threshold of 330 with Commission review if the 330 number is ever reached.

I also recommend a quota of 10 wolves for WMU 313.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:09:13 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:13:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:56
IP Address: 73.178.102.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kathy Macchia
City/Town: Leonardo
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: hatterashoney45@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please take into consideration that we need to reduce the Wolf quotas! We need wolves; they need to be protected and we need to relist wolves to the Endangered species act!! They are essential to the natural balance of our ecosystems! Not to mention the tourist dollars they bring to neighboring States of Yellowstone!!

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:25:54 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:30:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:07
IP Address: 98.97.36.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Joe McGillivray
City/Town: Lolo
State/Province: MT
Email Address: solidground406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

From what I gather montanas wolf population is more than 3 times the objective. Why would there be a lowered quota? What is the reasoning? Also it would be nice to have a longer trapping season starting earlier in the fall.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:10:09 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:43:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:13
IP Address: 174.45.38.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lewis Tafelmeyer
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	lewis-jt@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would like to comment on the proposal of lowering the bobcat quotas in regions 5 and 6. I do not agree with the proposal to lower quotas in these regions. Bobcat populations are very dependent on prey species, primarily cottontail rabbits. The last few seasons the rabbit population in eastern montana has been down. This leads to a lower bobcat fecundity. Studies have shown that kitten survival rate can be lower than 30 percent when rabbit populations are low. Lack of prey is the main reason why bobcat populations are slightly down in regions 5, and 6. When bobcat populations are lower, trapping them becomes more challenging. Bobcats are not in general a difficult species to trap. They are difficult to trap in large numbers due to their large home ranges, sometimes taking over 60 days to circle back to a certian location in their range. They also can be difficult to consistently lure into trap sets, as they are very succesful hunters and sometimes ignore food based trap setups. When bobcat numbers are high, trappers will encounter more cat visits on their sets, increasing the likihood that a cat will be interested in their set. Also when bobcat populations are higher there will be a large amount of younger bobcats dispersing, increasing the number of traveleing bobcats that encounter trap sets. In my experience most bobcat trappers in montana do not target bobcats well, which in lower population years have trouble catching bobcats in any kind of numbers. Lower quality of trappers sets will manifest itself in lower bobcat population years due to the limited amount of set visits by bobcats a trapper will have in a season.

Also in regions 5 and 6 there are huge areas that are not being trapped, either due to private lands not being trapped, or inaccessible public lands that have limited or no road access. These areas will consistently produce new bobcats that will disperse accross the landscape.

Trapping pressure has a localized effect on bobcat populations, but large areas that are unavaible to trappers will always exist, limiting the overall effect trappers have on bobcat populations. Take North Dakota for example, they have a very limited area where conditions exist for bobcat to thrive, mainly the badlands in SW ND. Compared on regions 5 and 6 montana that area in ND is very small. North Dakota has no quota on bobcats in the SW part of the state, and yet they continue to have a stable bobcat population.

Bobcat populations are driven by prey density. There are plenty of bobcats in regions 5, 6 and a hardworking, capable bobcat trapper has no problems succesfully finding and trapping bobcats in these regions. Having a quota of 50 bobcats in region 5 is a joke. This region has some of the best bobcat habitat in the state. Please do not lower the quotas based on a few years of depressed trapper participation and lower prey densities.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:09:49 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 2:17:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:06
IP Address: 69.119.176.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane A. Collins
City/Town: Amenia
State/Province: NY
Email Address: janecollins1952@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Very concerned about the wolves in the Northern Rockies. Quotas should be very low. Do not support reimbursement for hunting, trapping wolves. At this point, the gray wolf needs to be returned to ESA protection. Concerned about the accuracy in numbers of wolves already hunted.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 6:54:05 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 7:03:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:41
IP Address: 206.127.108.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ron Andriolo
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rolo@mt.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

In setting regulations - please use the science - and the science is clear Wolves have recovered; their populations far exceed (by more than 10 times) the initial goal for wolf numbers to be managed; wolves kill far more young, healthy, animals than predicted; wolves have DRASTICALLY reduced Elk / Deer numbers in many districts and in have DRASTICALLY changed their behavior causing numerous problems FWP is dealing with on ranches. (wolves have forced elk out of the mountains and down on to lower ranch property where they stay in larger numbers, are in more open areas to see and defend themselves from predators etc) In summary wolf numbers are a major problem.

Please stop setting quotas based on political pressures. Base it on the clear need to control wolf numbers. Wolf people like to show the poor wolf in a trap and cry --- but where is their compassion when the wolf rips open the belly of a cow elk to feed on her calf while she slowly dies and is eaten while still alive?? This obsession with predators and assuming they are good -- is total lunacy

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:50:09 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 9:29:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:38:55
IP Address: 216.146.121.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Miller
City/Town: Roscoe
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mtjwmiller@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

With the upcoming meeting regarding your decision on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting quotas for the 2023-24 season I wish to go on record with the following comments. I am now in my early 70's and in my younger years I trapped muskrat, raccoon, and opossum in southwestern Pennsylvania in the late 50's and early 60's. In the mid 70's I moved to Montana and worked as a fisheries technician for what was then Montana Fish and Game. Specifically I was involved in a comprehensive field study of the North Fork of the Flathead River and tributaries fisheries. With these experiences I gained some valuable knowledge not only about the outdoors but also about working for a state agency that relies on conducting good science in helping form policy and management decisions. I know that your appointments are political and politics can and do influence your decisions when forming game management policy yet I hope that what carries the most weight when making decisions is the information presented to you by the dedicated biologists and field technicians that are in the field making observations, collecting data, in essence carrying out good science. In addition besides making your decisions based on input from hunters, trappers, land owners, etc. I hope that you consider the comments and philosophies of those who view our fish and wildlife resources from a non-game/non-harvesting point of view. They too deserve to have their voices heard. Without getting into specific numbers I ask that you consider what the biologists have to say in terms of what is sustainable when setting quotas. As for setting season dates I ask that you NOT extend the seasons for hunting and trapping wolves as these animals as well as other animals that inhabit these same habitats don't need anymore stress added to their lives what with more and more people coming to Montana increasing the number of people being out and about thus adding further impacts to the large fauna and their habitat. With regards to trapping of beaver I ask that you start to place limits on numbers that can be harvested. The science is out there in that they are a key player in providing very important habitat that enriches the biodiversity of our aquatic and riparian ecosystems. And I can tell you firsthand that the extensive beaver dams on the East Rosebud River upstream from Roscoe helped to lessen the impacts of the flooding that occurred a year ago near my home in Roscoe. In essence I ask that when you formulate policy start to think "big picture" and the importance that each organism plays in helping to sustain our incredible ecosystems as well as enrich the lives of those of us who are fortunate to live in Montana. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important topic.

Sincerely,
John Miller

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 10:20:39 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 10:28:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:45
IP Address: 97.121.214.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gail and John Richardson**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **envirogail@q.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Your war against carnivores, including wolves, and our shared biodiversity continues unabated. All you seem to care about is satisfying outfitters, trophy hunters and trappers while you do not listen to the overwhelming numbers of Montanans who see your actions as cruel, inhumane and a regression to the 19th century. You do not listen to science. You do not listen to those of us who value our precious native wildlife heritage. Allowing slaughter of wolves who disperse from the artificial boundaries of Yellowstone is a disgrace. You simply don't care. Shame on you.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 10:44:15 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 10:50:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:26
IP Address: 209.137.243.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Leon Helstad**
City/Town: **Trout Creek**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **VLEONX44@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I feel the quota is ok for one year to see how it goes. I think the grizzly shut down is not needed in our area. I think catching a grizzly in a wolf trap is very unlikely and the delayed season is detrimental to trapping. Idaho does not seem to have a problem with this.

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 11:21:49 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 11:23:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:45
IP Address: 162.244.172.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jan Bertelsen-James**
City/Town: **Eureka**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jujyfrt@eurekadsl.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

- Wolves are very social animals whose pack stability and resilience are highly dependent on individual wolves, meaning the death of a single wolf can have huge repercussions for the pack.
- The kill quota outside of Yellowstone in WMU 313 should be one wolf, which is the lowest possible quota under current anti-wolf legislation prohibiting buffers around Yellowstone National Park.
- The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population is error-ridden and unreliable, meaning we don't know the actual size of the wolf population.
- Snares and traps are cruel and indiscriminate tools. Their use should be limited to the smallest area and shortest time frame legally required.
- More wolf trapping imperils federally protected species, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets and people enjoying the outdoors.
- Elk numbers are healthy and livestock predation is rare, meaning these two oft-cited arguments in favor of killing wolves do not hold water and should not be relied upon to justify kill quotas.

Thank you. Jan Bertelsen-James Eureka, MT

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:20:20 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:30:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:35
IP Address: 172.56.113.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elena Tillman**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Beaver need to be protected from trapping as the most important mammal for wildlife and are not evident at all in the work plan! In addition, the closing of trapping and killing is needed for rare, sensitive, species of concern, at risk, and who's populations are unknown or who are the feed source for the others identified, i.e. swift fox, porcupine, fisher, rabbits and hares, civet cat, aka spotted skunk. Research is warranted to determine species' status and needs. Please address this throughly.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:31:32 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 3:41:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:47
IP Address: 172.56.113.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elena Tillman**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

My apologies— my previous submission was erroneously under the wrong category. I have corrected it. Please accept this submission for this category correctly:

In regards to all trapping: I urge you to enact required reporting, a trapping license, 24 hour/daily trap checks, and posting to warn the public. Trappers should be required to assist any trapped dog or cat whom is without an owner by working with the owner, animal control, shelter, or the sheriff department for delivery or pick-up.

In regards to wolves: I support the wolf quota reduction in the proposals: Wolf quota 5 total from trapping or hunting and Wolf Quota 1 for unit 110 outside Glacier National Park, and 1 for unit 313 outside Yellowstone National Park. I support Wolf Trapping dates December 31 - February 28, and opening later/closing sooner based on grizzly activity in applicable areas.

I urge you to only allow snaring for wolves permissible only on private land and land must be posted, accordingly, if in block management. PLEASE ENACT 24 hour or at minimum daily mandatory trap checks; any more is inhumane. Please allow that for wolves killed by hunting and trapping, that they must be tagged and presented to regional office for data collection.

In regards to bobcats, I SUPPORT reducing Region 5 bobcat quota of 100 to 50. I ALSO SUPPORT reducing bobcat quota Region 6 from 50 to 25.

In regards to marten: I SUPPORT closing marten trapping in the portion of Montana North of Interstate 90 and East of Interstate 15 due to the fact that marten have been eradicated: given that an effort has been underway to reintroduce them into some previously occupied habitat, we need to follow the science here.

Regarding beaver:

They should also close areas to beaver trapping, for improved wildlife habitat, and in use for beaver relocation or beaver analogs. They are ecosystem engineers and the value they hold in the balance is undeniable and critical.

Please close anll unlimited and unregulated recreational and commercial trapping of beaver. Proper implementation of nonlethal methods should precipitate the need for any lethal trappings of beaver for damage control!

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:12:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:39:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:33
IP Address: 77.111.246.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gunner & Beth Junge**
City/Town: **Thompson Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Gunner_J@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We strongly oppose any and all trapping, snaring, baiting, and hunting at night of wolves. This is not a "sport" or simply a matter of wolf management. IF wolves are posing a threat to livestock; it can be dealt with on an individual case basis. Today, there is no justification for trapping/snaring of other animals just for their furs either. The risk to unintended animals being killed is enough reason for this antiquated and barbaric practice to stop. Thank you for your consideration in ending this disgraceful practice once and for all in Montana.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 7:09:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 7:15:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:00
IP Address: 69.145.61.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Holenstein**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Dogsaregreatllc@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I hunt, fish, hike camp and play in all of the public lands of Montana....I LOVE ALLLLLLL OF THE WILDLIFE... trapping is cruel , should not be allowed..the nontarget animals that get started is horrendous!!

Find hunters that are good enough to face the animal they kill!!

We need these animals and they are extremely valuable ALIVE, the tourist industry is far more valuable then the pitence we get from hunting...

Work for Montana WILDLIFE NOT AGAINST IT!!!!!! TRY TO BE SMART, hard for greedy people to do!!!!!!

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:29:07 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:37:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:17
IP Address: 98.167.243.183

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Susan Marie Cardwell
City/Town: Sun City
State/Province: AZ
Email Address: scardwell628@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves should not be killed for recreation or trophies and the snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. Snaring and trapping are not only inhumane other species, including dogs have been found in snares and traps. A recent study has shown that allowing trapping and hunting destabilizes wolf populations, and encourages indiscriminate hunting even after quotas are filled. Please consider a population count of wolves that is scientifically sound and accurate. There is currently no reliable wolf population estimate. The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Trophy hunters and trappers reported killing wolves from a high of 295 in 2018 to 256 in 2022, despite a longer season and additional legal ways of killing wolves in 2022 compared to 2018. This drop in reported killed wolves indicates there are probably far fewer wolves than FWP claims. Of course this doesn't factor in illegal kills. That's why a proper count is needed. Thank you.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:16:30 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:20:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 142.119.20.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda**
City/Town: **Howell**
State/Province: **NJ**
Email Address: **ballad.00-signed@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are being decimated in North America. Wolf hunting seasons are long and so many have been killed. Even iconic Yellowstone wolves are being killed. No animal deserves to be killed for a trophy!!!!!!
It's time to return the grey wolf back to its protected status under the Endangered Species ACT!

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:17:15 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:22:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:44
IP Address: 97.121.210.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gary B. Jnes
City/Town: Gallatin Gateway
State/Province: MT
Email Address: papajones_mt@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a Montana resident, please listen to reason and the majority of Montanans who are against expanding efforts to reduce our state's wolf populations. Unethical tactics like night hunting, baiting, and snaring are not only unsportsman-like but will result in a population decline that threatens the long-term prospects of this species, which will have devastating effects on our ecosystems. I also encourage the commission to lower the quota of wolves around Yellowstone National Park to the lowest legal amount possible, to ban snaring in Lynx Protection Zones, and to close the trapping season earlier to reduce impacts to vulnerable grizzly bear populations.

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:01:05 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:44:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:43:33
IP Address: 72.36.12.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daven Thorne
City/Town:	Decker
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dthornenh@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commission,

I would like to make a comment in regards to the new law allowing non-residents to trap furbearers in the state of Montana. I would like to see the commission add stipulations to this new law.

As you may know, the fur market is like a roller coaster. It has its highs and its lows. The value of one species may be high one year, and a bust the next year. Currently, we are seeing an uptick in prices on bobcat pelts. My biggest concern is that we are going to have a large influx of non-resident trappers coming to trap bobcats in Montana. In fact, I have already heard from Wyoming trappers that are planning to run bobcat lines within the state of Montana this coming year.

If non-resident trappers are able to have a free run at Montana's resources, then it will be us Montanan's who will be negatively impacted. We already restrict non-residents with hunting licenses and permits. So why don't we do the same with furbearers?

Anytime money can be made from animals or natural resources, there is a great chance for over exploiting the resource. I would like to see the commission regulate the non-resident's ability to harvest large amounts of furbearers by placing quotas specific to non-residents. One idea would be allowing non-residents to only harvest 5% of the total trapping district quota. This could work for otter, pine marten, bobcat, wolves, etc, and can be adjusted on a district by district basis. I also think an increase in the non-resident trapping license would be fair.

Our neighboring states currently restrict non-resident trapping. In South Dakota, non-residents have a shorter trapping season than the residents. This allows their residents more time in the field to enjoy their resources before the non-residents come in. North Dakota does not allow non-residents to trap bobcats at all. They have kept that resource for their residents only.

Montana has such great resources and if they are not properly regulated than they are greatly susceptible to being over exploited. It would be unfair to Montana's wildlife, and the residents of Montana is non-residents are able to come to our state and profit from it's resources.

I strongly support further regulation of non-resident trapping in Montana.

Regards,

Daven Thorne

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:01:15 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:05:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:29
IP Address: 216.14.246.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Lunetta**
City/Town: **Noxon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jlunetta11@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Have no idea, why FWP is trying to reduce the wolf harvest management number's??? 2022-season was the most / worst wolf sign I have witnessed... Wondering the political motivations, can't be due to the decrease of wolf's in Montana !!!!!!!

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:40:26 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:43:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:08
IP Address: 71.15.197.158

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Christopher Riti
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: christopher.riti@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The models used to determine the quotas are fundamentally flawed and should be discarded. The kill quotas thus should not in any way be raised and for this year should be reduced significantly. Wolf trapping and snaring should never be allowed - what a pathetic excuse for huntsmanship. It reeks of political desperation and sheer ignorance.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:18:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 12:48:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:30:24
IP Address: 209.222.123.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trish King
City/Town: Columbia Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Wolf16625@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I encourage you to use the best available science and ethics regarding wolves. Counting wolves should be done physically to have an accurate number. I ask that you account for the wishes of non consumptive members of our community as well as tourists who bring in thousands of dollars to Yellowstone NP communities just to get a glimpse of our iconic gray wolf and all the ecological benefits they bring. I will continue using my voice to get wolves back on ESA here, but until that happens I encourage you to scale back on killing them. Please reduce SB quota from 100 to 25 wolves. I ask that you reduce Region's 4,5,6, and 7 to 1 wolf per region. In Yellowstone NP WMU 313, please reduce to 1 wolf in this very critical area. Until trapping and snaring is outlawed I ask that they be checked within 24 hr a mandatory check. I think a good way to raise funding for wolf and wildlife management would be to use a wolf stamp. This could be a long term sustainable tool to raise funding. Our wolves are a valuable resource and we need to value and protect them. Wolves and wildlife are the missing link between biodiversity and our climate.

Thank you.

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:43:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:48:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:19
IP Address: 146.113.230.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Donna Andriani
City/Town: Old Bridge
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: dandriani2001@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

This cruel method of Trapping and displaying these unnecessary kills are Repulsive. These animals are slaughtered for no apparent reason. These Ranchers and hunters are Slaughtering our wildlife for there own selfish gain. There is no Scientific evidence that supports this killing and the Ranchers get reimbursed fully if they loose any of there cattle.Wolves need to be protected not Slaughtered.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:35:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:08:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:43
IP Address: 174.106.50.143

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Douglass Smith
City/Town: Wilmington
State/Province: NC
Email Address: ds287460@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

I am again speaking out concerning the wolf trapping and hunting season quotas for 2023-2024. Last year, 2023, was devastating for the Montana wolf population, particularly for the Yellowstone wolves. With the quotas you're suggesting you are soon going to see wolves relisted under for the ESA. But we don't want to reach that precipice. How can you justify setting the limits for this year based on the last five years harvest limits? This has to be a scientific yearly assessment. These wolves bring millions to Montana, and personally speaking, I've traveled to Yellowstone 16 times since 2005 to see these wolves. Use the science? The numbers you're setting in the hunting regions are way too high. I'm asking you to reduce the numbers in Region 1 to 80; in Region 2 to 61; Region 3 to 40; Region 4 to 1; region 5 to 1; Region 6 to 1, and Region 7 to 1. In region WMU 313 to 1. These wolves belong to the world, and are a keystone species. There is no threat to the elk population. Question your ethics: infrared and thermal vision is unethical and cheating. A true hunter wants the playing field level and his/her prey should have a full advantage to survive. Trapping fits into this category also. These are inhumane methods of taking a wolf. Do the right thing - reduce the numbers of wolves harvested in the regions, use science to determine the fair numbers, and use ethical methods in the hunt. I for one will not return to Montana and spend any more money until you make an effort to remove the tarnish you've placed on your wildlife management policies. Thank you, Douglass Smith

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:50:50 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 2:57:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:35
IP Address: 69.146.205.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Daniel Sullivan**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **danvil@live.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Outrageous over reach by FWP. When will best available science ever be considered for management of sentient beings! This commission is the last refuge of scoundrels who have no intention of following the rules as written in the ESA. Pure political policy is the only rule. Let justice be done though the heavens fall.

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:06:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:11:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:18
IP Address: 216.47.56.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jen**
City/Town: **Thompson Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **elliott_j@sbcglobal.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping, snaring, baiting, strangling, and shooting from helicopters is not hunting and is inhumane. Wolves play an important role in the ecosystem. Allowing these methods will wipe out this species. Don't buckle under the pressure of these so called hunters. Do your job. Protect wildlife.

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:47:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:49:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:37
IP Address: 63.153.22.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Norman Bishop
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nabishop32@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolf hunt 2023

In 2008, I wrote to FWP, “Hunting wolves, at any percentage, has a very high potential of denying them the possibility of ever being restored to their natural functioning as keystone predators in wild areas. Wolves have been present in North America for 800,000 years, and are an integral part of intact ecosystems. Their presence promotes biodiversity, which supports community stability.”

In the fifteen years since then, numerous publications have confirmed those statements. Here are two examples of the benefits having wolves on the land.

Killing wolves is counterproductive to human interests in a number of ways. Olvera-Santos and ten other authors wrote (Science Advances 2021) in their abstract: “Predators can modulate disease transmission within prey populations by influencing prey demography and behavior.”

And, “We used high-resolution habitat and movement data to model spillover risk of the brainworm parasite (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*) between two prey species [white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and moose (*Alces alces*)], accounting for predator [gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)] presence and landscape configuration.” Also: “Wolves induced host-species segregation, a nonlethal mechanism that modulated disease emergence by reducing spatiotemporal overlap between infected and susceptible prey, showing that wildlife disease dynamics may change with landscape disturbance and the loss of large carnivores.”

Dr. Ellen Brandell (2021) wrote “Chronic wasting disease in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem: predicting the effects of predators on creating healthier herds.” She noted that, “Predators may create healthier and larger prey populations by preying upon the sickest individuals...We found that, under moderate to high predation pressure from cougars and wolves, predators decreased CWD outbreak size up to 5-fold and delayed the accumulation of the symptomatic deer and elk populations by decades.

Top wolf biologists L. David Mech (USGS & U. Minn.), Rolf O. Peterson (Mich. Tech U.), Douglas W. Smith (Yellowstone), Barry Noon (CSU), Joanna E. Lambert (UC Boulder), and Kevin R. Crooks (CSU) agree on the following statement: “While predation may not eliminate CWD from an ungulate population, predators like the gray wolf that select for disease-compromised cervids should prove useful to that end.”

Dr. John a. Vucetich summed up the role of wolves in his 2021 book, RESTORING THE BALANCE. “The health of ecosystems inhabited by large herbivores depends on the cascading trophic effects of predation.”

Wolves are our allies. You don't kill your allies.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:41:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:49:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:00
IP Address: 216.14.241.182

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Colleen Hinds
City/Town:	Heron
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	colleenhinds@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I have submitted comment before/ also commented at legislative session. The barbaric practices of wolf elimination are bluntly disgusting & a blatant show of “white Man power”. This needs to stop NOW. All living beings especially . Human beings, need to use their brains not their emotions. Can't we ALL just get along??? No more wolf slaughter. Where is the good science in removing a species?? There is none. Pouty big potty trained boys want to bully. Geez, grow up!!!

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:40:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:43:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 98.97.35.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Daniel Armstrong**
City/Town: **Florence**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **daniel@anthill.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his family's outfitting business.

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:46:25 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 5:00:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:01
IP Address: 63.153.73.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Deborah Trowbridge
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	trowbird3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I live year round in Montana. It is home. I write you with intention and urgency. Listen to the majority of Montanans who are against expanding efforts to reduce wolf populations.

Tactics like night hunting, baiting, and snaring are cruel methods being proposed to reduce wolf populations. It is my opinion that it is unethical and a horrible way for any wild animal to die.

These awful practices threaten long term prospects of wolf species and have disastrous effects on multiple ecosystems.

I ask and encourage you, the commission, to support and lower the quota of wolves around Yellowstone Park to the lowest legal number possible. And to forbid and make it illegal to snare Lynx Protection Zones. Close the trapping season earlier to reduce impacts on the vulnerable grizzly bear population.

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 8:57:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 9:36:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:38:56
IP Address: 24.147.134.181

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Grant
City/Town: Hanover
State/Province: MA
Email Address: johngrantzooandrescue@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello,

I wanted to start off by saying that I am looking forward to visiting Montana and Yellowstone National Park for the first time in August. As a person who lives in a suburban area and is a zookeeper that works with large ungulates and carnivores, I am excited to see the amazing landscapes and beautiful wildlife that calls this region home. Unfortunately, I am horrified to hear how the state of Montana is neglecting to give a voice to the non-consumptive wildlife community that enjoys observing wildlife. Hunters should not be the only ones to have a voice in how wildlife is managed or treated as ecotourists, and wildlife watchers also get enjoyment from wildlife. Since this group also has an interest in wildlife, people in this group should have an equal say in the management of Montana's wildlife. Personally, I have no problem with hunting if it is done ethically and is for consumptive reasons. But recently, I've been reading and listening to various podcasts on the issue of wolves being hunted at exponential numbers and through unethical methods. How can a state like Montana claim they care deeply about their wildlife when wolves are being rundown with ATVs, dogs, and even night vision to kill these animals. How is any of that ethical hunting? Its not! Montana should be proud to be one of the few states in this country that has an intact ecosystem with large carnivores.

But when you are treating wolves and other wildlife unethically through these hunting methods just to make more money, you should be ashamed that this is what Montana has become. Wolves are a native predator that belongs and deserves a place on the landscape and sadly only occupies 10% of their historical range in the U.S. Yet Montana allows to have a hunting season in the Northern Rockies despite the gray wolf being an endangered species! That just doesn't make any sense to me. Its time for Montana to put an end to these horrific hunting and trapping seasons and make efforts to count individuals wolves like the Wyoming Game and Fish and Yellowstone National Parks do to get an accurate population count. The reason I am coming to Yellowstone is to be able to see one incredible species which is highly adaptable and very family oriented which is in fact the gray wolf. My trip and the many other trips planned to visit Yellowstone and Montana often revolve around ecotourism and wolves are one of the biggest drivers for that. If Montana can't see the intrinsic value these amazing animals hold, at least see the power they have to bring in tourism which helps provide jobs for the local economies in Montana and Yellowstone. And if you abolish the trapping and hunting season of wolves, you'll have more people wanting to visit since many people are declining to visit Montana do to the current unethical hunting and trapping laws of the gray wolf. Please Montana, abolish the unethical hunting and trapping seasons for gray wolves. As like any large carnivore, wolves manage their own numbers for which there is no need for hunting seasons. It has been scientifically proven that wolves don't need humans to intervene to mange wolf populations. Wolves will do it themselves and they have been for about a million years.

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:04:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 20, 2023 11:12:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:27
IP Address: 67.143.192.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kerry Krebill
City/Town: Clancy
State/Province: MT
Email Address: KERRYKREBILL@AOL.COM

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a Montana resident, I urge you to listen to the majority of Montanans who are against expanding efforts to reduce our state's wolf populations. Besides being natives who belong here (!), wolves are extremely popular to our important tourist economy, much more crucial than the elitist trophy seeking hunters.

Unethical tactics like night hunting, baiting, and snaring will result in a population decline that threatens the long-term prospects of this species, which will have devastating effects on our ecosystems.

I also encourage the commission to lower the quota of wolves around Yellowstone National Park to the lowest legal amount possible, to ban snaring in Lynx Protection Zones, and to close the trapping season earlier to reduce impacts to vulnerable grizzly bear populations. Grizzlies have been sighted recently for the first time in many years, maybe 100 years! near my home. The return of the natural inhabitants to our area is exciting and encouraging. Don't ruin this with unethical and unfair baiting and trapping.

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:27:49 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:28:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:35
IP Address: 184.166.227.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dan Struble**
City/Town: **Livingston, MT**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **oxylus2019@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a Montana resident, I urge you to listen to the majority of Montanans who are against expanding efforts to reduce our state's wolf populations. Unethical tactics like night hunting, baiting, and snaring will result in a population decline that threatens the long-term prospects of this species, which will have devastating effects on our ecosystems. I also encourage the commission to lower the quota of wolves around Yellowstone National Park to the lowest legal amount possible, to ban snaring in Lynx Protection Zones, and to close the trapping season earlier to reduce impacts to vulnerable grizzly bear populations.

#91

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:16:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:30:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:23
IP Address: 174.234.6.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Colin T. Ripley**
City/Town: **Huntley**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **cthatranch77@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would just like to go on record as opposing the lowering of the wolf quota! Appeasement of the anti's is a bottomless pit ! Consider what has happened socially with the LGBTQ , transgender, drag queen BS!!! The anti hunting anti trapping crowd will never be satisfied till they achieve their goal!! Then they will come after different animals, more regulations, more taking of rights , freedom, liberty etc!!!!

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:30:13 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:31:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:16
IP Address: 174.234.6.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Colin T. Ripley
City/Town: Huntley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cthatranch77@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would just like to go on record as opposing the lowering of the wolf quota! Appeasement of the anti's is a bottomless pit ! Consider what has happened socially with the LGBTQ , transgender, drag queen BS!!! The anti hunting anti trapping crowd will never be satisfied till they achieve their goal!! Then they will come after different animals, more regulations, more taking of rights , freedom, liberty etc!!!!

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:22:04 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:24:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:46
IP Address: 104.200.129.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Robert H Sheppard
City/Town:	OVANDO
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	BOB.SHEPPARD@BLACKFOOT.NET

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear commissioners,

I am a lifelong resident of Montana and have been hunting here for over 60 years. I have hunted and guided for predators as well as deer and elk for over 40 years in and around the Blackfoot valley. I am intimately familiar with the game numbers and wintering areas for ungulates in my area. I have seen increases and decreases of the game around here.

I am not opposed to the wolves. I am opposed, however, to the mismanagement of the wolves. The numbers of wolves allowed before the state took over management was allowed to get far over the recognized goals of reintroduction. When allowed to hunt wolves, everyone was worried that we would extirpate them. Didn't happen. Same thing when we were allowed to trap and snare them. Same thing when the allowable numbers were increased to present personal harvest numbers. The wolf population numbers have been well above the required USFWS for the entire time.

At present the numbers are close to 300% above the original mandate. Why then is there a dialogue introduced to put quotas on? Once the quota is instituted then and not met, the next dialogue will be "There are not that many because the count is wrong and we need to reduce the quota and the harvest even more". Correct me if I am wrong, but I have already heard that scenario.

It appears to me that you are looking at what might happen, not what is really happening. The end goal of the "Conservation Groups" is no harvest at all. This appears to me as more of the same.

The wolves have learned, as have the wolf hunters and trappers. It seems that the only ones that haven't learned are the animal rights folks. The wolves are here to stay and I am ok with that as long as we manage them. To do so correctly and efficiently will require study and watching as well as incorporating ungulate management in as well. Just putting a quota on wolves is a political management technique and will more than likely just exasperate the perceived problem.

Thank you for your time and the considerable effort that you all are putting into this as well as other matters.

Robert Sheppard, Ovando, Mt 406-793-5885

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:12:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:25:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:19
IP Address: 108.174.122.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: jeff rennaker
City/Town: darby
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jlrennaker@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

To my knowledge montana is still almost 3X our objectives on the wolf population in Montana. Why would MTFWP lower the quotas when we are still 3X objectives? If FWP is looking for populations to be worried about maybe they should look closer at the moose population. Last winter we were in the field 3-4 days a week approximately 50-70 miles a day on snowmobiles for 100 days checking traps. We saw 5 moose tracks and physically saw only one cow moose, no calf. The wolf population south of hamilton MT has at least 50 wolves. Some people don't believe us, but like i said we are in the field 3-4 days a week putting on 180 miles a week approximately on a snowmobile. 60 miles per day in a truck. I think we have a pretty good idea how many wolves are south of hamilton MT. Supposedly the wolf population has declined in MT. However I do not believe this to be true with the amount of time we have spent in the bitterroot mountains. How many of FWP's biologists spend that many days in the field in the winter? I have yet to see a biologist in the field during the winter. We have been trapping the bitterroot mountains for the past 4 winters. My point, we have plenty of wolves. Maybe start looking into moose populations a bit more.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:29:09 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:33:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:24
IP Address: 98.114.62.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mary Neumann
City/Town: Narberth
State/Province: PA
Email Address: mary@jaalkw.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am worried, that increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists. Has there been any thought to the above and how do you plan to avoid?

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:52:41 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:04:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:16
IP Address: 184.166.225.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **BENNIE J ROSSETTO**
City/Town: **KALISPELL**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bjrossetto@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am against reducing the wolf harvest quota to 120 for the following reasons:

1. Having a quota higher than current actual harvest allows a buffer in case of unit or subunit specific problems, such as focal mule deer, big horn sheep, or moose predator pit conditions.
 2. Management decisions based on sound biological principals and data should not be impeded by threats of legal action.
 3. Abdicating on wolf harvest quotas will open the door to more legislative action on wolf management.
-

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:11:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:12:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:59
IP Address: 64.201.206.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tammy Fenske**
City/Town: **Plentywood**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tammy.fenske@sasktel.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

STOP the trapping and hunting of Wolves entirely! Sick, disgusting practice of murdering these beautiful Animals needs to STOP Now!

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:40:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 12:43:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:29
IP Address: 184.166.66.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda Holtom
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: holtom@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping of wolves (including snaring) should stop immediately. Montana has no idea how many wolves are actually killed in the State much less how large (small?) the population is because counting depends on those who kill wolves and whose businesses depend on continuing such kills. Accurate, sound scientific wolf stats are a thing of the past in this State. It's past time to get back to having responsible experts conduct the studies. At least—while right-wing anti-wolf folks hang around State offices—do not allow trapping while grizzlies are still out and about. Traps set for wolves already have decimated numerous species to the detriment of 99.99% of the Montana population who do not trap and do not support trapping. At least delay trapping until after December 31 or thereabout so grizzlies have a chance to get into their dens.

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 1:45:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:06:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:39
IP Address: 174.212.228.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Brant Palmer**
City/Town: **kila**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **brantf_palmer@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am having a hard time understanding why this proposal has been brought forward. Compared to 1990's and early 2000's the deer and elk populations are dwindling. region 1 is essentially a ghost town, with many hunters having to go to region 3 or 4 to have even a remote chance of harvesting an elk. FWP claims the wolf population has reduced from last year 44 animals, and now they are going to change the quotas?! the whole point of wolf hunting and trapping is to reduce the population of the wolves is so that hopefully someday in the future deer and elk hunting opportunities, in region 1 especially, improve and not continue to decline. We essentially haven't made any real progress in reducing wolf numbers, compared to the suggested population in the wolf management plan, and we are going to reduce possible harvest anyway? this is typical modern wildlife management, which makes no sense and isn't working for the people of montana or the wildlife. The only logical thought process is that FWP wants an overpopulation of wolves on our landscape and apparently wants a continued loss of hunter opportunity and ungulate populations. Our state constitution protects our right to hunt and fish, but it doesn't really mean anything if the animals we feed our families with are gone or so few we feel guilty about harvesting one here in region 1,

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 1:29:26 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:07:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:41
IP Address: 35.133.30.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John Dana
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Stillhuntin12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello.

My name is John Dana. I'm a resident here in Region 1. I'm also a hunter, trapper, outdoors enthusiast and a Trappers Education Instructor.

I attended the meeting at FWP Reg 1 office with regards to the lowering of the wolf quotas. I'm deeply concerned with the direction that our commissioners are going with their proposals. Here's why:

1. The data that is being used for these models doesn't take into account for weather/access to these canines. The last 2 years have been more difficult for us as hunters/trappers to access these animals in NW Montana because of the not so normal weather conditions.

For instance, this year in the valleys we had snow on the ground Nov 2nd and it did not melt off till early May in some places. This combined with the sliding start date for wolf trapping, virtually took 30 - 40% of the wolf trappers out of the equation. It is impossible for most of us to keep our trap lines open via snow cat for 2 complete months before we can put steel in the ground. Fuel is way too outrageous to do this.

2. The state of Montana is at a 100 YEAR LOW for our ungulate populations yet, it seems to most of us sportsman that "the people which have the powers to be," are more scared of the legal threats coming from all these non sense activists groups that are completely clueless to the reality of nature.

If these people had any idea how the ecosystem worked, they would be onboard for lowering the overall numbers of wolves to increase the number of prey animals in turn creating a stronger/healthier wolf population.

I understand where the presenters of the quota lowering are coming from, I really do. But, we as a state can not appease these organizations at the cost of our wildlife. I completely agree with the approach that Chris Morgan of the MTA suggested. Sure, lower the quota of 450, but to 375 not 289.

I believe if we don't get these wolf numbers down, sooner than later, it will only be a matter of time before there are no Moose or Sheep hunts offered in NW MT. The elk are not far behind.

There were a few of us that wrote in last year on suggestions of changing trapping dates vs methods, etc. The biggest issue I see with all of that is that the access to these apex predators is tough enough, let alone when the laws won't let us start till well after winter is set in. Help us help you.

This is not a rant from a "wolf hater." I actually love the concept that we have wolves in our ecosystem. They are an absolute necessity as far as I'm concerned. My main focus on all of this deals specifically with the regrowth of our ungulates. Their are almost triple the number of required wolves based on the USFWS's literature. Why are we not doing more? Wolves are killing their share of prey, which is typically the old and weak. They are taking prey from lions consistently which is very scary, due to the fact that a cat will kill on average 52 big game animals a year. These cat kills are not the old and weak but instead most of the time animals that are in their prime. This is where the domino's start to line up. That cat still has to eat. So it kills another and the cycle continues. I'm not blowing smoke...this is fact. Bears also are in this deadly game of dominoes.

The very simple and common sense approach to all of this is this: The wolf numbers have to come down, they have to come down fast, or there will be no ungulates left. I'm not saying to eradicate them, but we have to get them to a more manageable number.

Thank you for your time,

John Dana

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:23:09 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:52:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:30
IP Address: 75.16.201.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Vicki Tri
City/Town:	Oklahoma city
State/Province:	OK
Email Address:	vicki@fitwvic.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I think trapping and snaring is inhumane.

I'm planning my first ecotourism adventure in 2/24. The must see for me are the wolves. Social media has exposed the inhumane practices of individuals that use traps and snares in Montana. These practices give an unfair advantage to the human. The general public is in favor of promoting wildlife and getting off the sport of trapping/snaring. Change is coming.

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 2:56:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 3:03:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:12
IP Address: 47.45.196.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Anthony Goodsell
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: goodsellaw@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I believe the comment by Chis Morgan on the proposal of 375 quota make good sense. Also it aligns more with the legislation of Paul Fielder and Bob Brown passed I the 2021 session. Also we have not been able to reach the quota in the past so I believe that odds of achieving such quota is not an issue as it is highly unlikely to be attained. The people who do harvest wolves I would imagine are the same people every year with lucky happen chance hunters taking the rest.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:07:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:09:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:59
IP Address: 99.8.107.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dr. Allyson Dallmann**
City/Town: **CAMBRIA**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **allysonrdallmann@outlook.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear commissioners,

My husband and I visit Yellowstone every year just to watch and hear our amazing wolves, this year spending over \$11,000, again, just for the wolf experience. We paid for food, lodging, entrance fees, gas, scope rental, locally made wolf souvenirs and other necessities, yet this commission continues to kill wolves and other carnivores who make Yellowstone the balanced ecosystem and tourist attraction that it is. I am heartbroken as well as astounded that you continue to trap, snare and hunt these sentient beings in spite of the \$82 million made by Montana annually because of them! We spoke with shop keepers, residents, business owners and other merchants and none of them support wolf killing, so why are you going against so many residents and business owners who rely on wolves for their income and also feel wolves make Yellowstone what it is: amazing.

I don't support any wolf or carnivore killing, but if the best you will do for now is reduce wolf quotas, then limit the killing to 1 in units 110 and 313. Please protect grizzlies recognizing that their torpor (hibernation) times will vary in part due to increasing weather pattern changes. You can support grizzlies by setting the wolf trapping dates to Dec. 31- Feb. 28 recognizing that later opening and sooner closing would be appropriate depending on grizzly bear activity. While snares and traps are horrendous torcher devices, if they are to be used, please limit them to private land and be sure they are marked and require 24-hour snare and trap checks. We the public do NOT want these barbaric devices on our public lands, nor do we want wildlife to suffer any longer than necessary. I wouldn't want to be caught in one and I wouldn't want my dogs in them either. There should be NO "party" trapping/snaring, pre-baiting or night hunting. Please require trap lines be registered with the department and wolf snares and traps be taken away the same day the season ends or the unit or region closes. Please be sure to require hunters and trappers and snarers to bring the slain wolf to the regional office to collect information on the victim. Please keep the wolf quota to a total of 5 from hunting or trapping.

I sincerely hope that one day soon, you will come to realize that you should protect (not kill) this magnificent species who provides so many of us with awe, provides ecosystem balance as a keystone species, has the right to live here on their native land, and provides Montana with \$82 million annually in tourism.

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Allyson Dallmann

#104

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:54:38 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:56:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:26
IP Address: 96.245.58.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda L Granato
City/Town: Philadelphia
State/Province: PA
Email Address: I_granato1@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#105

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:56:35 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:59:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:40
IP Address: 76.146.184.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Matthew Anderson**
City/Town: **Seattle**
Email Address: **anderson.gtr@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#106

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 5:57:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:00:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:57
IP Address: 66.170.210.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tristan Hathorn-Wilkins
City/Town: Diboll
State/Province: TX
Email Address: thwlpc@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please minimize trapping and hunting seasons and quotas for wolves. They are unfairly stigmatized, important ecologically, and live rich social and emotional lives, and they deserve to live in peace.

#107

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:01:41 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:09:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:40
IP Address: 24.80.197.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bronwen Evans**
City/Town: **Vancouver**
State/Province: **WA**
Email Address: **bronwynnevans@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for taking my comments regarding wolves. Wolves are an important part of our ecosystem and should be protected. Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists. Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Thank you again for the opportunity

Sincerely,

Bronwen Evans

#108

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:07:55 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:10:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 68.132.209.44

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:11:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:11:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 207.214.248.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Debi Griepsma
City/Town:	Fontana
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	debiane3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#110

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:13:09 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:14:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:54
IP Address: 97.73.80.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Glenn Secor**
City/Town: **Louisa**
State/Province: **VA**
Email Address: **gasecor@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do not trap or hunt wolves!

#111

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:02:10 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:14:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:33
IP Address: 172.56.223.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joan Hansen**
City/Town: **Beckley**
State/Province: **WV**
Email Address: **jhansen9667@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are ecologically imperative to our land. The Yellowstone wolves have a positive impact on tourism with a revenue of 80 million a year. Gray wolf management should be science based and not be politically motivated. The model that is used to estimate the statewide population is full of errors and should not be used. Trapping should be ended on public lands. Snaring is primitive and archaic and should not be used for multiple reasons. Increased wolf trapping endangers other species like grizzly bears and lynx plus family pets. Wolves change the whole landscape of the land in good ways!!

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:08:53 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:15:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:14
IP Address: 107.4.226.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	LaVonne Goodell
City/Town:	Anoka
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	sweetvon38@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not kill those wolves. They are needed in the environment . God gave us these animals to take care of them - not eliminate them. Hunters take pleasure in killing them. What is wrong with hunters that they have terrible attitudes about wolves. We ask to let these wolves LIVE.

#113

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:08:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:15:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:46
IP Address: 174.216.148.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Celeste Harvey**
Email Address: **celeste_harvey@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I strongly oppose wolf trapping and hunting for all of the below reasons. The ecosystem needs apex predators to survive. And snares traps should be illegal for all animals.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#114

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:19:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:21:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 143.55.59.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Pamela Z Miller
City/Town:	Tolar
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	pamz@pamelazmiller.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:19:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:25:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:43
IP Address: 71.33.221.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Karen Kalavity**
City/Town: **Westminster**
State/Province: **CO**
Email Address: **integradesign1@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves were here on the North American continent WAY before domesticated cattle were brought from England. Wolves play an important part in the ecosystem in that they take out the old, the sick and the very young, keeping grazer's populations in check and avoiding the destruction of our Western landscapes by overgrazing of herbivores. Wolves are an important species to have around in thriving numbers, not in minimum and exploited numbers. Here, in Colorado, we are looking to bring wolves back after years of overhunting and just plain malicious torture of the species. It is time for Montan and other Western states to understand the importance of wolves in the landscape, rather than catering to sadistic trophy hunters who like nothing better than to kill for the sake of killing.

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:24:28 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:30:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:30
IP Address: 108.28.225.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **James D Schoppet**
City/Town: **Herndon**
State/Province: **VA**
Email Address: **jdschoppet@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a tourist , the wolf populations mean a great deal to me. They are part of our great American wildlife . They are a source of revenue for non-hunting citizens to enjoy and spend tourism dollars. trapping and snaring is very cruel and sadistic.

#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:08:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:36:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:35
IP Address: 173.26.166.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Cheri Harding**
Email Address: **cherrog@verizon.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Greetings,

The environmental impact of a healthy wolf population to the ecosystems of America's great western mountain regions is essential. Where there is prey, there must be a predator to keep the natural balance. Without the wolves to keep other species in check, we do not have a healthy ecosystem. We have an area overrun with too many of the wolves natural prey. This results in an erosion of all the wild live and plant life in the area. It is a delicate balance to keep, I realize. We rely on your expertise and knowledge to keep that balance. I am grateful for your service to the environment and all the animals and plant life that share this beautiful land of ours. I rely on you to manage this balance with all the animals in this ecosystem as your primary concern. I expect you to treat them humanely. Humans need to be stewards for all species, not just for their sakes; but for ours as well.

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to something so very important to all of us.

Regards,
Cheri Harding

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:31:40 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:36:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:11
IP Address: 97.119.255.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mark Johns
City/Town:	Omaha
State/Province:	NE
Email Address:	smerchjohns1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I really think that you are messing with the natural order of top predators keeping the environment in sink. Not enuf predators can upset that balance and you need to stop catering to the people that have an insatiable appetite to kill things. Let them you don't agree with that desire.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:38:36 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:41:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 75.105.28.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dr. Lorin Lindner
City/Town:	FRAZIER PARK
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	doclindner@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a frequent tour guide to Montana I'm afraid we are going to create major barriers for tourists who want to see wolves in the wild if we increase the number of them taken. Also, I get many people saying they won't go on tour to a state that allows trapping. Too often the traps are not monitored for days and the animals (many incidental kills) languish and die a brutal death. Please do not cave in to the increasingly smaller number of people who want to kill these animals. They are a resource and asset for our state (I live part-time in MT)

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:42:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:44:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:55
IP Address: 69.145.48.43

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jillian Fiedor
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jfiedor19@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Thanks for your time.

#121

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:42:44 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:47:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:18
IP Address: 108.249.110.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tony Spika
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: speka007@yahoo. com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Stop the killings of wolves by trapping and reduce the rifle/bow limos on wolf hints. Wolves bring in tourists dollars from across the nation and the world. Current policies killing wolves at unsustainable rates. I support legislation that promotes non-lethal management and restores protections for the Montana wolf population.

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:27:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:52:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:44
IP Address: 76.150.207.203

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rebecca Hoffman**
Email Address: **rbccshffmn@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Montana FWP-

Please stop the slaughter of wolves in Montana, and support legislative initiatives which promote non-lethal management of the wolf population, and restore protections for the Montana wolf population. Gray wolf management should be based on scientific ecological principles, not political or single issue stakeholder beliefs. Ensure that no wolf quota is enacted until an accurate method of counting is used - the current IPOM system is inaccurate and error prone. Stop the use of inhumane traps and snares which cause pain and suffering to wolves and other animals like foxes and lynx which are caught indiscriminately. These are torturous methods which are not Fair Chase rule compliant. I would die if my 3 year old husky mix were ever trapped or snared while out with me hiking. Please develop policy which protects wolves and other wildlife in beautiful Montana. Thank you.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:42:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:58:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:27
IP Address: 216.47.62.203

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jerry C. Shively
City/Town:	Thompson Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	flatiron@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

the proposed reduction in Wolf Quotas might not be the dumbest thing ever proposed, but it certainly is among the highest ranking. the wolf population does not need to be managed it needs to be REDUCED. The present quota has never been close to being filled here in Region1. To use this as an excuse to lower the quota, makes no sense. Had the quota been being reached or even exceeded, would also have been used for an excuse to lower the quota. Pandering to the ARFS, including the ones working for FWP will never help reduce the wolf population as the Montana legislature intended. Totally eliminate all wolf quotas, & lengthen the season until such time that the wolf population is reduced to the target numbers established when the wolves were removed from federal mismanagement.

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:57:19 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:59:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 104.28.85.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elsa Knutson**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **snobunnie1992@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

PROTECT our precious iconic essential wolves at all costs!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:54:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:00:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:07
IP Address: 104.28.85.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kellen Dunn
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kellendunn1992@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting! PROTECT our essential wolves!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:00:20 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:01:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 104.28.85.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Neville Dunn**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **nduong1@irf.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting/trapping! PROTECT our essential wolves at all costs!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:59:09 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:02:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 47.222.79.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cathy
City/Town: Rockwall
State/Province: TX
Email Address: clsmith43@sbcglobal.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please make your decision based upon science not politics. Wolves are essential!

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:01:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:03:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:34
IP Address: 104.28.85.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jesper Christensen**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jesperchrist69@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting or trapping! Protect our essential wolves now!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:03:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:04:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 104.28.85.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kane Haugen
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kaneazov1111@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting or trapping! Protect the essential wolves!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:04:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:06:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 104.28.85.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Palle Kemper
City/Town:	Whitefish
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kemmp101@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting or trapping — wolves are essential to our ecosystem!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:06:32 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:07:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:23
IP Address: 104.28.85.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Larson Sven
City/Town:	Pays
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	svensen4545@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting or trapping! Wolves are essential to ecosystem!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:06:24 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:08:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 192.80.97.255

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	J. Beverly
City/Town:	Urbana
State/Province:	IL
Email Address:	jbeverly@illinois.edu

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Thank you for your consideration.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:55:56 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:08:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:49
IP Address: 12.216.211.118

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this year's wolf trapping and hunting season. I would like to start by saying that I firmly believe wolves should be allowed to repopulate our lands. For far too long there has been a drive to eradicate this wildlife for the benefit of ranchers and hunters. We must bring balance back to our lands and find nonlethal ways to live with this keystone species, for the health and ecodiversity of our wildlands.

Here are a few key points to consider:

1. Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. It should not be a divisive concept that more diverse ecosystems are healthier ecosystems, and that wolves are a key part of a healthy ecosystem in our neck of the woods. Healthy ecosystems are beneficial on many fronts--they absorb the impacts of natural disasters and weather events, and keep wildlife populations in check all up and down the food chain.

2. Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities. Again we need to focus on the full gamut of impacted parties--including wildlife and ecosystems.

3. Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions. This is the only way we can ensure full representation and an un-corrupt process.

4. The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. Unsound data leads to unsound policy--let's fix this: improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

- Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established. Again, we shouldn't keep doing what we're doing if we know the data is wrong. We need an accurate baseline before we create smart guidelines.

- Let's not make animals suffer. Wolves are not our enemy or antagonist--they are wild animals trying to succeed in a difficult world, just like you and me. Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves--increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets and outdoor recreationists. Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a torturous method of killing animals that fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter honorable tourists from visiting.

- Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Thank you again for your attention.

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:04:12 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:09:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:19
IP Address: 206.45.40.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Debbie Wall
City/Town: Winnipeg
Email Address: borealbushdog@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Since we've put a man on the moon, the human population has more than doubled while that of the wild animal nations has more than halved. The survivors need protection and deserve to live and raise their families. We need to end the war on wolves - which is largely at the behest of animal agriculture, one of the most destructive industries on the planet - and adopt peaceful coexistence and compassionate conservation strategies.

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:08:02 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:10:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:13
IP Address: 104.28.85.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Arne Christen**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **arnested789@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

NO wolf hunting or trapping! Protect our essential wolves at all costs!

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 6:33:37 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:18:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:44:48
IP Address: 174.215.17.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jerry Gingerich**
City/Town: **Rexford**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **stillwterpostandpole@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I was at the meeting in Kalispell on Thursday evening in regards lowering the wolf quota. While I appreciate a lot that has been said I do not agree or understand all the objectives. I did hear that the artis' opinions carry weight and we need to be prepared to answer their objectives. But is that really the goal? Our ungulates are drastically suffering and it seems like there was little acknowledgment to that glaring fact. And yes it is a provable fact. While the wolf numbers are not factual but hypothetical. I realize that wolves are not the only ones killing elk. Bears are killing a lot of calves which has a devastating impact on our herds. My question is: do you not care about the drastic drop in ungulates? We live here and care about our herds. Do you not care? I know you say that you do, but it sure doesn't sound like it. We cannot let people who know little to nothing control our game animals. It's really sad to see all this happen right under our noses. It feels like our words are falling deaf ears. Please listen, I mean really listen to us trappers and hunters. We know and we live here. If you want to know why so little hunters and trappers show up, it's because they don't feel heard. Remember the outside is in us all. Yes the suffering ungulates are in us too. Again do you not care? We would like see more positive action taken and less false data. You want public opinions, but do you really? I'm sorry to rant but this is extremely painful.

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:27:24 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:31:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:47
IP Address: 104.28.111.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeff Green**
City/Town: **Glenview**
State/Province: **IL**
Email Address: **jcgreen.1@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting. Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:33:05 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:33:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 24.190.84.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Helen LeBrecht
City/Town:	Waccabuc
State/Province:	NY
Email Address:	coeur3@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:35:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:50:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:48
IP Address: 108.174.115.248

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Curt Reynolds
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	crcas3@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Please consider keeping your Furbearer and Wolf Trapping decisions based on sound science and our Montana cultural heritage. I realize you all have your political agendas and biases but do realize that at the end of the day furbearing animals still need to be managed across Montana. Thank you for listening.

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:49:50 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:53:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:30
IP Address: 75.166.19.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **JoLynn Jarboe**
City/Town: **Denver**
State/Province: **CO**
Email Address: **jolynn234@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 7:26:34 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:01:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:36
IP Address: 24.170.193.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jean Cameron**
City/Town: **Gainesville**
State/Province: **FL**
Email Address: **jpcam1@cox.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The wolf urgently needs protection. Although it has a history of almost never attacking man (fewer injuries or deaths from wolves than any other wildlife) wolves have been the most misunderstood, persecuted and slaughtered species of just about any animal. In Europe and all other countries in the world the wolf has been relentlessly attacked by man until virtually extinct. America, the last real hold-out for wolves in the world, is rapidly reaching that point of no return where they will disappear entirely. Through mans' lust for more land the wolves' habitat has been taken over. This combined with unregulated hunting, painful traps and even cruel poisoning has dangerously threatened the survival of the wolf. We are at a tipping point. Are we going to save this iconic, magnificent creature or care so little that we allow him be hunted and trapped...and finally disappear FOREVER!

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:10:30 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:17:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:39
IP Address: 98.180.105.171

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Crystal Han
City/Town:	Ocala
State/Province:	FL
Email Address:	crystalhnn1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are incredibly important to Montana's ecosystem and need to stay protected. It's important to remember that the return of wolves to Yellowstone have changed the landscape positively and putting wolf populations in Montana at risk is putting Yellowstone wolves at risk. Yellowstone tourism brings millions to the state and would suffer if wolves were to disappear from the park. Snares and traps are not only inhumane but may unintentionally capture other endangered animals.

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:42:06 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:51:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:40
IP Address: 174.65.32.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	ned mccrink
City/Town:	Dana Point
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	nedmccrink@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am calling for policies that stop the slaughter of wolves and support legislation that promotes non-lethal management and restores protections for the Montana wolf population. I am calling for integrity to drive your wolf policies.

I love wolves. I ask, would our Lord God kill animals just for fun? Absolutely not.

I am infuriated by the completely unjustified killing sprees on wolves that unethical ranchers and trophy hunters enjoy doing. I am called for this craziness to stop!

Politics (dirty) that fuel unsubstantiated prejudices are what is driving the feeding-frenzy to hate and kill wolves.

This is the science-backed FACT: WOLVES ACCOUNT FOR LESS THAN 1% of livestock taking.

A. Gray Wolf Management needs to be science-based. Get rid of the dirty politics! Is there any Montana government official who has the integrity and courage to SAY "NO" to these lies and corruption?

- 1) there must be EQUAL representation from people who love and enjoy wolves
- 2) there must be COMPLETE transparency in wildlife management decisions

B. Get rid of the error-ridden IPOM

C. Get rid of snares and traps especially on public lands. NO ANIMAL deserves this heinously painful death!

These barbaric torture devices also kill families' dogs.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:44:54 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:57:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:33
IP Address: 74.98.231.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michelle Belan**
City/Town: **Pittsburgh**
State/Province: **PA**
Email Address: **michelle.belan@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are a necessary part of the circle of life, helping to keep ruminants in check and balancing the wild flora and fauna in important ways. Destroying wolves has extensive consequences and they deserve to be listed and protected.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

-Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

-Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

-The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

-Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

-Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

-Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. -They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

-Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

-Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if - Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

-Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

-Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:54:03 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:59:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:25
IP Address: 99.21.190.208

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Maxine Appleby
City/Town:	Roebuck
State/Province:	SC
Email Address:	doc.appleby@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please stop the killing and trapping of wolves in Montana! They are a premier specirs and insure the survival of the natural ecosystem. They are a part of the history and heritage of America's lands. They belong here! Ramchers and farmers are compensated for livestock loss, so there isNO REASON to kill wolves! Please, remove them from kill quotis and stop the hunting of wolves. Legislation needs to be passed to protect them.

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 8:30:07 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:12:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:41:58
IP Address: 70.40.249.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Aleks Kosowicz**
Email Address: **guerillawordfare@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for accepting public comments. As a former resident of wolf country, I have seen firsthand the staggering lack of objectivity that most often accompanies issues regarding these vital apex predators. I'm writing today to urge you to restore protections and implement an objective, scientific, non-lethal management plan for Montana's wolves. With the precarious state of our biodiversity at large, we cannot afford to play fast and loose with a species that plays such a valuable role in regulating their entire ecosystems.

Specifically, I respectfully submit that politics are removed entirely from the management process and that science should dictate the decision-making regarding these animals, and that any and all quotas be held until the most accurate and transparent population estimates may be calculated. I also urge the MFW&P to eliminate traps and snares as methods of control, as they are terribly indiscriminate (again, we can no longer afford the luxury of inaccuracy) and inherently cruel. The manner in which wolf packs are managed can mean the difference between instigating interaction with livestock or not--nuance is everything, and biologists have the knowledge to act deliberately to prevent it.

Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to comment with respect to this important matter. Thank you for doing all you can to ensure our balance of nature doesn't fall prey to subjectivity.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:11:10 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:32:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:49
IP Address: 76.64.196.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **chris ness**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ephemeristheway@yahoo.ca**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

the current system of wolf population calculations is not accurate and all wolf quotas must be postponed until a better system is intact; Montana is terrible for giving in to pressure from ranchers and lobbyists and must start being more focused on preserving wolves and their habitat rather than killing them just because people that have a financial interest in seeing wolves killed want a wolf cull; traps and snares are so archaic and sadistic, and make our state look like savages stuck in the past- not to mention they are indiscriminate, hurting/killing all animals (even humans) that come by them; tourists and nature lovers want to see wolves in their natural habitat and thus protecting wolves is financially beneficial.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:30:48 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:33:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 76.105.188.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dana robinson**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **danavino@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm calling for policies that stop the slaughter of wolves and support legislation that promotes non-lethal management and restore protections for the MT wolf populations.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:27:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:33:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:31
IP Address: 69.126.67.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Geraldine Nuzzo**
City/Town: **Stamford**
State/Province: **CT**
Email Address: **ganuzzo@optonline.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

No, no, no. This was their land first. We need to learn to live together. Many species are almost extinct. Respect our wildlife.

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:40:45 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:41:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:57
IP Address: 71.204.24.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dana
City/Town:	Decatur
State/Province:	GA
Email Address:	dana@garpga.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hi, I am writing to comment for wolf trapping and killing season. Traps and snares are incredibly cruel and torturous. My friend's cat disappeared, and was found weeks later, dead, still in the trap not far from where she lived. I know there have been plenty of cases of dogs getting caught in them and dying a horrible death as well. Wolves are part of our ecosystem. They are not put here for people to catch and we live in a developed country. This is not for survival. People can go to the grocery store. It is completely evil and beyond unnecessary. I'm sure some of the wolves caught are mothers. What happens to her babies? There is no excuse for this and there's no right way to do the wrong thing. Please put yourself in their places. Thank you, Dana

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:49:36 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:50:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 76.170.114.137

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: myra berario
City/Town: castaic
State/Province: CA
Email Address: n1mxmom@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:54:00 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:57:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:23
IP Address: 174.202.167.117

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cynthia Speer
City/Town:	Heavener
State/Province:	OK
Email Address:	farmstaderus@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Just so sad to me to see you continue to cave to the artis. Their movement is based on ignorance, propaganda and outright lies. Predator control is needed and in Montana (lived there a long time), it is needed really bad on wolves. Don't you care about the large ungulates anymore??

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:49:42 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:00:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:39
IP Address: 35.133.20.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ed Hebbe IV**
City/Town: **Deer Lodge**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **circle.h@charter.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I support the proposed recommendations for the Furbearer quotas, except for the bobcat quota of 50. During the regional meeting held on April 1, a reduction wasn't discussed and all assumed the quota would remain at 100. There is no reason to reduce the bobcat quota in this region as most folks did not get out and trap mostly due to weather conditions and economic concerns. It's highly unusual for a region to want to reduce quotas two years in a row without substantial evidence of purported low bobcat numbers. Those who were out, saw tracks and the population appears to be in decent shape.

Wolf Trapping: Although I don't approve of reducing the take of wolves this season in each region, due to what appears 'social concerns' - social concerns has zero relevance in scientific management of wildlife. I would approve of recommendations from the Montana Trappers Association concerning wolf take fluid thresholds.

Thank you.

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:46:12 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:04:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:45
IP Address: 66.135.70.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dave Windauer**
City/Town: **Columbia Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **schafer@cyberport.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Thank you,

I just finished the FWP meeting by Brian Wakeling on wolf management and FWP proposals to lower the wolf quota. From the IPOM graphs presented I gathered that since 2011(12 years ago), when trapping and hunting of wolves started we have held a population within 150 or so of the stabilized 1,160 population statewide. 2021 and 2022 have dropped slightly but no different than the slight ups and downs we've had over these 12 years. There's no way to tell if the graph won't bump up again next year like it's done in the past. I feel this quota change is definitely premature and drastic looking at the history of this chart. Montana's wolf population remains well above delisting thresholds with populations and breeding pairs plus has not come close to reach the goals set by the legislature. It seems to make more sense to find better ways to help hunters and trappers harvest more wolves to reach desired wolf management and bring back our ungulate populations. Please consider dropping the proposed quota and keep in mind we are managing all wildlife for a balance.

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:18:43 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:19:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 172.223.235.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Amanda Dickinson
City/Town:	Yakima
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	bettyyakima@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:14:21 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:20:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:05
IP Address: 65.131.204.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike Freeman
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mikefrwwman0818@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

When determining wolf quotas for hunting and trapping, please use the scientific data that you all go out and obtain instead of trying to appease the artis because you never will make them happy until our hunting and trapping rights are all gone.

Thank you-
Mike

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:26:27 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:28:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 76.103.29.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Christina Parker
City/Town:	Mill Valley
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	christinaparker007@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:33:02 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:38:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:53
IP Address: 99.40.200.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel Toohey
City/Town:	Kettering
State/Province:	OH
Email Address:	toohey@earthlink.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please follow the latest overall science on wolf management. Wolves also attract tourism. And, wolves as an apex predator are very good for the ecosystem.

Here are some other things that are good to consider on this topic:

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:28:11 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:43:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:06
IP Address: 66.135.70.65

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I disagree with the proposed drop in the state wide quotas for the upcoming wolf season. The wolf population has not yet reached the goals that the legislature proposed. One year of low harvest and an estimated slight drop in population does not warrant a drop in quota. There is no way yet to know if next year won't go up gain. If it doesn't, we can easily make changes at that time. Please consider the population of our ungulates and manage for all species. Thank you.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:44:10 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:49:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:09
IP Address: 206.127.77.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chris Morgan
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	c.morgan11@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The Montana Trapper's Association supports the best applicable science when it comes to managing wildlife in this state. Although it may not always benefit our own interests, we support wolf population estimates derived through tools such as IPOM. We trust the department has the best intentions of the state's wildlife populations when making management decisions on wolves and furbearers. We appreciate the effort the department has made regarding these proposed quotas.

We do have some suggestions as to the proposed quota changes of wolves and furbearers:

We propose setting the overall wolf take in the state, including wolves taken during hunting and trapping seasons, under SB200, depredating wolves taken by USDA Aphis, and any other means, not to surpass 375 wolves in a license year. This proposal, when utilizing the average of 57 wolves taken outside of hunting and trapping seasons, would allow for a slight increase over the proposed 289 wolves. This number would also show a response to the reduction of the overall population as suggested by IPOM.

As pertaining to the regional wolf quotas, we propose the department utilize the suggested numbers. Instead of a static quota however, we propose setting those numbers to be utilized as fluid thresholds not unlike what the department did for the regional quotas in 2021. Allowing a threshold would give the commission the authority to adjust in-season numbers to allow for management as they see fit. This approach would allow for unforeseen circumstances to be adjusted for. For instance, if we saw a mild winter opportunity to remove more wolves than the previous 5 year's average would be a very real possibility. How these adjustments were made would be up to the commission but would be based off scientific evidence rather than social concerns.

Per USDA Aphis and the Montana Livestock Loss Board, most depredations, as well as wolves removed due to depredation comes prior to our wolf trapping and hunting seasons regarding license year. Although the number of wolves taken during that time varies greatly, the timing in which they are taken remains rather consistent. This information is rather insightful for making determinations pertaining to increasing/retaining threshold numbers in-season.

The proposed 289 quota of wolves, along with the average of 57 taken outside of season equals 346 wolves, or roughly 31-32% of the overall population estimate of 1,087. Per the department's figures, if the quota goes filled, this number is the "break even" point. Taking this number of wolves would allow the population estimate to remain relatively unchanged. The legislative intent is to reduce the overall population. Our proposed statewide quota not to exceed 375 wolves would remove at best 34-35%. This would allow for an attempt to reduce the overall population, but not in a rapid manner that may cause concerns over requirements of delisting. As noted above, we support the department's method of obtaining population census. It is worth noting, however, that Idaho has far more liberalized seasons, removes more wolves than us by population percentage each year, has a much more labor-intensive censusing program, yet just recently this year showed a slight dip in their population.

We revisit our wolf and furbearer quotas each year. Adopting this proposal would not lead to any detrimental effects on the overall population that couldn't be resolved the following year if need be.

Regarding bobcat quotas, it was MTA's understanding that the quota in region 5 was going to stay at 100. It was discussed during the meeting that low trapper participation and heavy snowfall had the most effect on overall low take in the region. This, along with data showing populations to be stable, was discussed at other regional meetings, and the decision was made to keep quotas where they were. Last year, the department reduced the quota in region 5 from 200 to 100 bobcats. It is our understanding the department does not typically recommend reducing the quota two years in a row, especially when minimal data has been collected to determine population stability. Given the above information, we recommend the quota remain at 100, and we can revisit the topic again next year. Seeing as how we had minimal participation in the region 6 meeting, we suggest the commission adopts FWP's recommendations, so long as it is supported by data provided by the regional furbearer biologist and the state's furbearer coordinator.

Chris Morgan
Montana trapper's Association
VP West

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:18:16 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:21:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:23
IP Address: 76.114.22.197

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sydney**
Email Address: **sydneyglenn75@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolf trapping effects more than just wolves. My sister's dog is part wolf and they have fear to take him camping or hiking because someone might shoot him. Wolves should be relisted

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:44:16 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:17:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:33:42
IP Address: 93.216.76.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Brigitte Graf**
Email Address: **brimeyer@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hi,

I'm writing here for speaking up for wolves. Wolves are incredible animals, because they care for their families mostly better than we humans do. They are playful and beautiful. If the leading member or another member of the group was killed it's a catastrophe for the pack. I'm absolutely disappointed and angry that Montana hunts them by snares and trapping, instead of being proud of having wolves and protect them.

I'm calling for policies that stop the slaughter of wolves and support legislation that promotes non-lethal management and restores protections for the Montana wolf population.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management.

Traps and snares are absolutely cruel and barbaric. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. The killers are representing pictures in social media from dead wolves and they were laughing and holding them like a trophy. This is an absolutely no go and disrespectful ! That shows that hunters do that for fun and „sport“

It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. Although wolves play an important role for the ecosystem in the YP, that's proven !

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

PLEASE , I ask you to protect the wonderful wolves !!!

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:41:52 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:42:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:37
IP Address: 73.221.165.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ben Rall
State/Province: WA
Email Address: intolerantleft@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:28:27 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:31:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:39
IP Address: 24.111.98.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bruce Anderson**
City/Town: **Forest Lake**
State/Province: **MN**
Email Address: **Mrblumis@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I love Montana. Montana is great because of its natural beauty including the wolves! The wolf should be treasured, not killed.

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:09:31 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:11:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:39
IP Address: 107.214.212.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nancy M Howard
City/Town:	Douglasville
State/Province:	GA
Email Address:	fredsmom@mindspring.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:16:49 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:35:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:40
IP Address: 216.14.233.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Toby Walrath
City/Town:	Troy
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	walrathoutdoors@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I Oppose wolf quota reductions. We have finally begun to create an environment where hunters, farmers, ranchers and trappers are accepting of wolves on the landscape. We also have a well supported and sportsmen driven initiative to help get wolf numbers down through a very successful harvest reimbursement program managed by the Foundation for Wildlife Management- with potential to help get those hardworking hunters and trappers in the field who might otherwise not be able to afford the financial burden. A reduction in wolf harvest quotas appears as little more than the wolf advocates answer to oppose the growth of the Foundation for Wildlife Managements efforts to help reduce wolf numbers in Montana. By reducing quotas now, you will be perhaps unwittingly participating in a political campaign in direct opposition to hunters, farmers, ranchers and trappers in Montana. With wolf numbers hovering at a population size that is socially acceptable, now is not the time for reducing wolf harvest quotas.,

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:01:03 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:02:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:09
IP Address: 73.101.165.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stacey Olphin
City/Town:	Dallastown
State/Province:	PA
Email Address:	slolphin64@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:05:42 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:12:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:54
IP Address: 173.186.223.206

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Humankind is the cruelest part of nature. Can we mitigate the suffering we cause other creatures? Yes. Will you?

For crying out loud, the selfishness and greed of humanity is its greatest fault. Will you please exercise kindness and deference to another creature? A little bit goes a long way.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:34:11 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:35:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 173.171.82.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lisa Pezzella
City/Town: Clearwater
State/Province: FL
Email Address: serenesirena@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

- Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.
- o Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.
- o Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.
- The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.
- o Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.
- o Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.
- Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.
- Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.
- Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.
- Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.
- Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

THANK YOU.

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:13:44 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:14:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:32
IP Address: 184.178.115.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Haylee Herrick
City/Town:	Kingston
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	hherrickillustrator@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:34:34 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:36:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:28
IP Address: 136.58.117.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Patrick Kunc
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: patrick.kunc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not allow cruel wolf trapping. There is no sport involved with trapping. It is barbaric. Montana can do better.

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:46:20 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:48:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 71.227.103.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Susan Welsford
City/Town:	Norton Shores
State/Province:	MI
Email Address:	keumran6@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:22:26 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:24:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 150.220.118.197

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ian Scofield**
Email Address: **iscofield@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

While we had a recent victory with restoring protections for wolves in some states in the United States, they continue to be under attack with policies such as these. They continue to be slaughtered for sport, or under the false guise of protecting livestock. We continue to not take into account the destructive nature of factory farming and livestock on our planet, the habitat destruction, etc. and yet cattle ranchers/farmers then take it a step further by decimating wolf populations because they have nowhere else to go. It's asinine and the delicate balance of ecosystems is getting ruined in the name of hamburgers. Ultimately, we will lose these amazing animals and the important role they play in our ecosystems. We can't bring them back.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:15:04 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:29:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:06
IP Address: 172.242.51.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Marjorie Lulay**
City/Town: **Tehachapi**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **lulaymarjorie@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

- As a private citizen I find it appalling that any state government feels the need or has the right to arbitrarily target wolves to slaughter. You are making a major mistake trying to "manage" wolves or any wild animal by killing them for each is a vital part of a healthy ecosystem.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. It is vital to ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities instead of pandering to only one. There needs to be an increase transparency in wildlife management decisions. Since the model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown why are you relying solely on inaccurate data? The accuracy and proper usage of IPOM needs to improve as halt wolf quotas do not give the true picture so until a new and accurate method of counting is established stop relying on inaccurate data. Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting. Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. Also increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists. Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Please stop using wolves as political pawns and realize their vital importance in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:24:49 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:32:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:11
IP Address: 98.61.75.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Paul Moss**
City/Town: **White Bear Lake**
State/Province: **MN**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please consider the following comments regarding their upcoming wolf trapping and hunting season:

I am concerned that the model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. The accuracy of IPOM needs to be improved and wolf quotas need to be halted until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

I urge that gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. Please ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities and increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

I am opposed to the use of traps and snares on public lands because they are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Thank you for considering these comments.

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:47:19 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:48:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 98.35.122.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Carlene Visperas
City/Town:	Concord
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	cinkies@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:58:22 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:59:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:24
IP Address: 174.213.210.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rosina S Harter
City/Town:	Mooresville
State/Province:	MO
Email Address:	rosinasuzanne@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:11:43 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:15:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:05
IP Address: 184.60.145.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Laura F. Alleman
City/Town: Quincy
State/Province: FL
Email Address: jim.laura2@tds.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities, and increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Trapping should be ended on public lands.

Snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Alleman

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:25:30 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:26:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:18
IP Address: 97.128.6.126

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **karla schwedt**
City/Town: **Clark**
State/Province: **NJ**
Email Address: **kgschwedt@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I volunteer at a zoo. Wolves are needed. Please stop the wolf trapping

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:26:17 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 10:29:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 76.64.196.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: chris baird
City/Town: new york
State/Province: NY
Email Address: dibsdeetratsdepack56@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I can't believe leg hold traps and snares are still legal and in use in this country. this is embarrassing, what is this? the 1800s? extremely cruel and indiscriminate, even a human child could walk into one. you need to stop caving in to ranchers and people that have a vested interest in seeing wolves wiped out. and tourism will surely drop off if there are less wolves

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:20:58 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 12:33:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:37
IP Address: 68.51.14.242

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michelle Roberts**
City/Town: **New Palestine**
State/Province: **IN**
Email Address: **m.michelle.roberts@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

To Whom it may Concern, I am contacting you today to comment on the killing of wolves. This practice needs to stop. Wolves are pack animals & if just one wolf is killed in a pack it can disrupt the entire pack & create more deaths.

I travel to your state to watch wolves in Yellowstone National Park. We usually stay at least a week. There are millions of visitors to the park every year specifically to watch & photograph wolves. Visitors love wolves & spend a lot of money in your state every year specifically to watch & photograph wolves. If there must be a hunt, there shouldn't be more than 1 taken.

Trapping & snaring, etc are very cruel & barbaric ways to kill animals! These traps are also dangerous to hikers & their pets.

I believe your state should appreciate these magnificent animals & treat them with care. They are worth more to you, alive than dead.

I ask you to please change it so all wolves are protected & not harmed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle Roberts

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:09:34 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:14:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:32
IP Address: 50.37.149.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gary W. Grenfell**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **magrenfell@outlook.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please don't reduce the wolf quota in Region One! The idea was to reduce wolves, not maintain an even number.

We have lost 2 weeks trapping time, and last winter the snow conditions were bad, lots of frozen traps that wolves stepped on and didn't fire. Wolves are a lot wiser now, catch one out of a pack, rest won't come back.

How come Federal Wolf Trappers can trap in the middle of summer, in the same drainage as I have to trap in the middle of winter so "I" won't catch a Grizzly!! Guess their traps won't catch one!

Thank you,
Gary W. Grenfell

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:28:14 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:33:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:08
IP Address: 172.56.97.41

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeanne Fletcher**
Email Address: **jfprincesstasha@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Not only is this out-of-date, but the methods are cruel, inhumane, and indiscriminate. People want to see wolves in their natural setting and tourism at Yellowstone will die if their reason for visiting no longer exists.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:27:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 1:45:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:51
IP Address: 50.37.129.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **nick grenfell**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **nick.grenfell@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing about you reducing the wolf quota in Region One! Don't reduce it! The reason the quota isn't being met is you guys keep starting the season later every year! The Governor passed a bill to start trapping the day after Thanksgiving, you guys are too worried about catching a grizzly bear so instead of gaining 2 weeks we lost 2 weeks. When we can start trapping the ground is froze so the traps don't go off. There is three times more wolves out there then what was supposed to be.

Idaho can trap wolves 10 months out of the year. How come a Federal Trapper can trap wolves in the summer, I guess his traps aren't going to catch a grizzly bear!

Start worrying about the deer, elk and moose. You guys care more about the grizzly bear, lynx, wolves, you are going to have more problems when the wolves start coming into towns when they don't have anything to eat. The sportsman are getting tired of the way you are managing the predators.

Thank you,
Nick Grenfell

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:26:59 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:31:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:56
IP Address: 97.121.210.95

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane Scudder
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: scudderjane59@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please halt trapping of all Montana animals, as it is very painful to the animals. Please count Montana wild animals in a scientific way, no guessing. People from out of state love to see our animals, and so do we. Thank you.

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:11:15 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:35:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:35
IP Address: 73.26.55.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **LWren Walraven**
City/Town: **Sandia Park**
State/Province: **NM**
Email Address: **wrendreams@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I want to see a Gray Wolf Management Plan that is based on science not politics. There needs to be equal representation from consumptive and non consumptive wildlife communities. There needs to be much more transparency from MTFWP on the numbers of wolves killed.

I want to see proper ways to count wolves before any plan is implemented. The model used to estimate the counts of wolves on a landscape (IPOM) is full of too many errors and the real count is unknown. The accuracy of IPOM must be improved and used properly if it is going to be utilized as a basis for the number of wolves in any given area. I want to see a better counting method that is accurate.

All quotas of wolf killing should stop until a new method is developed. I want to see the elimination of trapping, snaring and baiting. There are far too many animals that are indiscriminately killed by way of traps and snares. They are cruel and barbaric to an animal and is no where near a fair and ethical way to hunt. I personally would like to see both practices completely eliminated from our country. Long gone are the days when folks needed animal pelts to survive. But at the very least I would like to see them removed from any public lands. They are a danger to pets, children and even adults who just want to go for a hike on public lands. I want to see baiting, eliminated as a way to hunt for any animal. It is unfair and especially detrimental to wolves who have strong family units as the pack mates will come looking for their deceased relatives.

Science has shown that the killing of wolf pack members breaks up family units. This can lead to younger, not as knowledgeable wolves to lead packs, leading to more livestock depredation out of desperation. It can also lead to more small packs being formed. As someone who has been Yellowstone a couple of times and plans to go back, I would like to see the state of Montana recognize the monetary value that wolves, bears, and all wildlife brings to the state. Wildlife watching is a huge industry that is only growing. (\$80 million) Smaller factions within the group such as photography have formed as well. Millions are spent on food, lodging, gas, supplies, in Gardiner Montana and beyond, when folks come to visit Yellowstone. The idea that the wolves they watch can be killed just over the boundary of the park into MT can certainly turn off many folks. Some folks may not want to come at all, or again if they learn this. The majority of people in Montana do not hunt and do want to see wild animals on the landscape.

I would like to see a boundary around national parks where wolves and other predators cannot be hunted.

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:37:42 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 2:38:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:04
IP Address: 45.21.252.255

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	deanna horton
City/Town:	tucson
State/Province:	AZ
Email Address:	dlh@dmsgsgs.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Stop the cruelty! Wolves deserve better.

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 3:44:07 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 3:49:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:10
IP Address: 174.228.231.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Karen Estok
City/Town: Manalapan
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: kekickbox63@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We have the utmost responsibility to protect our majestic wolves for future generations and healthy ecosystems. To allow the barbaric slaughter of this keystone predator for the benefit of greedy corporations and special interest groups is not only shameful, it is a national disgrace! What you choose to save is what you say about yourself. The American people are watching. Choose well for our country's iconic, essential wolves!

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 3:50:41 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 4:02:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:35
IP Address: 184.176.93.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John Soine
City/Town:	Surprise
State/Province:	AZ
Email Address:	csoine@cox.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are a family oriented species and when you kill one or more of them you disrupt the whole pack and the education system. Your present control methods are cruel and inhumane. There are proven non lethal methods to protect livestock and they are proven to be cost effective. My wife and I were planning on having a 50th Anniversary Family Reunion in Whitefish but have changed that to Colorado. Please consult your scientists in your wolf control plan.

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:46:55 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 5:55:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:59
IP Address: 66.109.153.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dan R Helterline**
City/Town: **Plains**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **thepinepup@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Cutting the wolf quotas nearly in half while increasing lion quotas by 40 percent absolutely no sense. The wolf population is three times the amount needed to meet federal needs to maintain a healthy population. I've trapped wolves full time all winter and do not see a declining trend in their populations. It very disappointing to see you're department set quotas based on social pressure and petty appeasement to outside out of state interests and not using holistic science means and methods that have worked for decades and built the abundant game populations than once made Montana the last best place. It sadens me to see our rich wildlife being squandered away because of piss poor predator management.

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 4:45:53 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 6:14:56 PM
Time Spent: 01:29:02
IP Address: 69.146.14.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dorothy Filson
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	scotia111@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Due to the fragile state of their recovery, wolves should not be killed recreationally or for trophies. There is no scientifically sound wolf population count established, so how can a hunting or trapping season move forward in a way that is consistent with sound wildlife management practices? Because the numbers of killed wolves have dropped from 2018 to 2022, it appears there are fewer wolves than FWP claims and other causes of mortality are not accounted for.

And, early wolf trapping would also impact grizzly bears that move beyond the FWP “occupied zones”. Traps and snares set for wolves would endanger grizzly bears and other wild species.

Due to the decimation of fragile species from trapping, marten trapping should be closed north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15 and other areas similarly impacted. Those would be Wheatland and Judith Basin counties and the areas of Meagher and Cascade counties that are east of the Smith River or east of Highway 89 as it runs south from White Sulphur Springs.

Because FWP has not provided furbearer harvest data for the past two seasons, bobcat (that are in steep decline) hunting and trapping should be suspended until further scientific analysis is completed.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business, Swan Mountain Outfitters. He lost his license after multiple violations on federal land and 120 wolves (41 percent) of the hunting and trapping quota is in Northwest Montana.

Montana is facing great changes every day. The state has been “discovered” and is becoming home to thousands more people every year. With them they bring their habits and desires which impact all of the state, the environment and the wildlife.

Montana has the good fortune to be the home to many rare and precious wildlife species. There are many areas of the world that, regretfully, wish they still had the vast wildlife resources present in Montana. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, wolves belong to all of us, not just small special interest groups that are making a profit from killing wolves.

Wolves contribute to the health of other species by removing the infirm and those infected with Chronic Wasting Disease. By keeping herds moving, they help prevent erosion along streams from over grazing and help preserve habitat for beavers and other species.

But, instead of protecting this valuable resource for the present generation and those to come, there is presently an all-out assault on wolves that is beyond comprehension.

Wildlife watching is one of the greatest revenue sources for the state of Montana.

Wolf watching in Yellowstone National Park (YNP) is unique and generates more than \$82 million in revenue to communities near YNP. Tourism creates over 3,200 jobs, 3 out of 5 in Park County alone. Last year these communities endured great loss due to flooding which could take years to repair. Those businesses need wildlife watchers now more than ever in order to survive.

The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park, one of the greatest conservation success stories in history, is being destroyed. Wolves helped bring the YNP ecosystem back into balance and the reintroduction allowed extensive research to be conducted on wolf behaviors.

Research has been severely hampered due to the number of YNP wolves killed. The Park is being used as a production source for wolf killers, while a conservation program that costs millions and is admired around the world is being decimated.

Because YNP wolves are used to the presence of humans, they do not fear them and when they leave the protection of the Park, seeking food, a mate or territory, they are shot or trapped.

Shooting or trapping wolves that leave YNP is reprehensible. 20% of YNP wolves were killed last year with the entire Phantom Lake pack destroyed. 96% of the wolves killed in the current WMU 313 dened in YNP. When alphas are killed, the entire pack can fall apart with the younger wolves not benefitting from learning from the adults. They need each other to survive.

Wolves are a keystone species. Their presence allows other species that rely on wolf kills to thrive.

Yet, wolf kill quotas quadrupled from 5 to 20 per killer, including baiting and night hunting. Three quota areas for YNP and Glacier National Park were removed. The impact of this on other species is immeasurable.

Ranchers are compensated 300% for the small number (0.003%) of livestock killed, such a small fraction, it is not even considered a

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

statistic. None of this killing of wolves is warranted or science based.

Elk herds are now at 50,000 over elk management objective, leading to special hunts. Thus, wolves are not a threat to elk numbers.

Trapping is cruel and indiscriminate, killing an unknown number of fragile and endangered species. Traps are cruel and cause intense suffering to animals (including pets) caught in them.

The current Montana laws and policies are anti-science, supported by flawed data, estimates that are not even peer-reviewed and lacking any logical or ethical foundation.

Surely Montana can do better than this before it is too late.

As the managers of wildlife in Montana, the results on wildlife preservation and the survival of the gateway communities surrounding the Parks are on your watch.

Protect the wolf populations in the areas bordering YNP, so the decades of work that went into this remarkable recovery story can continue and the gateway communities in those areas can be assured their businesses will survive.

#192

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 6:19:40 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 6:29:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:52
IP Address: 206.183.122.56

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **SHANE SHIMA**
City/Town: **RONAN**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **SHANE@MTPOWERPRODUCTS.COM**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I do not support lowering the wolf quotas to 289. Remember these are non native carnivores on our landscape. Why do we want more of them when it is impossible to count them properly, especially in region 1. Please keep the quota as is. Give every sportsman the opportunity to hunt these. Hunting elk and deer needs to be our priority, especially for our youth. We want more ungulates not less.
Thank you

#193

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 6:39:43 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 7:04:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:01
IP Address: 75.83.217.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Donna McKenna**
Email Address: **d.mck3@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing to implore you to stop allowing the hunting of wolves.

They are a vital and valuable apex predator necessary for a healthy ecosystem.

In Yellowstone, they bring substantial tourist revenue. I would encourage Montana to follow Yellowstone's lead and create tourism based on wolf observation and photographic opportunities.

Traps and snares are archaic, inhumane and indiscriminate.

I also believe trapping and killing of predators on public land should not be allowed.

On a personal note - wolves are majestic and noble creatures whose family structures mimic our own. They are not the maligned animals of old folklore.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you give justice and consideration to my position.

#194

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:18:16 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:31:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:35
IP Address: 108.194.42.89

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Barbara Ginsberg
City/Town: Santa Cruz
State/Province: CA
Email Address: barbaran2323@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

Wolves, as r all predators on land n sea, r vital to all ecosystems. They n only they can maintain a healthy balance as prescribed by nature n demanded by n for s healthy planet.

Anyone who hurts n or kills a wolf or any other predator is striking a deadly blow against natures will, the earth n best interests of its inhabitants.

Words like Culling n management r merely words used instead of murder n torture to try n justify same. I ask u to simply use ur brain's knowledge intuition intelligence empathy n compassion n protect wolves n other predators from their worst nightmareS..

HUMANS

Thank you

Stay safe well n happy

Barbara

Santa Cruz

#195

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:29:19 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 8:41:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:05
IP Address: 66.135.70.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dave windauer
City/Town: Columbia falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: davewindauer@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm urging you to do what most Montanans want, all elk want, all deer want and the state of Montana made a law to do and reduce the number of wolves. FWP should not only keep the quota or eliminate it all together but then find new ways to help hunters and trappers be more successful.

#196

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:25:56 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 22, 2023 9:29:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:22
IP Address: 45.19.30.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sandra Couch**
City/Town: **Naperville**
State/Province: **IL**
Email Address: **sndrcch@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting. Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists. Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#197

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:59:14 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:21:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:08
IP Address: 70.20.46.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kate Kenner**
City/Town: **Guilford**
State/Province: **VT**
Email Address: **faunesiegel@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves have been demonize for too long allowing the sense that killing them is a good thing. It is not. They are vital to the health of ecosystems in many areas and help to control populations; the myths of overpopulation of deer and other prey animals is just that-a myth-which is the result of killing predators. Input concerning hunting should be from all people , not just those who benefit from hunting and trapping because many do not want such "sport" to occur. What is worse than hunting is trapping. There is no such thing as a humane trap or snare and to leave wolves or other animals is excruciating and a slow death. It would be inconceivable that these contraptions of torture would ever be allowed for people and wolves and other wildlife suffer no less. In my opinion, wolves do not need to be managed as nature and wildlife do that perfectly well on their own, the fact is that people feel the need to do so anyway for their own sense of control. Be that as it may, accurate accounts of populations must be taken and other ways to control populations It must be done not to just to benefit special interest groups. The slaughter of wolves makes no state look good, including Montana. Yellowstone could benefit from wolves in a safe and respectful manner instead of killing them and that would be good for everyone (except those who want to kill them). Waves have a place in this world along with all wildlife and they too are suffering and being killed by trapping. Call me sentimental and, yes, angry, but wolves have roles to play and deserve to be able to survive and thrive. The world does not revolve around our own species and we are not special or the most/only important species but merely the one with the power-power that is too often abused and it is time to give wolves the respect for all they do. They are not wanton killers or disposable objects but complex beings with social structures and families and to trap.snare, and kill them for our own purposes is a reflection on us and it is not good. It does not make Montana look good. I live in Vermont where there are also battles for wildlife and though we have likely very few wolves if any at all. I feel it would be a better state if there were but sadly they were all hunted/killed in the 1800's. Montana has wolves and should appreciate that.

#198

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 8:16:56 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 8:19:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:30
IP Address: 99.88.152.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Terri Pigford
City/Town: Dayton
State/Province: OH
Email Address: pigfordterri@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

#199

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:09:03 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:15:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:23
IP Address: 69.145.147.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jerome Walker, M.D.**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jeromemwalker@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Until an accurate and scientific count of woles in Mon tana is conducted, there should be no trapping of wolves allowed. Once this is accomplished, no trapping should be allowed before the end of the year (Dec. 31st) to be certain that grizzly bears are safely denned up before they are exposed to the risk of being trapped in wolf traps In my opinion, Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that could bring more profit to his trapping business (now ostensibly run by his son, but still "all in the family").

#200

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:23:15 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:23:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:35
IP Address: 96.224.24.241

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sherry Reisch**
Email Address: **sherryreisch@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolves are an essential species to our ecosystems. Without them we break the chain of life which effects all life, even that of humans. We must do all that we can to assist the gray wolf to thrive as a species and offer protections from illegal predation and habitat loss and ensure the continuation of the species. We must follow the science and not folklore or myths or political leanings, which are based on fear and ignorance.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic indiscriminate and torturous method of killing animals. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will convince tourists not to visit Montana. Trapping endangers other species federally designed as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets.

Montana must recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year!) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

I recommend that Montana look into the Wood River Wolf Project. This project is a collaboration of community members, livestock producers, wildlife NGO's and county, state and federal agencies working together to use proactive, non lethal deterrents to minimize conflicts between livestock and wolves. Since 2008 they have been working in Blaine County, Idaho with much success.

There is no longer any reason or excuse to intentionally murder our keystone species, the wolf.

#201

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:23:29 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:54:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:31:16
IP Address: 69.146.207.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Greg M. Price**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gardengrizz@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing in support of lowering wolf quotas across the state. In particular, I support lowering wolf quota's outside Yellowstone and Glacier parks. Yellowstone Park attracts many people who come to see wolves, and they are of course a keystone species that help keep ungulate herds healthy and thereby keep landscapes healthy. I hunt and have no problem with wolves being present in healthy numbers, without artificial suppression through sport hunting. The overall notion of killing predators to increase ungulates is deeply flawed and misguided through emotional reasoning by those who do not see or understand big picture ecology, but rather understand only consumption. This commission has no wildlife professionals on it and is part of the problem with not understanding complex wildlife issues, choosing to prioritize human killing for sport and entertainment over a scientifically supported plan that prioritizes wildlife health and habitat. Herd health is driven by habitat health, period. Stop insisting on killing predators to increase deer and elk in heavily mountainous areas like R1, where elk and deer herds were in the past more abundant when predators were artificially suppressed through years of legalized persecution. And here we are again dealing with the same flawed mentality around predators, and particularly wolves. The wolves outside of Glacier were there way before wolf reintroduction started, therefore they should be exempt from hunting and trapping. Animals should not have to risk their lives because they use habitat that crosses invisible administrative lines. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Greg Price.

#202

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:16:07 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:20:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:09
IP Address: 76.133.151.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeanine Strobel**
City/Town: **Novato**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **jestrobel12@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The highlight of my many trips to Montana has been having the opportunity to see wolves in the wild. Conservation and protection of these beautiful, intelligent animals is something Montana can take pride in. Please do all that you can to protect wolves so that tourism and nature can thrive. Thank you.

#203

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:24:54 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:32:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:27
IP Address: 24.45.73.225

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Debra Ashton
City/Town: Montville
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: debra_ashton@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please adopt laws and policies to protect wolves, not slaughter them.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. And, it should ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities!! Not fair that the hunters alone get to weigh in on this. Many people want to protect wolves, not kill them.

Increased transparency in wildlife management decisions is also vital, as is improved accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. You can't go by it. It's biased in favor of hunters.

I strongly urge you to stop reporting wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Further, and this is very important, traps and snares should NEVER be used.

They're cruel and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

All trapping should end on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife. Any state that traps and uses snares is NOT wildlife friendly. That poor image will deter a lot of tourists from visiting, including me and my family.

Please recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Please act by positively protecting wolves.

#204

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:22:04 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:49:31 AM
Time Spent: 02:27:26
IP Address: 47.45.187.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Richard G Brown**
City/Town: **BOZEMAN**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **twodotmt2@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As humans invade more and more of the natural space, the animals are pushed farther to the margins. This is a disturbing result of human population growth, ignorance, and affluence.

More disturbing is the desire by some is the slaughter top of the food chain predators for personal pleasure or some sort of accomplishment. The former is a naïve and self-centered activity. The latter is an outright unexplainable, unconscionable, and wholly unnecessary and vendetta. These animals are not killed to put food on the table, they are merely killed for accomplishment of doing so.

Additionally, when traps are employed to kill these animals is, too often causes hours if not days of agony. Upon whose morality is suffering and torture acceptable? Further, trapping captures, tortures, and kills more species than the 'the target group.' This list includes protected animals like eagles and domestic dogs. Trapping directly affects me because a hiker, I must carry a wire cutter of my dog is trapped.

And finally, every ecosystem depends on each layer to remain healthy. This stratification generally begins with plants, advances through herbivores, and ends with top carnivores. To remove any one of these species interrupts the entire system allowing a void for another species or creates an imbalance. I remember the day when hay was flown into Yellowstone to feed the overpopulated starving elk. This situation was entirely caused by humans eradicating the wolves. It has scientifically been proven again and again that a balanced ecosystem is a healthy ecosystem. There are examples across history and throughout the world when humans have intervened and the results were disastrous. We humans ultimately rely on a balanced ecosystem for our existence. We are all witnessing the result of the natural imbalance with Climate Change.

Trapping hurts us all from our own domestic animals, to non-target species, to the imbalance created when to predators are removed. There is no rational argument to justify this wonton suffering trapping creates. This practice must be eliminated.

#205

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 12:42:39 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 12:50:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:14
IP Address: 75.70.75.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kym Waugh
City/Town:	Denver
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	lilly1875@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. Halt wolf quotas now until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Trapping must be ended on public lands, snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and you will deter tourists from visiting. You must recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets like domestic dogs and people. Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#206

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:27:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:39:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:06
IP Address: 174.45.171.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lisa Robertson**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lisa292@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a Montana resident, I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Furbearer and Wolf Trapping hunting seasons and quotas for the following reasons: a) these quotas have been set without an authentic scientifically sound count, putting at great risk the sustainability, health and well being of a keystone, native species. It seems pretty clear that an overemphasis of weight is being given to a very small section of the population (trappers, especially) Trapping of wolves should be eliminated; b) the opening date for wolf trapping season should not be floating (again. lack of scientific analysis), and should be set at Dec 31. This has benefits for the safety of other keystone predators (bears); c) there is an apparent zeal to trap and kill as many bobcats as possible. Already in certain parts of Montana, the population numbers have plummeted. In region 5, I advocate trapping quota be reduced by 50% from 100 to 50 and in region 6 a similar % reduction from 50 to 25. Bobcats are native, are an important part of nature's system; d) Marten populations are in trouble due to trapping. Please close trapping in the area north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15 (based on science); e) finally, conflicts of interest must be acknowledged and acted upon. For this reason, it is vital that Commissioner Tabor, owner of an outfitting business, and who stands to directly profit from the proposed quotas, must RECUSE himself from voting on these decisions.

#207

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:39:16 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:41:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:37
IP Address: 35.150.70.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jake Davis**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **22jakedavis@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. Wolves are essential for healthy eco-systems and enhanced biodiversity. Without them the land, literally, dies. The wolf is as much a part of Montana and what makes it a great state as anything. By allowing a few hunters to decimate the grey wolf population you are killing part of Montana too.

Here's an idea: Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. The same goes for wolves in and around Glacier National Park.

#208

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 2:52:29 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:02:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:25
IP Address: 134.215.147.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Dahlman**
City/Town: **Middleton**
State/Province: **WI**
Email Address: **mdahlman3@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am a frequent Montana visitor and non-consumptive wildlife enthusiast. To help ensure that a healthy wolf population continues to exist in your state I make the three following proposals. Please reduce the quota in WMU to no more than two wolves. Reduce individual bag limits to prevent dedicated wolf hunters from taking a disproportionate number of wolves and hinder the harvest of an entire pack by one or two hunters in a single event. Conclude hunting season dates before February 1 to prevent the harvesting of breeding pairs and pregnant females. I also wish to express appreciation for a state wide quota that does not exceed the 29% threshold deemed hazardous to the species' viability.

#209

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:24:12 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:28:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:07
IP Address: 98.177.165.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Steve West**
City/Town: **Florence**
State/Province: **AZ**
Email Address: **wthrsswift@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am sick at what the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission is doing with their wolf "management." These predators should be preserved and not shot on sight. What is wrong with the "biologists" who work for you? What is wrong with the people of Montana for letting this go. Arguing the value of wolves will do me no good as this is just a formality to promote more slaughter. I do a long my travel in the off season and you can bet, I won't be going to Montana. Not until you let the biologists, real biologists make the decisions regarding wolves.

#210

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:12:55 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:31:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:46
IP Address: 67.143.128.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gregory S Griffin
City/Town: Shelbyville
State/Province: IN
Email Address: gs_griffin@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping and hunting season quotas are too high and will result in gray wolves going extinct again as a species. Beneficial gray wolves have not and will never reach sustainable numbers as long as they are allowed to be senselessly hunted and brutally trapped by such ridiculously high quotas. Stop the horror show. COEXIST WITH NATURE DON'T DESTROY IT. I'll be voting my conscience in upcoming elections.

#211

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:22:35 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:46:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:59
IP Address: 63.153.5.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kristine Bell**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gabbygal@littleappletech.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The proposed statewide wolf harvest of 289 wolves is still excessively high but it is a move in the right direction. I would ask we return to a science based wolf management plan. This would require a better method of determining wolf actual wolf numbers. An accurate population estimate is essential not the current computer model.

Montana must stop killing Yellowstone National Park wolves ! WMU 313 should have a quota of 1. This is the lowest possible under Montana state law. I would however support a comprise of 3, anything above that is unacceptable.

Please remember our wildlife belongs to all of us not just those who can make money by killing them.

Thank You.

#212

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 3:41:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 4:41:23 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:09
IP Address: 166.194.143.81

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cheryl Landi
City/Town: San Diego
State/Province: CA
Email Address: cherylrobinlandi@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear sir or madam: I have visited Yellowstone Park twice a year or more since the reintroduction of the wolves into the park. I had always wanted to see a wolf in the wild, and I finally had a chance. I have been all over the world on safaris, but my favorite spot is Yellowstone, home of the wolves. My first sighting of a wolf was so incredible. I was on a wolf expedition through Yellowstone National Park, staying at the lodge inside the park, at the Roosevelt Arch entrance at Gardener, Montana. I remember it was very cold, below zero, but the group's adrenaline was too high to worry about the elements. We were there to see our first wolf or pack if lucky. When I did see my first two wolves, there was a collective awe out of the group. A scrambling to look through telescopes. It was so amazing to see this animal back, an American icon. As I have said, I have since made many, many trips to see the wolves there. My reaction is always the same—I'm in awe of their majestic beauty, their group dynamics, their parental/pup bonding. It all amazes me every time, whether I am seeing one or hearing their beautiful howls. I took my daughter in 2017 on a wolf expedition with a private guide. My daughter met a local young man from Gardener. She never returned home. They have a successful guiding business, and the main tourist attraction, is his skill in spotting wolves. They come to see the wolves more than any other wildlife. Like myself, they stand in heat or cold, hoping to get a glimpse of a wolf. My comment will focus on the methodology of assessing wolf numbers. Needless to say, I am disheartened about Montana's wolf conservation efforts since the gray wolf was taken off the endangered species list. I am greatly concerned about the inadequate measures taken to truly assess your wolf population. I have read about the IPOM (integrated patch occupancy model). This is not based on scientific data. I believe the tool is extremely biased against the wolf in favor of hunters, trappers and trophy hunters. How can it be unbiased when data is coming from elk hunters? Why are collared wolves being lured out of the park and slaughtered? Collars are a tracking device that is far more reliable than hunter-based data collection. Fix in the hen house. The IPOM is outdated and the model needs to be changed frequently if we truly want to have an accurate assessment of the wolf population. I believe that a wholly scientific approach based not on political motives, but taking into consideration non-hunting communities and people who generally want to see a healthy wolf population without indiscriminate killing by such inhumane methods as snares, trapping and gassing dens. As a high level predator, the wolf has balanced the natural order in the park. It was and is, a scientific model to see what difference can wolves make to keep order. I have noticed significant changes already. I have actually seen otters and beaver more frequently. They weren't visible before. By naturally culling the elk population in this experimental model, it has allowed other wildlife to thrive. Unfortunately this experimental model known as Yellowstone park, has its limitations. Wolves don't understand boundaries and yes they will leave the park in search of mates and prey (elk) but to set traps and snares at those borders is unbelievably callous and certainly does not send a message to tourists that Montana is taking measures to protect its wildlife. These traps and snares torture and kill a range of animals including wild and domestic. Take into consideration the revenue the reintroduction of the wolf has brought to the state of Montana. Over 80 million dollars from the tourist business. Once little settlements like Gardener, Montana, are thriving. The locals have changed too. They don't buy into the little red riding hood lies anymore because the wolves among other wildlife have brought much needed revenue to the area. When I first came there, the mention of being there to see wolves, was fraught with anger. The attitude has wholly changed. It's amazing. You should take consideration as well, that wolves naturally cull themselves. They fight each other for territory when the elk population is low. The packs are continually changing. They get old, they die. They need to have territory to roam, so they don't interbreed. They are a remarkable wildlife study. I wish you would take the time to truly watch them and hear them and watch the people and how much enjoyment and pleasure and awe they get from seeing a wolf. It's truly amazing. I don't think it is good publicity for your governor to brag about killing a collared wolf. The collars are there for a reason. The collars provide valuable, unbiased data. Biologists combing the parks provide unbiased data, whereas an outdated IPOM model gives unreliable and biased data in favor of trapping, selling tags and virtually increasing the quotas to once again have to be placed on the endangered species list which I know is something you don't want. If you are to be in charge of the wolf's continued well being and stable population, please do it the right way with true scientific data. Thank you for your consideration to this matter. I hope to continue to see wolf packs in and around the park and to introduce my two Montana granddaughters to this magnificent creature. Sincerely, Cheryl Landi

#213

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:04:44 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:05:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:56
IP Address: 75.229.233.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	CA Sweeney
City/Town:	Napa
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	mbv78@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Members of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing as a concerned citizen who deeply cares about the preservation of Montana's natural heritage and wildlife. I am compelled to address a pressing matter that has been troubling me and many others: the ongoing wolf trapping and killing season.

While I understand the need for wildlife management and maintaining ecological balance, I firmly believe that the current practices concerning wolf trapping and killing have gone beyond what is necessary. Wolves play a vital role in the ecosystem, and their presence contributes to maintaining healthy populations of prey species and overall biodiversity. The indiscriminate trapping and killing of wolves can lead to severe ecological consequences, disrupting the delicate balance that nature has worked so hard to establish. Furthermore, studies have shown that the benefits of having wolves in the ecosystem outweigh any negative impacts they may have on certain livestock. Non-lethal methods of managing wolf-human conflicts, such as improved husbandry practices and non-lethal deterrents, have proven to be effective and should be given more consideration and support.

Additionally, traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Nevertheless, it is vital to consider the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Therefore, it is crucial for us, as responsible stewards of the environment, to find alternative solutions that allow coexistence with these magnificent creatures rather than resorting to lethal measures. Other states and countries have successfully implemented non-lethal strategies to mitigate human-wolf conflicts, and I believe Montana can follow suit.

I urge the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission to consider the following actions:

- 1) Temporarily suspend the wolf trapping and killing season until further research and discussion on the long-term impacts of such measures have been conducted.
- 2) Allocate resources and funding to promote non-lethal methods of managing wolf populations and addressing conflicts with humans.
- 3) Encourage and support educational programs that emphasize the importance of wolves in the ecosystem and foster understanding between local communities and wildlife.
- 4) Engage in open dialogues with wildlife conservation organizations, researchers, and the public to collectively develop more sustainable and humane approaches to wildlife management.

I implore you to approach this matter with empathy, reason, and a commitment to the preservation of Montana's natural heritage. Let us be remembered as the generation that chose compassion and understanding over violence and short-sightedness.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I eagerly hope that you will take immediate action to protect these magnificent creatures and the delicate balance of our shared ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Dr. C.A. Sweeney

#214

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 4:43:28 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:13:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:46
IP Address: 98.127.139.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Susan Kronenberger
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kronesue@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Members of the Commission,

I urge you to reduce, at the very least, the wolf quotas as you stated in the proposal. I would like to see a much greater reduction than your proposal for the following reasons: the wolf is a key species in the eco system - they play an important role as a predator; trapping is violent and tortuous - causing much harm to sentient beings... no where else in society would we ever treat animals in this fashion; public lands are for all - trappers are an extremely low percentage of the population. As a hiker and one who enjoys the great gift of being able to observe an animal in the wild, I and thousands of others are threatened and diminished by current trapping practices.

All snaring and trapping should be posted. there should be mandatory checks - I would like to see - every 4 hours . Baiting for wolf hunting must be outlawed. All traps lines should be registered. Wolf trapping season should be reduced in length and honor , i.e., protect grizzlies who are active.

I support the proposed bobcat reductions.

in the area N of I-90 and E of I-15 marten trapping should be closed.

The trapping of beaver should be fully ended. Again - this animal is key for wetland sustenance.

I oppose an increase to mountain lion quotas. A few people are making money of the public land and doing so with tortuous methods. Pelts are largely sold to Asia markets so that wealthy there can have "luxuries." this is a great and unnecessary waste of of sentient harm life that causes no real harm to human productivity and life. Deer and elk populations are plentiful.

#215

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:37:29 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 5:39:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:13
IP Address: 216.19.243.87

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Pam Youngquist
City/Town:	Whitefish
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kali1111@bellsouth.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission,

Wolves and humans can co-exist. Many states have proven this with ranchers/farmers that are open minded enough to work with non-lethal methods, including guard dogs, portable fencing, lights and other tools. Many parts of Idaho have proven, over a decade, the efficacy of these co-habitation methods with few to no livestock fatalities. It was 100 years ago that wolves were eradicated from the US by just such fervor as has taken hold in Montana. There are those of us here that do not want to participate in, or witness, that horrific history repeating itself. Having blood lust, closed agenda's and only anti-wolf voices speak on the matter is not what our state is about.

Montana's wolf management plan needs to be science-based, not politically based. We need to ensure that equal representation of all stakeholders, including tribes, conservation biologists, ecological organizations and other non-hunting communities are present for the considerations of hunting seasons and wolf fatality numbers. There has to be increased transparency in wildlife management decisions. That will require these stakeholders to be present for all decision-making processes, as well as final conclusions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, the IPOM, is full of compounding errors. The actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. There have been no scientific updates to this method. I am asking that before any decisions be made regarding hunting the states wolves that there is improved accuracy and usage of the actual IPOM as written and that all the current wolf quotas being considered are halted until a new and accurate method of counting is fully established.

I am calling on each of you on the commission to create policies that stop the wholesale slaughter of the states wolf population and support legislation that promotes non-lethal management, methods that have not been utilized here to date, thus restoring protections for the Montana state wolf population in a reasonable and sound manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on these decisions.

Sincerely,

Pam Youngquist

#216

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:13:06 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:19:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:56
IP Address: 38.141.44.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Peg Brownlee
City/Town:	Florence
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pegster153@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Recreational hunting, snaring and trapping of wolves should cease immediately. A scientifically-sound count of wolves should be done. If the season does occur, it should not begin until December 31 in Grizzly recovery zones. Bobcats are being decimated by trappers. Trapping should be reduced by at least 50%. I support closure of marten trapping in a portion north of I-90 and east of I-15. Furbearer “harvest” data must become available to the general public so that feedback can occur. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on issues that mean profit to his outfitting business.

#217

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:28:26 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:31:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:18
IP Address: 209.161.136.38

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Patrick F McGuffin
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mcguffin3@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Allow bears to den before trapping postpone the season until 12/31

Hound training is unnecessary and puts undue stress on mountain lions. Ban the practice.

#218

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:36:44 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:50:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:09
IP Address: 131.150.185.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kevin Crupi
City/Town:	Marquette
State/Province:	MI
Email Address:	kcrupi@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm writing to urge Montana to cancel any plans to conduct a wolf hunting and trapping season. Wolves are vital components of healthy ecosystems and can be managed without killing them.

As I mentioned above, wolves are vital components of healthy ecosystems. Unlike human hunters, wolves tend to cull the weaker members of their prey species, thus maintaining the long-term genetic health of those animals. Since wolves prey primarily on herbivores, they also tend to limit the over-browsing of native plants. Many tourists go to Yellowstone to see wolves, so they benefit local businesses in Montana.

Wolves caught and killed in traps suffer extreme pain. Since other animals often fall victim to these cruel devices, many non-target animals also die horrible deaths.

Residents in Montana and other states have employed other ways to deter wolves from killing their livestock. Allowing dogs to roam around their cows and other farm animals can scare wolves away without killing any of them.

I urge Montana to cancel plans to hunt and trap wolves. These animals are key components of their ecosystems and can be adequately managed without cruelly killing them. Thank you for your consideration.

#219

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 6:57:46 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:00:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:15
IP Address: 69.144.60.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **sally brown**
City/Town: **missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sallybrown6@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping is cruel. Stop it.

#220

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:03:26 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:05:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 65.144.133.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nathan Varley/Bear Creek Council
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nathan@wolftracker.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

RE: Fall 2023 – Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Director Temple, Chair Robinson and Commissioners:

On behalf of Bear Creek Council, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. Bear Creek Council is a grassroots, community-based wildlife conservation group in Gardiner, Montana, that is deeply committed to conserving the area's world-class wildlife for the intrinsic value it adds to people's lives, the advancement of scientific study, and the sustainable ecotourism economy that supports our community. We understand and appreciate the difficult role the Commission and MFWP staff serve in reaching that balance and seek common sense proposals that recognize all stakeholders' interests in our public wildlife.

With that in mind, we request MFWP consider the following proposals when making final determinations regarding the upcoming wolf hunting season and quotas:

I. Reduce the quota in Wolf Management Unit 313 to no more than two wolves.

This would...

- follow the precedent quota set in 2020 before WMU 313 and 316 were combined into a single unit
- provide treatment and control areas to evaluate the effects of varying wolf density across the state
- more proportionally reflect the diverging views of the entire state's citizenship where there is far more support for wolves than is currently reflected in wolf management
- sustain the benefits that many Montanans receive as a part of a thriving non-consumptive tourism industry
- reduce the emphasis on finding accurate and/or expensive population estimation methods (e.g., iPOM) because significant refuge areas exist to ensure population viability

II. Reduce individual bag limits to one wolf.

This would...

- disable the tendency of dedicated wolf hunters to take a disproportionate number of wolves
- equitably spread opportunity among all hunters within a limited harvest regime
- disable the possibility that entire packs can be killed by just one or two hunters in a single event
- have a stabilizing effect on the population by maintaining existing packs

III. Conclude hunting and trapping dates before February 1.

This would...

- prevent the harvesting of breeding pairs and pregnant females
- preserve the viability and sustainability of existing packs
- maintain fair chase and ethics standards suggested by the North American model for wildlife conservation

While we see no reason to reduce the wolf population in Montana, we appreciate the Commission and MFWP's commitment to maintaining the overall quota to take no more than 29% maximum harvest.

- The newly proposed quotas are a prudent step toward preventing the 2022 population decline of 56 individual wolves and ten packs.
- Reduced quotas also allow wolves to play their essential role in managing healthy populations of elk and other ungulates.

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Montana FWP has been a global leader in fish and wildlife management, and we're hopeful that the final wolf hunting regulations will build upon that legacy. We encourage continued efforts to return equanimity to our state wolf plan, maintain ethics and fair chase in wolf hunting, and restore dignity to our wildlife management. Montanans expect that from MFWP in its management of the world-class wildlife that we all value.

Sincerely,

Nathan Varley
Bear Creek Council Chair

#221

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:29:49 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:31:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:56
IP Address: 65.131.207.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cliff Wenzek
City/Town:	Whitefish
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cwenzek3@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31.

We support reducing the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 in Region 6.

We support the closure of the trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Rationale:

1. Wolves should not be killed for recreation or trophies and the snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. Instead, a population count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. There is currently no reliable wolf population estimate; the iPOM method is so inadequate that Footloose Montana has joined a lawsuit against the state and FWP. The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Trophy hunters and trappers reported killing wolves from a high of 295 in 2018 to 256 in 2022, despite a longer season and additional legal ways of killing wolves in 2022 compared to 2018. This drop in reported killed wolves indicates there are far fewer wolves than FWP claims.

2. Instead of the proposed floating date for the beginning of the wolf trapping season in grizzly bear recovery zones, the opening date for wolf trapping should be December 31 statewide, not before.

Naturally, grizzlies will not stay within their arbitrary “occupied zones” but will roam in search of a mate, territory, or food. Furthermore, FWP has recently published several observations of grizzlies outside of these “occupied zones”, demonstrating that early wolf trapping will likely impact grizzlies beyond these “occupied zones”. Traps set for wolves and snares will endanger grizzlies and other wild animals. Delaying the wolf trapping season to December 31 will, at the very least, give grizzlies a chance to be in their dens.

3. Trappers are decimating bobcats and other species already struggling for survival. While reducing the trapping of bobcats by 50% in Regions 5 and 6 is commendable, it should be implemented statewide, and not only in two regions. Trappers themselves have noted that bobcats are in steep decline in other regions, particularly in western Montana. The proposed 50% reduction in trapped bobcat quotas in the eastern MT Regions of 5 and 6 has already been agreed upon by the Montana Trappers Association when FWP attended MTA meetings. Because FWP has failed to publish furbearer harvest data for the past two seasons, the general public has been given little ability to provide feedback on the proposed 2024 quotas for bobcats and other furbearers.

4. Trapping is the leading reason why marten in Montana have been extirpated in areas north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15 and in other parts of the state. We support the closure of marten trapping in this area comprising “Wheatland and Judith Basin counties and those portions of Meagher and Cascade counties that are east of the Smith River or east of Highway 89 as it runs south from White Sulphur Springs.”

5. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

It's no coincidence that 120 wolves (41percent) of the hunting and trapping quota is in NW Montana, Region 1, where Commissioner Tabor's family operates Swan Mountain Outfitters. After multiple violations on federal land, Tabor lost his license, so on paper he sold his business to his son. Tabor runs the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and he should recuse himself from decisions that mean profits to his family's outfitting business.

#222

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:33:51 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:34:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:54
IP Address: 65.144.133.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cara.mcgary@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wild Livelihoods would like to thank Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for using wildlife population research and past harvest data to determine wolf harvest quota recommendations for the 2023/2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas.

We support initiation of a review by the Commission for in-season adjustments to regulations if a grizzly or lynx is captured.

We appreciate that the quota of 6 wolves in the region encompassing WMU 313 (and former WMU 316) was set for the 2022/23 hunting season because this brought back a quota at the WMU level, lowered wolf harvest compared to the previous season (2021/22), and because the Commission also considered social factors.

We are grateful that the regional wolf biologist position for region 3 has been filled. We appreciate the work that this individual has been doing to contribute to MTFWP's wolf data and management operations. We look forward to improved data collection and population monitoring.

We are also grateful for the stakeholder communications, community engagement and interagency cooperation that MTFWP staff and commissioners have been doing. We look forward to being involved in continued engagement.

It is our understanding that the resident wolf population in 313 has been greatly reduced, as assessed in winter of 2022/23 by the FWP wolf biologist. And, that most wolves killed in WMU 313 during the 2021/22 season (more than 90% of harvest) and the 2022/23 season (four out of the six harvested) were resident to Yellowstone National Park (spending less than 4% of their time outside park boundaries) and counted toward Wyoming's population. Given both factors, we hope that the final quota set for the 2023/24 season by the Commissioners will be considerably lower than 6. Clearly, the wolf population here has decreased, so legislative requirements have been met. Now, hunter/trapper opportunities are targeting wolves that reside in Yellowstone and count toward Wyoming's population.

These wolves in WMU 313 are not endangering livestock, as there are virtually no producers in this area. Elk numbers are at or above FWP objectives, and these same elk migrate into the agricultural lands to the north (GMUs 317 and 314) where they are considered enough of a nuisance to prompt shoulder season hunts. These wolves have unique economic, cultural and scientific value inside Yellowstone National Park. These particular wolves are a major driver for visitation outside the summer months to northern Yellowstone and its surrounding communities in Park County, MT.

As business members and private land owners who drive the local economy and contribute significantly to bed tax collections, we sincerely appreciate the Commissioners decision to factor in social issues when setting the final quota for units just north of Yellowstone National Park, just as you have done when setting elk quotas, for example, in our region to account for industries like ranching (see FWP's 2022 HD317 elk population report).

In addition, while we understand FWP's goal of simplifying hunting regulations, combining WMU 313 and 316 in to one unit does not factor in the very different geographies these two WMU's encompass. Former WMU 316's wolf kill fluctuates from zero in some years and, in others three, because much of that area is remote and requires real work to hunt. On the other hand, WMU 313 has easy access for hunters to park on the roads near Decker Flats or Beatie Gulch and watch or call wolves in for easy pickings. In the context of the combined WMUs, it results in the likelihood that the real quota in former 313 can be 6, well above the historic one or two. Furthermore, this situation increases the likelihood that the quota will be filled through take in just one Yellowstone-associated pack, thus eliminating that pack or causing major disruptions to its social structure. These impacts to pack viability are detrimental to visitor viewing opportunities, and hence local businesses.

Our recommendation is that you make WMU 313 back into two separate units and set a quota in each of these that incorporates the socio-economic factors that we have been arguing for on behalf of the businesses here that depend upon tourism. These businesses help generate \$82 million annually, due to visitors coming specifically for wolves in Yellowstone, as documented in our 2022 economic

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

study.

As you are aware, south Park County, especially Gardiner and Cooke City, have been dramatically impacted by the 2022 flood, Covid-19 disruptions and the 2020 fire in Gardiner. These communities continue to struggle and recover, despite incredible infrastructure repairs. Roughly \$500M of combined tourism revenue comes into Park County annually. The #1 activity reported by tourists is wildlife “watching”. Bed taxes alone generated almost \$8M last year. Half of that tax goes to the State's general budget for all Montanans. At the request of the State, our business coalition has been working with the Department of Commerce to help quantify the immediate and ongoing loss of tourism revenue due to the flood and develop larger scale marketing to remind the world that we are open for business. As Yellowstone National Park works 24x7 to reopen the road from Gardiner to Cooke City, a repeat of the 2021/2022 season's intensive localized wolf killing will send the wrong message to consumers looking to return to our area.

Only a literal handful of hunters capitalized on last year's quota. In contrast, \$236 million was spent by hundreds of thousands of visitors spread across hundreds of local small businesses offering broad-based tourism activities in southern Park County. Please consider this social factor when deciding how to set wolf quotas in such a small region with an over weighted economic impact.

We request that the status of wolves in Montana be changed from 'species in need of management' to 'game species', as the state committed to doing in its delisting agreements. This will build consistency regarding wildlife management across species.

We request that the MTFWP and the Commissioners include rules which specifically prohibit the use of telemetry for pursuing, hunting, trapping, snaring etc. of all wildlife, including wolves, bears, mountain lions and furbearers. Telemetry is intended for use by researchers to understand movement, habitat use and other wildlife management issues. Use of telemetry by hunters is an unfair advantage, unsporting and it can cause detrimental impacts to research that other hunters and the tax-paying public are paying for. It is unfair, unsporting and unnecessary. Several of our members observed local wolf hunters using telemetry to hunt wolves during the 2021/2022 season. Because use of telemetry was not specifically prohibited, this action will likely continue. With telemetry use, it isn't hunting, it's just finding and killing.

We also request that MTFWP and the Commissioners include rules to prohibit night hunting. While this is currently allowed only on private lands, the noise and safety issues (stray bullets, etc.) do not remain confined by land ownership. This practice is disruptive to the peace, tranquility and a night's rest that we all value and it's unsafe for neighbors. There are plenty of hunting opportunities during daylight hours.

Thank you for listening and continuing the dialog around building a stronger Montana economy.

Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition, representing over 180 local businesses near the northern entrances to Yellowstone National Park

#223

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:08:52 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:46:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:38:07
IP Address: 24.190.114.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Marjorie Strong-Faulkner
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: calmom2500@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a resident of Montana and a believer in the protection and restoration of biodiversity in our beautiful state, I oppose the current policy and quotas set for Furbearer and Wolf hunting/trapping for the season 2023/2024. I feel strongly that our wolf population belongs to all the people of Montana and not just the hunters that live here or travel here to kill them. There are many more of us than hunters who believe wolves, and predators in general, are essential to maintaining the biodiversity and beauty of our state. Therefore, there should be equal representation of all stakeholders in this process, including non-hunting communities. I think there is currently a lack of transparency in the way wildlife management decisions are made and what they are based upon and that needs to change.

I'd also like to question the model being used to estimate our wolf population, IPOM, which seems to be full of compounding errors that leads to false assumptions and inaccurate counts. I don't believe we truly know the population. If we must set quotas using this model, then we must improve its accuracy and proper use. Until such time, we should cut quotas in half until a new and more accurate method is established.

As far as traps and snares go, these should be eliminated entirely as they are inhumane and indiscriminate. They not only cause terrible suffering to wolves, but other animals as well, including other endangered species and family pets, and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties through the disruption of wolf family groups. This method for killing our animals damages our state's public image as a state that respects wildlife and makes a mockery of our commitment to caring for our land and the animals that live here. It can also serve to deter tourists from visiting.

We need to recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on our tourism revenue (at least \$80 mm a year), all of which will be at risk if we continue to allow the baiting of wolves out of the park so that they can be slaughtered.

As a taxpayer and a voter, I believe this is one topic that should not be political. Please consider these comments as heartfelt and essential to making the right decisions about our wolves and our wildlife as a whole. Thank you.

#224

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:40:54 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:48:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:49
IP Address: 184.170.72.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jonathan A Bennett
City/Town: Forest
State/Province: VA
Email Address: jben1900@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. Please ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities and increase transparency in wildlife management decisions. The model being used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. Please improve the accuracy and proper usage of IPOM. Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups. Also trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting. Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered. Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate. Please take these points into account when making your decisions on this matter. Thank you for your time.

#225

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:52:19 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:54:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:28
IP Address: 73.198.252.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Julia Cranmer
City/Town: Southampton
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: jcranmer3@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

#226

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:50:24 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 8:13:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:32
IP Address: 24.190.114.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Deborah Phillips
City/Town: Katonah
State/Province: NY
Email Address: moonstone2500@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

First and foremost, the current plan should be based on sound and recognized science. By that I mean it should take into account the latest research on wolf behavior, ecology, and conservation and cannot be driven by political considerations or pressure from special interest groups including ranchers, hunters, and others. There are many more people that believe wolves, and predators in general, are essential to maintaining the biodiversity and beauty of our public lands. Therefore there should be equal representation of all stakeholders in these decisions.

The model that has been used to determine wolf populations, IPOM, has compounded errors leading to inaccurate counts and false assumptions. This method has been questioned by many scientists in the fields. Based on the method used, quotas should be greatly reduced until a more accurate and improved method is established.

In addition, the use of traps and snares is archaic, cruel, and indiscriminate and should be eliminated entirely from our public lands. They cause immense suffering not only to wolves but to other animals, including endangered species and family pets, and even recreationists. This indiscriminate killing can lead to the potential for more livestock depredation by destroying wolf family groups that, when left in tact, very rarely prey on livestock.

There are also many economic and ecological benefits in coexisting with wolves. Wolf watchers bring an estimated \$82 million to communities in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and supports thousands of jobs. Wolves help ensure balanced and healthy ecosystems and help to control chronic wasting disease, CWD, which is on the rise in Montana.

I sincerely hope that these points are strongly considered in the decisions being made this season, and that quotas are greatly reduced and lethal methods restricted.

#227

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:11:39 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:14:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 65.131.196.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Logan Freeman
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	freemanlogan2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please leave the wolf hunting and trapping quotas alone. The data shows that the trend in wolf population hasn't changed over the years and is stable. Our deer, elk, and moose populations, in NW MT especially, have already taken a hard enough hit from the wolfs. Lowering the quota will only hurt them more.

#228

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 8:50:00 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:22:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:32
IP Address: 98.97.34.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Helena Edelson
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	contact@largecarnivorefund.org

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Director Dustin Temple
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Wildlife Division
1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620

Re: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Director Temple, Chair Lesley Robinson, and Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding : Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas. Large Carnivore Fund (LCF) is based in Gardiner, Montana. We are stakeholders in the management and conservation of our native large carnivore species: land owners, fair chase hunters, ranchers, scientists, wildlife conservationists, wildlifers, as well as conservation lawyers, investors, and ecological statisticians specializing in predator models. Though historically adversarial, we've come together representing the millions who enjoy and appreciate the benefits of predators on the landscape.

We urge FWP to not approve the current fall 2023–winter 2024 furbearer and wolf trapping and hunting seasons and quotas as presented by the department, and choose Alternative B, amend the proposal with public comment, and adopt those amendments. LCF urges FWP to consider our recommendations for amendments, which are as follows:

Quotas, Seasons Dates and Season Closure Amendments

1. Recommendation: Decrease the statewide quota of 289 wolves for the 2023-2024 season by decreasing the quota for WMU 313 and all regional quotas.

Rationale:

“Direct analyses have typically shown that wolf “..”populations decline when the killing rate exceeds 19% to 29% of the population” (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

It is unethical, not fair chase, and endangers globally-recognized scientific research to allow habituated wildlife on our public lands to run the gauntlet from protected public lands toward distant islands of habitat, while hunters bait, snare, trap, and kill them as they pass.

2. Recommendation: Set general and trapping season closures to no later than February 1, 2024:

“General Season: September 15 - February 1, 2023”

Trapping Season: Season dates for trapping wolves will be the first Monday after Thanksgiving to February 1 for the entire state.”

Rationale:

Maintain ethics and fair chase. Prohibit killing pregnant females. No other species is hunted at times of the year which threaten their conservation.

Decrease depredation and taxpayer overhead via SB 200 or FWP budget. Human kills of pregnant females have led to higher depredations due to breakdown in wolf family structure at the loss of breeding females as pack leaders (1).

3. Recommendation: “When a quota is reached, the hunting and trapping season for the state, the trapping district and/or WMU will close upon a 12-hour notice.”

Rationale: A quota must be enforced immediately to avoid negligence by exponentially adding to the inaccuracy of annual gray wolf management.

4. Recommendation: Amend the bag limit to one wolf per person and prohibit a group of hunters to take more than one wolf from a pack to attempt to retain pack stability.

Gray Wolf Population Monitoring Amendments

1. Recommendation: We urge FWP to investigate the indications of wolf population decline. Decreasing offtake (down 17% from the

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

year before, and less than any of the three prior years) despite increasing the allowable methods of killing and extending the hunting season is a signal of population decline” (7).

2. Recommendation: Replace Montana’s iPOM model for estimation of the wolf population with a system of accurate models and sufficient amount of data collected by trained surveyors. Most population ecologists agree that direct monitoring of wolves is required.

Rationale: In the 2023 Wolf Management Plan and EIS FWP stated several problems in iPOM methodology for estimation of Montana’s wolf population.

Montana’s iPOM is the only integrated population model to suggest “population size can be estimated reliably in the absence of direct demographic data and/or population counts”.

“uncertainty resulting from the use of relatively coarse data inputs and compounding errors is a concern.” The source data for iPOM should not be derived from “annual hunter effort surveys” but by the impartial scientific community or trained wildlife population surveyors.

“past methods for monitoring wolf population size and trend have been inaccurate”

3. Recommendation: FWP must update monitoring tools using intensive radio collaring, camera traps and drones. The camera traps would additionally be data sources in monitoring federally protected grizzly bear and lynx, other threatened species, and other large carnivore species.

Rationale: The current number of wolves must be actively evaluated so that if the population were to decline to approximately “350” wolves, a more intensive monitoring framework would already be in place.

4. Recommendation: Increase the number of wolves and breeding pairs that trigger action to ensure population health: “if the population were to decline to approximately 350 wolves, more intensive monitoring would be required to ensure the population remains healthy and is reproducing at an acceptable rate.”

Rationale:

FWP allows the gray wolf population level to decline by at least two-thirds before any additional monitoring or action to limit mortality would be undertaken.

Uncontrollable factors already regulating and limiting wolf population size include prey population size, mild winters, habitat loss, or several severe winters in a row which decreases ungulate populations causing wolf numbers to decline.

“minimum counts and breeding pairs have become increasingly difficult to document”

5. Recommendation: Add a mechanism for non-consumptive stakeholders and conservation organizations to help fund gray wolf population monitoring.

Rationale: “Any need for more detailed, field-based minimum counts may require more funding and staff”

Methods of Management Amendments

1. Recommendation: “Wolf hunting was recommended as a management tool in the 2004 Montana Wolf Conservation and Management Plan”. FWP should follow The North American Model of Wildlife Management which states, “(6) Science Is the Proper Tool to Discharge Wildlife Policy”.

2. Recommendation: Leverage wolves for herd health, reducing the spread of CWD, genetic problems and other diseases.

Rationale: Native Gray wolves and ungulate species co-evolved. Research shows that wolf predation targets less fit and diseased animals, resulting in stronger herds.

3. Recommendation: Make snaring, baiting, and payment of bounties for the killing of wolves illegal.

Rationale: These are not ethical or fair chase. Montana has an opportunity to lead the country by requiring and educating on fair chase hunting practices.

4. Recommendation: Prevent Yellowstone's habituated wolf population from being lured, intentionally or unintentionally, out of the Park and killed.

Rationale: Hunters, trappers and poachers leave gut piles which attract wolves, which are not dangerous to humans, as well as other carnivores like bear and mountain lion. that are potentially dangerous to humans and pets.

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

5. Recommendation: Please add a mechanism for non-consumptive stakeholders to help fund enforcement of recommendations 3 and 4 above.

Management Units, Districts and Regions Amendments

1. Recommendation: Uphold the connectivity of populations mandate in the USFWS final rule for Montana's management of Gray Wolves by adding critical public lands between connectivity zones to the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System.

Rationale:

Maintain long-term genetic viability of the metapopulation

Maintain control areas for statewide wolf density samples

"Protect iconic species and provide some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities on Earth"<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wildlife-refuge-system>.

2. Recommendation: Return to managing wolves by Wolf Management Units, versus recreational boundaries, e.g. regions or trapping districts. Manage wolves by WMU as mountain lions are managed by LMUs. Provide biological justification for decreasing the granularity affecting biological and statistical monitoring, population assessments, and accuracy of biologist recommendations to substantiate this action.

Rationale: The published justification of "limiting hunter confusion" is insufficient.

Hunter and Trapper Reporting Amendments

1. Recommendation: "All successful wolf hunters and trappers must personally report their wolf kill within 12 hours" so that FWP can monitor harvest.

Rationale: "Accurate and timely information about any wildlife population is critical to make informed management decisions". It is the responsibility of FWP to ensure closures and closure compliance as soon as a quota is met.

2. Recommendation: "Successful hunters in backcountry areas will be allowed to report a wolf harvest within 12 hours of reaching a trailhead."

Rationale: It is the responsibility of FWP to ensure closures and closure compliance as soon as a quota is met.

3. Recommendation: "Hunters and trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, WMU/trapping district, specific location (legal description), sex, and if killed after January 1 and female, whether that female was visibly pregnant when reporting a wolf harvest."

Rationale: So that FWP can monitor changes in patterns such as depredation in relation to packs in that area.

SB 200 Amendments

Under SB 200's total quota of 100 wolves authorized by the Commission in increments of 25 in accordance with MCA 87-1-901 section 3(c):

1. Recommendation: All wolves killed must be included in the state total quota and region/district total quotas for accuracy and compliance of closing the hunting and trapping seasons when quotas are reached.

2. Recommendation: FWP must provide evidence requirements for "a landowner or the landowner's agent" to submit in order to substantiate a claim that "the wolf is a potential threat to human safety, livestock, or dogs".

Rationale: Requiring standardized data substantiating the kill under SB 200 would provide proof, insight and could save taxpayer money.

3. Recommendation: The "landowner or the landowner's agent" must submit evidence within 12 hours of an event to support accuracy in FWP monitoring of the population.

FWP Process Recommendations

1. Recommendation: FWP must propose annual wolf trapping and hunting seasons and quotas after all regional biologist recommendations are reported and the latest annual Wolf Report is published. Correct the process timing to allow biologists

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

recommendations are reported and the latest annual Wolf Report is published. Correct the process timing to allow biologists, statisticians, and their data to be collected, analyzed and reported prior to all relevant Commission meetings and regulation decisions for wolf management.

Rationale: The Commission proposes wolf regulations one month before all regional biologist recommendations are reported and the latest annual Wolf Report is published. Annual quotas, seasons, regulations and species management decisions are not based on science but outdated information.

Sincerely,

Helena Edelson, President and CEO, Large Carnivore Fund

References Cited

- K. Cassidy et al., Human-caused mortality triggers pack instability in gray wolves. *Front Ecol Environ* 2023; doi:10.1002/fee.2597
- S. Creel et al., Questionable policy for large carnivore hunting. *Science* 350, 1473-1475 (2015).
- L. G. Adams, R. O. Stephenson, B. W. Dale, R. T. Ahgook, D. J. Demma, Population dynamics and harvest characteristics of wolves in the central Brooks Range, Alaska. *Wildlife Monographs* 170, 1-25 (2008).
- S. Creel, J. J. Rotella, Meta-analysis of relationships between human offtake, total mortality and population dynamics of gray wolves (*Canis lupus*). *PloS one* 5, e12918 (2010).
- J. A. Vucetich, "The influence of anthropogenic mortality on wolf population dynamics. Final peer review of documents amending and clarifying the Wyoming gray wolf management plan.," (US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2012).
- T. K. Fuller, L. D. Mech, J. F. Cochrane, in *Wolves: Behavior, Ecology and Conservation*, L. D. Mech, L. Boitani, Eds. (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2003), pp. 161-191.
- S. Creel, Methods to estimate population sizes of wolves in Idaho and Montana.
-

#229

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:22:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:28:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:25
IP Address: 174.234.13.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Freeman
City/Town: Columbia falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jake_freeman14@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The quotas and hunting seasons should remain the same. The goal isn't to remove wolves from the land scape but reduce populations to help increase ungulate populations. And in turn the more prey animals on the landscape the more wolves can be on the landscape without impacting populations in a significant manner, however there still needs to be a serious comeback for deer and elk before wolf populations increase.

#230

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:34:37 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:49:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:26
IP Address: 97.95.67.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Justin Webb
City/Town:	Hope
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	jwhunt76@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Montana FWP Department and Commission,

The Foundation for Wildlife Management understands the complexities of wolf management, appreciates your willingness to listen to all stakeholders, and values your interest in sound, science-based wolf management. If we understand correctly, you have proposed a wolf harvest quota of just 289 wolves, out of your 1087 wolf population estimate. Knowing that the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation utilizes sportsmen as the preferred means of managing wildlife, it seems that sportsmen reduction of the wolf population at the proposed 26% of your current population does not follow the directive from Legislators to reduce Montana wolf populations. If the average pack size is 5, average litter size is 6, and 30% of packs are having more than 1 litter due to more than 1 female being bred (as is the case in both Yellowstone and Idaho), and roughly 12% (130) are disbursing wolves not yet having a pack... That means Montana has roughly 217 packs birthing approximately 1700 wolf pups annually (217 packs x average litter size of 6= 1,302 pups plus 30% having more than 1 litter = approximately 390... 1302+390 = 1692 wolf pups born)... Based on your known population estimate of 1,087 wolves, this equals 155% reproduction rate... to match your 26% harvest proposal... as a means to “reduce” wolf populations as directed by your Legislature... ?

In reference to wolf populations, the 2009 delisting rule clearly states, and I quote "After delisting it will be managed by the States, National Parks Service, and Service to average over 1,100 wolves fluctuating around 400 in Montana, 500 in Idaho and 200-300 in Wyoming." ... It then goes on to state "We believe maintaining the NRM Gray wolf population at or above 1500 wolves in currently occupied areas would slowly deplete wild prey abundance in suitable wolf habitat." It then states that "Higher rates of Livestock depredation in these and surrounding areas would follow" ...

As an organization working hard to promote wolf harvest in areas negatively impacted by wolf over-abundance, as a means to assist State Game Management agencies in reaching their wolf management objectives, it is of great concern to the Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM) that you propose to pre-maturely reduce wolf quotas, without demonstrating that sportsmen or FWP efforts have reduced wolf numbers to the 400 US Fish and Wildlife Service directed Montana to manage for.

In the 2009 delisting rule written by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, it clearly states that wolf populations will be managed to fluctuate around 400 wolves in Montana, 500 in Idaho, & 200 to 300 in Wyoming. Montana has housed the full 1100 wolf population that the entire NRM DPS system is supposed to be managed for, for numbers of years now. For this and many other reasons, you have been directed by Legislation to reduce wolf numbers. And we are struggling to understand how your proposed quota assists in accomplishing this task?

Allowing wolf populations to surpass what Montana has suitable habitat for (400 according to US Fish and Wildlife Service), forces wolves to live in “Unsuitable habitat” where they over-utilize their own prey base, and become enemies of sportsmen, ranchers, and concerned citizens. For the good of wolves, and the rest of Montana’s Wildlife, please do not lower wolf quotas in regions 1, 2, or 3, where wolf abundance continues to demonstrate negative impacts to wild ungulate populations, nor from any unit suffering livestock depredation loss.

Lowering wolf quotas will not reduce risk of lawsuits any more than it will help you reach the management objectives US Fish and Wildlife Service set for you to target.

F4WM reimbursed expenses for roughly 54% of the wolves harvested in Montana last season, and now has four active Montana Chapters: Flathead Valley, Kootenai Valley, Sanders County, and Bitterroot. All of which are working diligently to assist in your wolf management efforts. Please help these concerned Montana Sportsmen to help you, by maintaining current wolf quotas. An increase may prove to be required in some regions, to accomplish the management objectives set forth by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the 2009 delisting rule which are based on “Suitable Habitat Available” within Montana.

I also request that you please familiarize yourself with the 2009 delisting rule document, as there is a great deal of information within it, that anyone managing wolf populations should know and understand.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you for all you do for Montana Wildlife.

Sincerely,
Justin Webb

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

F4WM Executive Director

justin@f4wm.org

208-610-4455

On the Web <http://www.f4wm.org/>

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/foundationforwildlifemanagement?ref=hl>

#231

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:53:25 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 10:57:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 76.146.132.86

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: shana kelly
City/Town: Seattle
State/Province: WA
Email Address: kellshan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.

Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.

Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

We must revisit the science, proper wolf counts, and halt all trapping until this data has been obtained, otherwise allowing indiscriminate trapping & killing of wolves is irresponsible and unfounded.

Sincerely,

Shana Kelly (Native Montanan, now living in WA)

#232

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 9:20:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:21:19 PM
Time Spent: 02:00:20
IP Address: 76.22.104.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sue Janssen
City/Town:	Troy
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	outyaak@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would like to comment on the proposed wolf regulations. To start - please make the Integrated Patch Occupancy Modeling a more accurate tool and use it correctly. I believe wolves play an important role in keeping the ecosystems they inhabit healthy and they should be studied with the best available tools - including physically counting them.

Non-consumptive citizens who value the presence of wolves on public lands need to be fully represented. It should be noted The Montana legislature voted against most anti-wolf bills and the US Fish and Wildlife Services is still considering the resisting of the wolves in the Rocky Mountains.

Livestock depredation is not as bad as it's made out to be and any that does occur, proven or speculative is reimbursed by the Montana Livestock Loss Board which is fully supported.

Montana needs to consider the importance of the wolf social structure and pack dynamics instead of just killing them off. Another field of study where best available science is important.

The Governor's directive to update the wolf management plan will give more balanced representation in policy decisions from non-consumptive public groups as well as the hunters, trappers and livestock growers.

Find ways for the non-consumptive community to help fund wolf management. Wolf stamp?

Be more informative and transparent with the public when it comes to how wolves effect elk and deer populations. These species need natural predators to keep populations healthy.

Reduce Region One quota from 120 to 80 - which is still way too high. Reduce SB 200 quota from 100 to 25, region 2 quota from 91 to 61, region 3 from 52 to 40, region 4 from 15 to 1, regions 5, 6, & 7 to 1, and WMU 313 should be no more than 1 (Yellowstone National Park area).

It's only right that the non-consumptive public have equal say in how Montana's wolves are managed. A third of Montana is public land and wolf viewing generates revenue. They are an important piece of Montana's beautiful puzzle.

I have had several wolf encounters in my time wandering the National Forest near my home. I have never felt threatened by these intelligent animals. They have always shown me they want nothing to do with me, the human in their home. It makes me extremely sad to know how misunderstood and mistreated they are by misinformed people. I sure hope that changes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Sue Janssen

#233

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:18:59 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:23:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 135.134.165.132

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dawson D Dethlefs
City/Town:	RATHDRUM
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	DawsonDethlefs@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

North west Montana is something that is truly a unique area. There is minimal wildlife there compared to what I remember. The reason is because of the large and growing wolf population. The pop is growing at a 155% per year raise and we need more help cutting that down. We need to limit the amount of wolves down to a couple hundred in order to recover our once great elk and deer herds. If we can't do that then we will continue to see less and less game animals. By allowing year round trapping and hunting with unlimited quota we can get the problem wolves taken out by the people who are the best. We shouldn't remove them all but we should treat this seriously rather than just letting them run wild. Game used to have all the valleys and land to roam. Now it's just the mountains and extents where game are just sitting ducks to be taken by wolves. Wolves that where never raised and taught to maintain a population

#234

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:20:35 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:24:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 98.97.35.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jackson Jessop**
City/Town: **Victor**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jacksonrjessop@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

DO NOT lower the wolf quota. When wolves were delisted we were to keep them managed to 400 in the state we now have 4 times that... the current quota is only 26% of the current estimated population and those quotas don't usually get met each year while they reproduce by roughly 155% each year.

Lowering the quota would be ignoring science based conservation and montanans

#235

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:21:39 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 23, 2023 11:26:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:58
IP Address: 107.77.227.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan**
City/Town: **Heber**
State/Province: **UT**
Email Address: **rstokesy8@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please reconsider your plan to reduce wolf tags. Wolves have a large impact on the ability of sportsmen/women to enjoy the hunting traditions they have grown up with. Wolves are reproducing up to 155% while the allocated tags only cover 26% of the population. Please consider increasing the allocated wolves tags

#236

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:24:08 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:13:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:49:03
IP Address: 76.171.136.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Calfa III
City/Town: Canyon Country
State/Province: CA
Email Address: jcalfaiii@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

All of these methods and numbers need to be revised and revisited concerning wolf hunting and quotas.

Wolf numbers are indeed declining, making the physical counting of wolves more important. IPOM needs to be come more accurate and used correctly in determining the number of wolves on the landscape, if this is to be the method used going forward. The non consumptive community needs to be represented in these discussions. Along with being transparent with the public, they need to be included in the decision making. Wolves in Yellowstone bring in millions of dollars to the economy of the surrounding towns like Gardiner, Sliver Gate, Cooke City and others. Individuals living both inside and outside of the state, flock to Montana to view the wildlife, wolves and bears particularly.

The consumptive community is worried about the elk populations being brought down by wolves, when in fact these populations are over objective, while losing access to suitable habitat, and quality forage which is the main reason for their decline, not predators such as wolves.

Return to the "Best Available Science" to manage wolves and other wildlife, knowing that our wildlife and public lands belong to everyone. We all need a say in how our lands and wildlife are managed, consumed and taken care of. These lands and animals for all of us, not only those in Montana to take in and enjoy. Represent the non consumptive community with a "Wolf Stamp", this will provide sustainable, long-term funding for wolf and wildlife management, in a way that will make us feel involved in the process.

I thank you for taking the time to read these comments and making the best decision for wolves going forward. They are vital to these lands, the people that visit them and the habitats they live in.

#237

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:27:23 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:37:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:46
IP Address: 76.171.136.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elena Albanese**
City/Town: **CANYON COUNTRY**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **elena.albanese@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolf numbers are unfortunately rapidly declining, which makes the physical counting of wolves much more important. IPOM should be more accurate and be used correctly in determining the number of wolves on the landscape, if this is the method used going forward.

The non-consumptive community needs to be represented in these discussions. Along with being transparent with the public, they need to be included in the decision making. Individuals living both inside and outside of the state, flock to Montana to view the wildlife, wolves and bears particularly. Wolves in Yellowstone bring in millions of dollars to the economy of the surrounding towns like Gardiner, Sliver Gate, Cooke City and others.

The consumptive community is worried about the elk populations being brought down by wolves, when in fact these populations are over objective. Elk are losing access to suitable habitat and quality forage which is the main reason for their decline, not due to predators such as wolves.

Return to the "Best Available Science" to manage wolves and other wildlife, knowing that our wildlife and public lands belong to everyone. People appreciate having input on how lands and wildlife are managed, consumed and taken care of. These lands and animals for all of us to revere, not only those in Montana. Represent the non-consumptive community with a "Wolf Stamp", and this will provide sustainable, long-term funding for wolf and wildlife management in a way that will make us feel involved in the process.

All of these methods and numbers will need to be revised and revisited concerning wolf hunting and quotas.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read these comments. Please make the best decision for wolves going forward to keep them alive and thriving. They are vital to these lands, the habitats they live in the people that take the time to visit them; myself included.

#238

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:14:39 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:15:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 162.202.50.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **joann butkus**
City/Town: **chicago**
State/Province: **IL**
Email Address: **jb7698@att.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves should not be killed for recreation or trophies and the snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. Instead, a population count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. There is currently no reliable wolf population estimate; the iPOM method is so inadequate that Footloose Montana has joined a lawsuit against the state and FWP. The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Trophy hunters and trappers reported killing wolves from a high of 295 in 2018 to 256 in 2022, despite a longer season and additional legal ways of killing wolves in 2022 compared to 2018. This drop in reported killed wolves indicates there are far fewer wolves than FWP claims.

#239

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:43:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:51:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: 35.133.17.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael J Wigert**
City/Town: **Anaconda**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mjwigert50@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need to increase the limits placed on hunting wolves. Wolves are destroying hunting sports I have hunted since a kid. Wolf tracks everywhere scaring off the elk and decreasing their numbers in hunting spots locals have hunted for generations. We need to decrease these packs numbers.

#240

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:16:09 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:25:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:05
IP Address: 101.128.96.81

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Stefanie Steurer
City/Town: Tucson
State/Province: AZ
Email Address: stef-ka@posteo.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the upcoming trapping and hunting season. In my opinion it is important to take into account the input of non-hunting communities.

Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.

Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.

As the actual size of the state's wolf population is not known it is important to halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.

I believe that traps and snares are inhumane and should be banned immediately. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.

That's why trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.

The positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) should be recognized, all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.

Furthermore unfortunately wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.

In conclusion I am opposing the wolf hunt and especially the use of traps and snaring!

#241

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:11:37 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:54:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:42:57
IP Address: 65.131.192.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Terry Zink
City/Town: Marion
State/Province: MT
Email Address: zinksbigskyarcherytargets@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The wolf quota's should be remain the same or raised. Ungulate populations have suffered in R1 R2 & R3 and lowering the wolf quota's played into the hands of the anti trapping groups. The floating date is compromising trappers abilities to trap wolves because of conditions. We would be better off to start have the ability to start the wolf trapping season earlier in October with trap size reduction until the float date starts.

Being able to trap with using a dirt hole set increases a trappers ability to catch wolves, reduces with jaw restrictions catching bears. The ungulate populations in R2 & R3 have suffered also, so reducing quotas is not a good idea at all.

Thank you, Terry L. Zink

#242

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:31:55 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:34:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:35
IP Address: 73.53.107.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brad Thomsen
City/Town:	Edmonds
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	brad@bradthomsen.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The proposed quota is only 26% of the population and it seems wolves in MT are reproducing at up to 155% annually
The 2009 delisting rule written by the US Fish and Wildlife Service directs Montana to manage for 400 wolves based on the suitable habitat for wolves within MT
Montana Legislators directed FWP to reduce wolf numbers in MT
Thank-you

#243

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:06:54 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:35:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:28:21
IP Address: 69.146.202.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Tvardzik**
City/Town: **Anaconda**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mtvardzik@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Lowering wolf quotas is not the answer. Last time the quotas were lowered FWP got sued and it's ongoing. We've been trapping wolves here for over 10 years. The numbers taken and numbers counted have varied and never dropped below management goals. In 2020 was the largest wolf harvest in this state and the population increased the next year. Id much rather let trappers help control the population than let more wolves get killed by each other.

#244

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:32:17 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:38:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:38
IP Address: 98.97.115.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Richard Wildermuth
City/Town:	Corvallis
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rmwildermuth@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello,

Wolves are over 3X what the original proposed population number was set to be. You are now suggesting reducing harvest, that can only mean you are using outside uneducated public opinion to set these quotas, since simple science states wolf numbers are still well above what they should be. The current birth rate will sustain the population using the current quotas, there will be no crash in population. Thank you for your time.

#245

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:46:56 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:51:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:47
IP Address: 174.251.64.15

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Maurice Grefe
City/Town: Bronx
State/Province: NY
Email Address: mauricegrefe085@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I oppose the Fall 2023 - Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas.

Wolf watching in Yellowstone brings in on average \$82 million dollars according to a 2022 study conducted by the University Of Montana.

#246

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:46:46 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:55:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:03
IP Address: 71.36.62.189

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: McGregor Rhodes
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mrhodes50@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am OK with killing wolves and hunting bears without bait or dogs but trapping for fur bearers should be stopped. There is no reason for killing these animals for commercial profit. Hunters use their animals for food, trappers kill for \$\$ and that will be the end of these animals. Trappers are fringe minority and deserve no respect for their killing. Today is 2023 not 1800- there is no reason to kill River Otters, Fishers, Martin, Wolverine, Mink, Badgers, etc. I am a life long hunter but trapping is an outdated activity and has no place in todays world. These animals will soon all be killed for \$\$\$. Please do your job and protect these animals from trapping and stop animal cruelty. Thank you for listening to me--

#247

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:18:10 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:18:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 184.166.227.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dan Struble
City/Town:	Livingston, MT
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	oxylus2019@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Comment points:

The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31.

We support reducing the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 in Region 6.

We support the closure of the trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Rationale:

1. Wolves should not be killed for recreation or trophies and the snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. Instead, a population count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. There is currently no reliable wolf population estimate; the iPOM method is so inadequate that Footloose Montana has joined a lawsuit against the state and FWP. The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Trophy hunters and trappers reported killing wolves from a high of 295 in 2018 to 256 in 2022, despite a longer season and additional legal ways of killing wolves in 2022 compared to 2018. This drop in reported killed wolves indicates there are far fewer wolves than FWP claims.

2. Instead of the proposed floating date for the beginning of the wolf trapping season in grizzly bear recovery zones, the opening date for wolf trapping should be December 31 statewide, not before.

Naturally, grizzlies will not stay within their arbitrary “occupied zones” but will roam in search of a mate, territory, or food. Furthermore, FWP has recently published several observations of grizzlies outside of these “occupied zones”, demonstrating that early wolf trapping will likely impact grizzlies beyond these “occupied zones”. Traps set for wolves and snares will endanger grizzlies and other wild animals. Delaying the wolf trapping season to December 31 will, at the very least, give grizzlies a chance to be in their dens.

3. Trappers are decimating bobcats and other species already struggling for survival. While reducing the trapping of bobcats by 50% in Regions 5 and 6 is commendable, it should be implemented statewide, and not only in two regions. Trappers themselves have noted that bobcats are in steep decline in other regions, particularly in western Montana. The proposed 50% reduction in trapped bobcat quotas in the eastern MT Regions of 5 and 6 has already been agreed upon by the Montana Trappers Association when FWP attended MTA meetings. Because FWP has failed to publish furbearer harvest data for the past two seasons, the general public has been given little ability to provide feedback on the proposed 2024 quotas for bobcats and other furbearers.

4. Trapping is the leading reason why marten in Montana have been extirpated in areas north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15 and in other parts of the state. We support the closure of marten trapping in this area comprising “Wheatland and Judith Basin counties and those portions of Meagher and Cascade counties that are east of the Smith River or east of Highway 89 as it runs south from White Sulphur Springs.”

5. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

It's no coincidence that 120 wolves (41percent) of the hunting and trapping quota is in NW Montana, Region 1, where Commissioner Tabor's family operates Swan Mountain Outfitters. After multiple violations on federal land, Tabor lost his license, so on paper he sold his business to his son. Tabor runs the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and he should recuse himself from decisions that mean profits to his family's outfitting business.

#248

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:18:21 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:22:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:54
IP Address: 146.70.202.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jennifer A Hamner**
City/Town: **Orlando**
State/Province: **FL**
Email Address: **norwulf@protonmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please stop the hunting and trapping of wolves. For far too long we have allowed these cruel practices. Wolves have suffered long at the hands of humans, and have not recovered their populations. They are incredibly important to the ecosystem and for helping keep the populations of wild ungulates healthy. "Management" should be based on SCIENCE, not politics and catering to special interests groups, such as hunters. Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate and should be outlawed. Tourism, wildlife watching, the wonder of wolves, is a huge draw to the region. Far more than any killing. Please, I beg of you to stop the slaughter.

#249

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:39:40 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:42:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:25
IP Address: 35.133.2.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tom Fieber
City/Town: POLSON
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tfieber@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The need for a Quota is questionable since we have never reached a harvest yet that has a significant impact. For now, it only exasperates an issue that hasn't happened. To think that it will appease others has never worked in the past. Managing the landscape for one species at the expense of others is not in the best interest of the ecosystem.

#250

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:43:02 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:45:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 98.125.198.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Julia Howlett
City/Town: Polson
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jhow1229@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

All cruel trapping should be banned completely. We know better as a humanity.

#251

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:45:16 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:57:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:12
IP Address: 209.137.240.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Janet Burke**
City/Town: **Deer Lodge**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **hdnworth@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

These numbers are outrageous, irresponsible and completely unnecessary in controlling our wolf populations. These are decimation quotas that negatively impact the ecosystem and is politically motivated. Our wildlife does not have a seat in Helena and should not be controlled by those that pass legislation to suit a small population of Montanans. Let the people speak, not the lobbied or lobbyists.

#252

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:50:44 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:03:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:03
IP Address: 174.212.227.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tim McKenrick
City/Town:	Boulder
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	timmckenrick@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would like to see the wolf quotas remain the same. I realized this option is not even on the table and question the reason? I watched a meeting last week that vice chair Tabor was attending and all the reasoning was on the word "IF". IF is not sound science and the number they kept using was on the low end of the wolves in the state and "IF" this happens then we will get to a lower number of wolves. In the meantime we get to watch the number of deer and elk deplete. Please consider an alternative to this reduction in the quotas. The MTA has provided an alternative solution.
Thank you for your time. Tim McKenrick and family.

#253

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:04:42 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:19:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:26
IP Address: 204.136.24.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Ashton
City/Town: Montville
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: cats_deb@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I strongly urge you to adopt and enforce policies that stop the slaughter of wolves and support legislation that promotes non-lethal management and restores protections for the Montana wolf population.

Wolves are at the top of the eco-system. Their healthy population is paramount to all animals living in that eco-system and they provide balance that is necessary for all creatures to thrive. Protection of these wolves is imperative.

As such, gray wolves should be protected as follows:

- Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political. And it should favor hunters and ranchers. All stakeholders should be equally represented. It should not be just hunters/ranchers calling the shots. Non-hunting communities also need to have their say.
- Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.
- The model that estimates statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown. IPOM needs to have its accuracy vastly improved and it needs to be used properly.
- Please halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.
- Traps and snares should never be used; they are archaic, inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to all animals that fall into their grasp - not just wolves - and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.
- Trapping on public lands should be illegal; snaring is a primitive and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. Do you want Montana's public image to blast "primitive, archaic, torturous"? That's what it says when these pro-killing methods are employed. It's a turn off to a lot of people who care about animals and who want to visit Montana to see animals in their natural environment.
- Don't underestimate the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.
- Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists. Again, snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.

For all of these reasons, please protect Montana's wolves and stand up to hunters and ranchers who are pressuring you to do otherwise.

#254

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:17:34 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:21:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:16
IP Address: 66.135.70.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dave Windauer**
City/Town: **Columbia falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **davewindauer@gmail**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dropping the wolf quota as much as the proposed is too drastic of a change. Consider lowering it halfway from what it is and what the proposal is.

#255

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:10:53 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:22:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:38
IP Address: 134.228.68.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane Heltebrake
City/Town: Perrysburg
State/Province: OH
Email Address: Jheltebrake@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Have noted your quotas for wolf harvesting are alarming!!! Region 1, alone: 120 wolves! Region 2: 91 wolves! This will destroy entire families. The family structure, is vital of the wolves. Tourism generates thousands if not millions of \$\$, for your State. Once the public is aware of your total disregard for the lives of defenseless wolves, their reaction will not be to your liking. Killing defenseless animals, is never justified.

#256

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:47:31 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:52:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:45
IP Address: 174.198.141.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kyle Queer
City/Town:	Broadus
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kcq_irish_fan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The opening of trapping furbearers in Montana by nonresidents is a selfish move by MSTA. Specifically when it comes to bobcats, there needs to be some regulations for nonresidents when it comes to quotas and checking their traps. I'm Southeast MT, the bobcat is a prized animal that should be saved for residents only. Thank you.

#257

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:42:52 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:03:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:56
IP Address: 23.138.152.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Amy Greer**
City/Town: **Corvallis**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sbalgreer@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Snaring and trapping of wolves should be totally eliminated asap. The count of wolves should be not be done arbitrarily by those who would profit from the decimation of this apex predator that benefits our environment, BUT by a study that is scientifically sound, i.e. accurate. Since I have become more of a realist in my attempts to discourage trapping and make it illegal on public lands, I will propose that if you will not eliminate wolf trapping that the start date should be delayed until December 31 in occupied grizzly bear zones when at the very least, the grizzlies will be in their dens.

Grizzlies roam to find a mate, territory, and food—they do not stay in their "occupied zones" that have been arbitrarily (that word again) assigned. Obviously traps are indiscriminate and those set for wolves will kill grizzlies and other wild animals that may or may not be endangered/protected, i.e. Bobcats and Martens, which are in decline. On that angle, why hasn't FWP published furbearer harvest data for the past two seasons. How can quotas be accurate?!

We are the stewards of our irreplaceable world: Our wildlife is already under stressors of loss of habitat, human encroachment, and climate change. You can make a difference and take some of the pressure off of creatures that share this world with us. Remember, trapping is not fair chase, is unnecessarily cruel, and indiscriminate in its victims.

Lastly it has been brought to my attention that Commissioner Tabor has an outfitting business, Swan Mountain Outfitters. For that reason alone he should recuse himself from voting on decisions that would profit his business. You must know that he had multiple violations on federal land, lost his license, so on paper he sold his business to his son!!! Shame on him if he does not recuse himself and you if you allow him to vote.

Thank you for your time.

#258

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:00:54 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:12:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:21
IP Address: 70.48.116.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Linda
City/Town: Howell
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: ballad.00-signed@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are essential to the ecosystem. They keep herds of ungulates healthy by taking down the animals suffering with chronic wasting disease before it spreads through the herd. Wolves are resistant to the disease. I'm sure you're well aware of the Yellowstone study. In 1995 when the wolves were re-introduced into the park, the herds were healthy, the grasses grew back because there was a more manageable number of ungulates. There was less ground erosion because the grasses had grown back and because there was less erosion the river flowed better. Everything worked better. It seems from a scientific or ecological point of view it would so wrong to continue this free for all trophy hunting. Trapping & snaring are barbaric & cruel, dynamiting wolf dens and killing newborn pups who haven't opened their eyes yet, that will be judged one day by GOD. It is completely amoral and wrong!!!

#259

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:12:36 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:15:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:24
IP Address: 174.22.0.19

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Howard
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	eye_fly99@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please keep the current quotas. I request that you do NOT decrease the wolf quotas. Our ungulates are struggling. If we don't increase ungulate populations we will lose the wolves too.

#260

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:19:07 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:24:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:29
IP Address: 174.212.208.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	DJ Rankosky
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	d_drahthaar@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do not reduce wolf quotas in region 1! This is a bad decision. We have 60% of the states wolves in region 1. Which alone is way over the state's requirement in the wolf management plan. We were just told by the dept that we have 100% pregnancy rates in our mule deer per your study, yet no increase in population. This says one thing, too many predators, not enough recruitment. If you are proposing this in response to pending litigation, that is just bad biology, these people want zero wolves killed. Reducing quotas wont make litigation go away. Do right by our deer and elk. Esp elk on region 1.

#261

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:20:37 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:24:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:14
IP Address: 172.56.201.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kirk fleming**
City/Town: **Columbia falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **flemingkirk.86@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I strongly encourage quotas in region one be left as is! Relying on science over pressure/emotion is the only sound management plan. Our ungulates are relying on sound management! Thank you

#262

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:28:56 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:34:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:41
IP Address: 108.147.32.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shonn Roberts
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	robertsshonn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

My name is Shonn Roberts, I am an avid outdoorsman in region 1. I believe that trapping wolves has played a vital role in re-establishing numbers slowly, but surely in deer and elk. Please, do not disturb the progress we have made by lowering trapping opportunities. Stand up for our deer and elk populations, as they truly need it during this time! Oppose the reduction.

#263

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:26:13 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:40:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:42
IP Address: 192.161.70.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Greg Parks
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: biosealgreg@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need to raise the quota not lessen it! We have been through this before and it will take years and unnecessary loss of game animals to get back in check.

Respectfully, Greg Parks

#264

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:49:02 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:49:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:56
IP Address: 184.167.190.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trinity Reid
City/Town: Columbia Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trinityreid@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please stand up for our deer and elk, decline this proposed reduction. I oppose the proposed region 1 wolf trapping reduction.

#265

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:38:17 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:50:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:05
IP Address: 174.56.51.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen Capra
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	stephen@bvconservation.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Once again we face and new year and quota. We know now that the IPom method being used to count wolves is not accurate. We know using old data with the IPom continues the mistakes. Wolves are dying at a higher rate than you are willing to acknowledge. wolves are wildlife that work in packs, they are self-regulating so there is no need for a hunting season. Trapping does not belong in a modern Montana. It results is surging on a scale that remains unimaginable. Trappers are people with a mental disorder. We know that people like this see control and enjoy watching an animal suffer. I have spent too much time meeting and speaking with trappers, they don't even believe wildlife feels pain, which is complete nonsense.

There is no fair chase in trapping and it should be outlawed.

This year there should be zero quota in 313 and no other trapping or hunting on any part of the Yellowstone border.

Trapping should be reduced in the Western part of the state and in the Paradise valley. Hunting of wolves should be reduced by 30% to make sure we re not wiping out the packs.

We must accept the reality that wolves bring more than \$82 million into our state and trapping less than \$325,000. So why are we allowing this form of cruelty to continue?

Until the state can learn to co-exist and allow wolves to thrive we are never going to find a logical solution. You are the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, not the Livestock board, we cannot continue to kill wolves for the sake of cattlemen. We need wolves for a healthy environment. Stop the slaughter that you control or the anger will only grow and the push to end state control of wolves and allow the feds to take control once and for all.

#266

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:49:01 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:52:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 174.215.21.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bryce Freyholtz
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bfizzle11@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am in total disbelief that you're considering dropping region one wolf down by 75 to 120 for the quota. This region is nowhere near what it used to be and I grew up in the swan valley and have hunted there since I turned 12. My family and I have resorted to hunting the eastern part of the state because the game animals are just not there anymore and it didn't used to be that way until the wolves came in there. They may not have killed many of them but they have definitely dispersed the wildlife from that region. The quota does not need to drop, it needs to go up if anything. It's unacceptable that you are not listening to us outdoorsman who are in the field for many days a year, not just during the hunting season. The quota drop needs to be shot down and it needs to be left at the 195 it is or if anything be brought up.

#267

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:53:48 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:00:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:52
IP Address: 35.133.10.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **linda olson**
City/Town: **Polson**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **olsongraphix@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for your time...

I feel that Wolves should NOT be hunted for recreation or trophies.

The use of traps and snares is inhumane and causes great stress and suffering to highly intelligent animals. There is no fair chase, even prey animals like deer die a more humane death.

I think hunting Wolves is no different than if someone hunted dogs...it's sick.

Thank-you again for your consideration in this matter.

#268

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:58:31 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:03:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:45
IP Address: 98.125.199.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Joel G Vignere**
City/Town: **Lakeside**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **aba303@centurytel.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The fact that we continue to allow trapping especially as a "recreational " pursuit clearly illustrates what a completely despicable race humans are. The department is failing in it's responsibility to manage wildlife species in a scientific manner and yielding authority to the moron politicians. You need to do MUCH better.

#269

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:53:55 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:06:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:21
IP Address: 192.161.71.216

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jennifer Nitz
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: grizzalo@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

A count of wolves must be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. Until then, the snaring and trapping of wolves must be eliminated, and no wolves should be killed.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31 at the soonest.

I support reducing the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 at most in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 at most in Region 6.

I support the closure of the trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

Commissioner Tabor must recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

#270

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:26:25 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:06:27 PM
Time Spent: 02:40:02
IP Address: 69.146.110.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ian Wargo
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	iwargo@rpa-kal.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2023-Winter 2024 Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas. I am confused by the Department's approach to reduce wolf quotas when we just increased mountain lion quotas in an attempt to curb predation and falling ungulate populations. Picking on one predator and giving another a free pass shows a lack of biological management goals and just indicates that the wolf quotas are being proposed to mitigate social pressures. In northwest Montana we are experiencing a documented 100 year low in our ungulate populations. Our elk, mule deer and moose numbers have particularly suffered, and those species are wolves' primary food source. I strongly encourage the department to take a more holistic approach to management in northwest Montana. We know that we have habitat issues in northwest Montana, but we also know that we have predation issues, so the proposed increase to mountain lion quotas made sense but I am having difficulty tracking the logic of following up the mountain lion decision with a proposed reduction in wolf quotas. The department really needs to look at linking predator quotas to the carrying capacity of our ungulate populations. For example, the South Fork of the Flathead River elk count was conducted this spring. There were 273 elk total counted, this is down from 1,400 plus in the 80s and 4,000-6,000 on the Flathead National Forest in the 30's. What is more concerning is our recruitment. Last year the calf recruitment for the South Fork was 15.2, and in the prior 15 years we have had multiple years with documented single digit recruitment. Is that 100% driven by wolves, no, but wolves are a definite contributor. Until we can get our elk and deer recruitment boosted in northwest Montana, we need to boost our predator harvest across the board, because wolf populations are on the cusp of crashing due to lack of prey base, that's not opinion, it's well documented that you need recruitment of ~30 to have a stable elk or deer population. If we had an infinite prey base and I would agree with the Department's proposal, but we simply do not, and if we don't keep up on our predator management our deer and elk populations will crash.

This decision seems to be more driven as a risk mitigation measure to avoid potential litigation as opposed to being based on biological drivers. If the Department is concerned about being sued over wolf numbers, maybe we they should consider stepping up their public education on the current prey base, expand collaborative efforts to improve habitat to help our ungulates so there is more food for wolves, and we also need to step up our efforts in collaring wolves and tracking their populations. The Department needs to swallow their pride and partner with local trappers to get more collars on wolves. There is no reason that we should not have collars on the minimum number of breeding pairs required by the delisting rule. I have spoken with multiple trappers who would be willing to work with the Department to get collars on wolves. I do not understand why that has not been leveraged more.

We know we have predation issues, let's turn up the dial until we see the response in the recruitment. Let's do more for habitat, and let's do a better job documenting the wolves we do have.

We need to keep the quotas where they are currently at.

Lastly, the floating start date needs to be looked at and reconsidered. The late trapping start date in occupied grizzly area has led to decreased wolf harvest. Early trapping is most effective and there needs to be an option for trappers to get out there early. The Department should consider modifying the trapping regulations to allow trappers using smaller foot hold traps that are not capable of holding a bear earlier in the season. The only reason the larger wolf traps are needed is to work in deep snow conditions. If early trapping were allowed the jaw spread could be limited to prevent bycatch of bears. Then once bears have denned, the larger traps could be used.

Thanks for your time.

#271

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:14:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:17:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 166.205.147.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Andrew speer**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **drew2602@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am against the reduction of the Wolf quotas due to the fact that the wolf population has descimated my family's public hunting locations of elk and deer. We have to to travel out of our region to find any elk so I believe that the wolve quota should stay the same if not increase. Thank you for your consideration!

#272

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:25:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:28:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 174.234.13.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dustin Bratton**
City/Town: **Colorado Springs**
State/Province: **CO**
Email Address: **dustin.s.bratton@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I oppose the proposed reduction in the wolf quota in the NW region

#273

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:20:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:29:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:00
IP Address: 76.64.196.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **shawn winters**
City/Town: **new york**
State/Province: **NY**
Email Address: **bookofthearts@yahoo.ca**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

halt wolf quotas until IPOM is replaced with a more accurate system; ban all leg hold traps and snares, as not only are they some of the cruelest things ever made, but they make your state look horrible, like you have no respect for animals, will trap anything that comes by them (even humans), and like you're stuck in the past; stop listening to ranchers- of course they want wolves dead, but wolves were there before their ranches and animal agriculture must take a back seat to co-existing with nature; kill more wolves and your tourism will go down, as many people will be disgusted to hear how your state deals with wolves and there will be less of them for wolf watchers.

#274

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:04:22 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:33:08 PM
Time Spent: 01:28:46
IP Address: 71.36.51.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Larry D Rattray
City/Town:	Proctor
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rattpak@centurytel.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

My name is Larry Rattray. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed wolf regulations. I attended both of the 2 meetings that the Montana Fur Harvesters set up with Bryan Wakeling about this a few days ago. He explained the reasoning for the departments proposed quotas. I think his reasoning is good but I think his severe quota reductions are excessive when you consider that the very slight decrease in the IPOM wolf population is only for the past couple of years and could very well be a result of weather or dispersal conditions that did not allow for as many sightings.

I appreciate the challenges each of you face regarding this particular issue. Trying to appease the people who are analyzing this with their heart rather than their mind is not going to work. I can accept that we are going to have wolves in Montana but my main concern is that we need to have the Ungulates and the current overpopulation of wolves has decimated the deer, elk, sheep and moose in the areas I hunt in Western Montana. I can agree that we do not need a statewide quota of 450 wolves, especially since we have failed to come remotely close to that number. Given the department's statistic of having to reduce overall wolf numbers by 30% to 40% for the entire population to begin to be reduced, the proposed quota of 289 wolves is totally inadequate. Region 3 still has half of the department's statewide goal and they are proposing cutting it in almost half of last year's harvest. We are at a statewide population that is nearly equal to the suggested overall maximum population of the entire Northern Rocky Mountain Ecosystem.

I can endorse Chris Morgan of the Montana Trappers Association suggestion that the numbers should "be considered a "threshold". If a particular region comes up to the threshold, the Commission could then reconvene and decide whether to extend the season, or allow the region to close. Aside from the regional thresholds, I don't believe we need a hard "Harvest Quota". Based on the original numbers proposed by the USFWS during delisting, we should not have more than 400 wolves in Montana to keep from impacting our ungulate herds. Watching the wolf harvest in each region would ensure that we have a diversified population that would ensure a healthy population. There is no reason for an overall quota until the statewide population is getting close to the sustainable population needed for the 15 breeding pairs required by the department. Each region should be regulated independently. Region 1 has more than what is proposed by the Department for the entire state.

I remember attending meetings back before the wolves were released from Yellowstone that the USFWS said we needed 100 wolves and 10 breeding pairs to keep them off the Endangered Species List. The Department set the level at 150 and 15 for a safety factor. Creating thresholds shows we're recognizing the slight reduction of the overall population as shown by IPOM but moves us toward controlling the overpopulation of wolves that we are currently enduring.

Again, thank you for considering my thoughts and recommendations. I do appreciate all that you do to try to balance the wildlife populations of Montana and still appease those who want to control the state solely for one species.

#275

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:27:26 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:40:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:57
IP Address: 99.179.153.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ryan Smith
City/Town: Houston
State/Province: TX
Email Address: ryanws88@me.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Hello, I have had the opportunity to hunt elk south of Missoula for the previous 2 archery seasons. I have seen first hand the impact that the wolves have had on the units that I hunt. Last year, we found numerous kill sites and heard wolves everyday that we were hunting. This had a significant impact on our experience as the elk were not bugling. I love the state of Montana and agree that having a balance of wildlife, opportunities for hunters & trappers, and protection of ranchers herds are all items to consider. Please help us protect the wildlife populations by continuing to reduce the number of wolves so that we can enjoy the outdoor experience for generations to come.

#276

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:43:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:45:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 47.181.170.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **The #RelistWolves Campaign**
Email Address: **info@relistwolves.org**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

In 2021, unethical hunters and trappers killed more than 270 wolves in Montana. 21 of those wolves spent 95-100% of their lives in Yellowstone National Park — where they are supposed to be completely protected. Despite there being no scientific or ecological reason to kill Yellowstone wolves, minority special interest organizations are thoughtlessly, and ruthlessly slaughtering them. As someone deeply concerned about the welfare of Montana's wolves and the integrity of its ecosystems, I believe it is crucial to implement science-based, ethical wolf hunting and trapping policies to restore and ensure long-term sustainability.

First, the current method of monitoring wolf distribution through Integrated Patch Occupancy Modeling (iPOM) must be improved to ensure accuracy and reliability. At present, the method is not scientifically sound because it relies primarily on information from the hunting community, making the recommendations from the model biased and inaccurate. Therefore, wolf hunting quotas should be halted until a scientifically sound model is implemented, especially the quota for WMU 313, which includes the Yellowstone National Park boundary. We must adopt non-lethal and restorative legislation for the state's wolf population just beyond the park borders.

Yellowstone wolves fuel economic growth in the state by drawing tourists to the area who contribute \$82 million in sustainable revenue for Montanans. Instead, Montana is wasting thousands of taxpayer dollars a year on inhumane and biased wolf management tactics that pose a substantial threat to the economic growth and stability of the state.

Finally, Montana wolf attacks on livestock represent a very small portion of unintended livestock deaths — less than one percent. Additionally, livestock reimbursement measures are in place to compensate owners for rare instances of loss. Moreover, wildlife managers and livestock producers have access to various non-lethal management tools to reduce conflicts with wolves. Unfortunately, because of the current legal framework, people are opting for inhumane hunting practices rather than ethical preventative methods to control conflict with wolves.

I urge you to take these points into consideration and adopt policies that align with the best available science and prioritize the long-term sustainability of Montana's wolves and wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will make the right choices for Montana's wildlife and its people.

Sincerely,

The #RelistWolves Campaign

#277

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:42:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:48:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:41
IP Address: 92.119.36.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Carla Bonetti
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: carlabonetti@me.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm not going to waste my time stating the obvious reasons, including scientific data, because you don't care about science. We know that your minds are already made up or you wouldn't have been appointed by Gov. Gianforte. However, let the record show that I OPPOSE your decision to increase the number of wolves that can be killed either by hunting or trapping. It is appalling that you do not consider the majority of Montana residents who are against this.

#278

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:45:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:49:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:24
IP Address: 216.24.58.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jack Naleway**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **naleway1@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would just like to state my opinion on the idea of reducing wolf harvest quotas, while I have yet to harvest a wolf myself, I have been finding myself in earshot and eyesight of wolves on a far more regular basis in the last 3-4 years in the areas I hunt in NW Montana. The idea of reducing a a quota would be detrimental to the ungulate population that is already suffering in Region 1.

Thank you for your time.

Jack Naleway

#279

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:49:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:09:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:45
IP Address: 72.255.182.29

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael dupea**
City/Town: **White Sulphur Springs**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **drifftenalong800842@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

This is my full feeling wolves! I am not against seeing them or having them in the state but we must have controls left in place to control them. The wolf is beautiful and lethal all in one. Too many wolves and they decimate everything from wild animal numbers to live stock and pets. If there is a problem they must be handled. I am a trapper and big game hunter. Recreationalist and Montana born and raised rancher so I do see all sides of this. I remember the first wolf I saw (ran in front of my truck) beautiful black with white guard hairs yellow eyes and mystical. He later on killed three local ranchers calves. I hate to see the wolf turned into a money maker that is given free run on killing and numbers. Also these are not the same gray timber wolf that my Great grand parents had to deal with when homesteading in Montana in the 1880's. One was also a government trapper. I have caught a wolf in a foot hold trap. It is important to have all means available to handle these predators. Plus sportsmen need to have game to hunt. Michael Dupea

#280

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:08:57 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:11:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 205.220.208.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Abe Troyer
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	confluence00@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We have declining ungulate populations, especially moose across north west montana where I hunt. Predator management needs to reflect this reality and we need to expand wolf quotas instead of reducing them

#281

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:10:17 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:11:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 174.198.137.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Colton Bagnoli
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Colton@theflyrifleman.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do not reduce the wolf quotas... we need to stay firm against litigation regardless.. the ungulate population of Northwest Montana is declining and cannot support more wolves. Thank you

#282

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:12:26 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:14:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 173.25.221.39

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kyle Ernest Hanson
City/Town: Iowa City
State/Province: IA
Email Address: Hanson8907@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Good afternoon,

I'm writing you here today to respectfully request to increase the Wolf harvest quota in the future until ungulate numbers are at a sustainable and thriving level. Thank you for your time

#283

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:14:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:16:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 72.181.128.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cade Galyean
City/Town: Dallas
State/Province: TX
Email Address: cgalyean12@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The wolf population is growing while deer, elk, and moose are declining. Further restrictions will exacerbate the problem. Look at Washington they refuse to control predator populations while their elk and deer populations have declined rapidly. Please stop letting the California transplants ruin your state like they are doing to mine.

#284

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:18:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:19:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:00
IP Address: 65.100.91.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brock Crossley
City/Town: Casper
State/Province: WY
Email Address: b_crossley3@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Leave the quotas as they are...deer/elk/moose don't need anymore help with numbers declining

#285

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:23:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:28:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:46
IP Address: 76.182.19.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Amanda Wight
City/Town: Washington
State/Province: DC
Email Address: awight@humanesociety.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Date July 24, 2023

Fish and Wildlife Commission
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
fwpwd@mt.gov

Dear Chair Robinson, Vice Chair Tabor, and members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Montana, I am writing regarding the proposals for the 2023-2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas. While we support the changes to reduce the statewide wolf quota, this reduction does nothing to prevent Montana's wolves from a brush with extinction because a sustainable wolf population must be viable to prevent inbreeding. According to the cover sheet, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is making this recommendation with the continued goal of reducing the state's wolf population, yet to do so goes against the best available science and will continue to harm Montana's economy and reputation as a responsible steward of wildlife.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park's inability to maintain a stable wolf population signals to the federal government and to courts that Montana can never be trusted to manage wolves without federal oversight. Furthermore, the recent changes to Montana's wolf management take a steep turn from years of more reasoned wildlife management in Montana, and they move the state toward a trend of managing wildlife populations significantly downward—a path that resulted in listing of species under the Endangered Species Act in the first place due to harmful state management policies—what courts have termed as “inadequate regulatory mechanisms”.

The best available science also demonstrates that killing wolves will not reduce conflicts with livestock or boost already high ungulate populations.

Protect Yellowstone's iconic, beloved wolves

We are particularly concerned with the continued quota of six wolves in WMU 313, which borders Yellowstone National Park. Such a quota conflicts with the best available science and public values, has already harmed multiple decades of world renowned wolf research, and could damage Montana's multi-billion dollar, wildlife-watching tourism economy and reputation.

Studies show that killing wolves causes especially severe super-additive-mortality effects, because their complex pack structure makes them particularly susceptible to social disruption. The human-caused death of individual adult wolves harms family group cohesion and has a disproportionately large influence on population dynamics. Wolves exposed to heavy hunting also experience increased stress and reproductive hormone imbalance. The human-caused loss of breeding females has been shown to cause complete dissolution of social groups and abandonment of territory. The human-caused loss of adults also diminishes pup survival and consequently the survival of the pack.

Furthermore, researchers recently estimated that the 2021, “direct spending by Yellowstone National Park visitors who would not have visited the park without the presence of wolves is likely at least \$82.7 million.” Notably, this value includes only direct spending and does not account for the “multiplier” effect within the 3-state economy of re-spending portions of this amount by workers and business owners.” However, studies show that killing wolves in areas adjacent to protected areas (such as Yellowstone National Park) significantly reduces wolf sightings in those protected areas. Killing wolves, especially Yellowstone National Park wolves who venture into WMU 313, could therefore reduce the possibility of wolf sightings and harm Montana's economy. Yellowstone's wolves must be protected from exploitation by hunters and trappers by instituting a zero quota in WMU 313.

FWP must dispense with faulty population modeling estimators for its carnivores

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Reducing the wolf population is contrary to the best available science and public values. There is strong scientific evidence that suggests Montana's wolf population is already smaller than FWP purports due to considerable issues with the agency's use of the "Integrated Patch Occupancy Modeling" ("iPOM") method to estimate population size and the substantial human-caused mortality taking place. In an unpublished scientific review, Creel (2022) analyzes Montana and Idaho's population modelling methods, concluding, "important changes in the wolf populations of Idaho and Montana are likely to go undetected by the monitoring methods now in use." It is scientifically irresponsible to base any management decision on inaccurate data, and they harm FWP's reputation.

Trophy hunting, trapping and predator control harm wolf societies compounding offspring mortality

Additionally, scientific research demonstrates that trophy hunting and trapping wolves can result in death and disruption beyond the individual wolf hunted or trapped. The best available science describes this as "additive" and "super-additive" mortality. Killing single adult wolves can result in the loss of entire packs, by causing the loss of dependent offspring and disrupting the pack's social structure.

Montana must maintain a minimum viable population ("MVP") of wolves to ensure maintenance of genetic integrity, especially because there is likely little dispersal from Idaho or Wyoming because they hammer their wolf populations. Reed et al. (2003) indicated that as many as 5,000 to 7,000 wolves would be required as MVP for gray wolves, which the Northern Rocky Mountain population has not achieved. Furthermore, Frankham et al. (2014) suggested that genetic effective population sizes of at least 1,000 wolves are required to ensure long-term genetic viability.

Trapping wolves harms non-target species, pets, and wolves themselves

Traps are notorious for capturing non-target species, including domestic dogs and cats, and for their cruelty. Since our 2018 comments researchers have published other trapping studies. Humane trapping standards, including U.S.'s so-called best management practices or "BMPs," are woefully outdated by two decades and far from humane. Additionally, animal handling and killing methods have no humane standards either. Even researchers struggle with humaneness while trapping wolves.

Gese et al. (2019) compared the usage of foothold traps to foot snares used to capture wolves (for research) and found that many injuries are impossible to see on live animals and can only be discovered postmortem. Their study showed:

- 61% of wolves who were captured in foothold traps and 5% of wolves captured in foothold cable snares sustained injuries to the feet and legs such as lacerations, punctures, and lost toes.
- 26% of the wolves captured in foothold traps had injuries to their mouths such as cut lips and lost teeth, while 77% of the snared wolves had injuries to their mouths including gum, tongue, and lip injuries.

Their research shows that even under the best conditions where traps are monitored by researchers, wolves suffer grave bodily harm while restrained in foothold traps or snares, but many of those injuries are not detectable on live animals.

Wolves injured by snares may later die from injuries or reduced ability to hunt or forage for food. In 2018, a federally-protected gray wolf with a snare wrapped around his muzzle was euthanized by authorities near Duluth, Minnesota. An eyewitness observed that the wire snare "...was wrapped tight around its nose, and embedded into the nose. It clearly could not open its mouth at all. It was very thin." A local wildlife rehabilitation center added, "He might have been able to lick up some snow and sniff roadkill, but he had not been able to eat. He had been starving, and was a skeleton of fur and bones."

Proulx et al. (2015) investigated how snares affect wolves. Their results are disturbing: "Killing neck snares are inadequate for consistently and quickly rendering canids unconscious. Because of collateral blood circulation, it is almost impossible to stop blood flow to and from the brain by tightening a snare around the neck. Also, it is difficult to collapse the trachea due to its rigid cartilaginous rings and adjacent musculature. Furthermore, weather conditions impact the function of snares, and the animals' stride and posture when entering the loop affect capture location on the body. Also, in an attempt to escape, animals frequently chew the snare, and cut their mouths and break their teeth. If they do not escape, they then suffer a slow death with the snare embedded in their neck. Animals may develop a water or jelly head when not killed quickly, i.e., an extreme case of edema due to watery fluid collecting in the tissues of the cervical region. If they escape with the snare still closed on their neck, they may suffer for many days or weeks and eventually die with the snare cable cutting into their skin and muscles."

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

MFWP must stop allowing the overly liberal snaring and trapping of wolves to protect all animals, including those threatened with extinction and pets. Trapping and snaring are cruel, outdated and controversial methods.

Killing wolves indirectly harms native ungulate populations because of diseases, other issues

Killing wolves and reducing the wolf population will not boost elk numbers nor will it resolve already rare conflicts with livestock. Elk and other ungulate hunting numbers in Montana continue to be consistently high, and across the state, elk populations are reported to be at or above objective. Even if the population was struggling, the best available science demonstrates that indiscriminately killing wolves and other native carnivores will not grow deer and elk herds for hunters because it fails to address the underlying environmental issues—such as habitat loss, loss of migration corridors and inadequate nutrition—that harm prey populations. Furthermore, wolves and other native carnivores also play a critical role in suppressing and limiting the prevalence of disease in prey species, including chronic wasting disease (CWD), an epidemic plaguing cervids that continues to spread across North America, including in Montana.

Wolves kill 0.004% of livestock in Montana

Livestock losses to wolves are rare in Montana and in every area in which they live. According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), livestock producers in Montana lose 89 times more cattle to causes like disease, respiratory problems, and bad weather than to wolves. Furthermore, in calendar year 2022, USDA-Wildlife Services confirmed just 58 cattle, 41 sheep, and 4 livestock guard dogs were killed by wolves in Montana. To put that into perspective, at the start of 2022 there were a total of 2.2 million cattle and 190,000 sheep in the state. In response to these few conflicts, 45 wolves were killed in 2022 (35 by USDA Wildlife Services and 10 by private citizens when wolves were seen chasing or threatening livestock).

Non-lethal methods are effective and humane and must be livestock grower's first defense measure

Many studies have questioned the efficacy of killing native carnivores to reduce conflicts between the native carnivores and livestock. Non-lethal methods to prevent conflicts are more effective, economical, and humane than killing wolves. New studies show that the best remedies for protecting cattle, sheep and other domestic animals come from non-lethal measures.

Montana's regulatory mechanisms fail to protect wolves and may subject FWP to federal oversight

Finally, Montana's insistence on significantly reducing the state's wolf population and allowing expanded methods of killing, including bounties, could lead to the relisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains under the federal Endangered Species Act. In response to the passage of wolf-killing laws and regulations in Montana and Idaho, the Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society Legislative Fund, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Sierra Club petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter "Service") to restore federal protection under the Endangered Species Act to gray wolves on May 26, 2021. Because the recent legislation in these states calls for the near eradication of wolves, the petition explains that returning wolves to federal management is both legally required and necessary for these wolves' survival and recovery. In September 2021, the Service announced that wolves may warrant federal protection and initiated a status review of wolves in the western United States.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while the Humane Society of the United States is supportive of reducing the overall statewide wolf quota, we strongly urge the Commission to set the quota in WMU 313 at zero and reduce and eliminate wolf trophy hunting and trapping to the extent allowable by law. Trophy hunting and trapping wolves conflicts with the best available science and will harm Montana's eco-tourism economy and reputation in wildlife conservation.

A copy of these comments that include applicable scientific citations will also be submitted via email, as well as a copy of our comments regarding the 2022-23 wolf hunting and trapping regulations, which delve further into the science demonstrating the problems with Montana's current approach to wolf conservation and management.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wight
Program Manager, Wildlife Protection
The Humane Society of the United States
awight@humanesociety.org

#286

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:23:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:31:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:48
IP Address: 172.58.47.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Lane Firestone
City/Town: Plains
State/Province: MT
Email Address: firestonecon@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

It looks like this is a plan to reduce the wolf quota in Region one, that is completely insane! Our ungulates can not sustain the current amount of predators and this will just make it worse. The elk and mule deer populations are nowhere near there potential in most of region one as it is. If anything we should be advocating for more predator control.

#287

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:29:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:33:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:09
IP Address: 64.112.190.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Nolan
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jjnolan47@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I oppose the reduction of the wolf quota. I would agree with it if wolf populations were at their target. They are not and are well above where they should be. The decimation of ungulate species is an unintended consequence of high wolf numbers. Wolf advocates will stop at nothing. They do not take into account the herd being reduced by these large predators. I can be reached for comment anytime.

John Nolan

#288

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:38:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:39:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 47.47.150.34

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Shawn Nardella
City/Town: Layrel
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Leave quotas how they are. Or offer more wolf hunting! The wolf packs are doing just fine as elk, moose and deer are suffering from all the predators! Quit trying to change Montana!

#289

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:28:12 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:00:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:32:45
IP Address: 107.191.168.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeff Graham**
City/Town: **Libby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jefflgraham1960@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm located in region 1 in NW Montana . I've lived in Montana Born and raised of 63 years and outdoorsman hunting and fishing in the state. Over the past 15 years I watched the wolf population grow and thrive in my area alone with the rest of western Montana , Idaho & Wyoming. I feel with the numbers that at a stable and growing numbers that the gray wolf needs to be managed to keep there numbers in check. Mean while the moose population in my area has dropped to the point that it will take years of not decades to come back . The dear and elk have also taking a bad turn for the worst also.

Although I'm a hunter and trapper , I feel that in region 1 The use of snares should have its own season that does not overlap the regular trapping season & only then if the quota's afe not met with reg hunting and trapping methods. I feel that the snare not set in a correct way or method it can effect other species making release difficult if not impossible.

Looking at FW&P info handed out and discussed at the July 20th meeting that was held in Kalispell region 1 head quarter showing quotas have never been reached that the season & limits should remain open with out taking anything away from the sportsman in Montana . If at a later date info changes and the wolf population takes a big hit then it can be look at further and not because anti hunters and trappers in other states should effect our seasons.

If the state is looking for 25 or 50 breeding pairs or what ever number they feel is a safe . Then the state should Collier that many pairs and make those pairs safe and not to be harvested . That being said you would always have that safe zone your looking for !

Not to be out of line , but if people in other states wants to have Gray wolves then they should ask there state wildlife commission to introduce the gray wolf into there area and not worry about what others do. Thanks for the chance to offer my feeling on this matter !

#290

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:56:09 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:03:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:05
IP Address: 108.147.32.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Caroline Klarr**
City/Town: **Pray**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **klarrcaroline@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm commenting today because I'm against the decision to keep a quota of 6 in wolf management unit 313 bordering Yellowstone. The quota should be at 1 to reduce the number of wolves from Yellowstone killed. There also must be a quota of 1 wolf in former wolf management unit 110 which bordered glacier and I'm writing today also asking for the reinstalling wolf management unit 110.

Quotas in region 6 and 7 should be 1 wolf with the lack of evidence showing a high concentration of wolves in eastern Montana.

You must stop counting wolves through IPOM and count wolves through on the ground field work. Other states like Wyoming game and fish do minimum counts to count their wolves and I would like to know, as a state resident of Montana how many wolves there actually are as a 4th generation Montanan.

Wolves are worth more alive than dead. Wolf watching in Yellowstone brings \$82 million annually according to a university of Montana 2022 economic study. Considering the governor of Montana is about and for a thriving economy, a thriving economy means keeping wolf watching a thriving economic industry in Yellowstone, and further argues the need to bring wolf management unit 313 to 1 wolf.

Thank you for your time, sincerely, Caroline.

#291

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:20:20 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:03:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:18
IP Address: 63.153.73.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Connie Poten
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rattlefarm@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping and Wolf Seasons

Without an accurate count of wolves, there should be no wolf killing. This is basic wildlife management. The iPOM method of counting wolves does not include on-the-ground counting, does not include poached wolves, and does not hold up under scrutiny because it is easy to manipulate. The drop in wolves killed each year indicates a much lower population than the iPOM claims. Until an accurate counting of wolves is made, there is no reason to keep killing them. There is no deadline for reducing the number of wolves in Montana.

Eliminate trapping and snaring of wolves. It is sadistic torture of a keystone species that is the only known mitigator of CWD. The bycatch is not reported. This is an unnecessary assault on all wildlife for the pleasure of a few trappers. These steel devices threaten public safety and there is no way to monitor them. People cannot open them without tools. The 48-hour trap check requirement is unenforceable. The best thing to do is suspend wolf trapping and snaring before a tragedy occurs.

Landowners should not get to kill 100 wolves, their own private trophy opportunities.

What constitutes a “potential threat”? A wolf in Deer Lodge could be considered a potential threat to the rest of the state. This end run around the quota shows an appalling lack of respect and responsibility for a keystone species by Montana’s Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Livestock owners must be required to use nonlethal means first and lethal only when a wolf is actively pursuing livestock or dogs.

Commissioner Pat Tabor should recuse himself from decisions that affect his family’s outfitting business. It’s no coincidence that 41 percent (120 wolves) of the wolf hunting and trapping quota is in NW Montana, Region 1, where Commissioner Tabor operates Swan Mountain Outfitters.

Harvest Reductions for Bobcats

Reducing the hunting and trapping of bobcats by 50% in regions 5 and 6 are commendable, but this reduction should be statewide. Trappers have noted that bobcats are in steep decline in other regions, particularly in western Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Connie Poter

#292

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:56:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:07:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:38
IP Address: 71.32.18.28

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Phil Knight
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	pknight@q.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. The "IPOM" model should be dropped.

Snaring and trapping of wolves is cruel and indiscriminate. Wolves suffer in traps and snares. Wolves and other animals at times escape traps but end up mutilated with missing body parts. Any sort of hunting or trapping that results in obvious and avoidable suffering and mutilation has no place in the modern world should be banned.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31. Better yet, get rid of wolf tapping altogether.

I do not support any trapping of bobcats or other animals either. These are beautiful and rarely seen animals that should be left alone to fulfill their lives.

I support the closure of the trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Rationale:

1. Wolves should not be killed for recreation or trophies and the snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. Instead, a population count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate.

The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Trophy hunters and trappers reported killing wolves from a high of 295 in 2018 to 256 in 2022, despite a longer season and additional legal ways of killing wolves in 2022 compared to 2018. This drop in reported killed wolves indicates there are far fewer wolves than FWP claims.

2. Instead of the proposed floating date for the beginning of the wolf trapping season in grizzly bear recovery zones, the opening date for wolf trapping should be December 31 statewide, not before.

Naturally, grizzlies will not stay within their arbitrary "occupied zones" but will roam in search of a mate, territory, or food. Furthermore, FWP has recently published several observations of grizzlies outside of these "occupied zones", demonstrating that early wolf trapping will likely impact grizzlies beyond these occupied zones. Traps set for wolves and snares will endanger grizzlies and other wild animals. Delaying the wolf trapping season to December 31 will, at the very least, give grizzlies a chance to be in their dens.

Trappers are decimating bobcats and other species already struggling for survival. While reducing the trapping of bobcats by 50% in Regions 5 and 6 is commendable, it should be implemented statewide, and not only in two regions. Trappers themselves have noted that bobcats are in steep decline in other regions, particularly in western Montana. The proposed 50% reduction in trapped bobcat quotas in the eastern MT Regions of 5 and 6 has already been agreed upon by the Montana Trappers Association when FWP attended MTA meetings. Because FWP has failed to publish furbearer harvest data for the past two seasons, the general public has been given little ability to provide feedback on the proposed 2024 quotas for bobcats and other furbearers.

4. Trapping is the leading reason why marten in Montana have been extirpated in areas north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15 and in other parts of the state. We support the closure of marten trapping in this area comprising "Wheatland and Judith Basin counties and those portions of Meagher and Cascade counties that are east of the Smith River or east of Highway 89 as it runs south from White Sulphur Springs."

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

5. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

It's no coincidence that 120 wolves (41percent) of the hunting and trapping quota is in NW Montana, Region 1, where Commissioner Tabor's family operates Swan Mountain Outfitters. After multiple violations on federal land, Tabor lost his license, so on paper he sold his business to his son. Tabor runs the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and he should recuse himself from decisions that mean profits to his family's outfitting business.

#293

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:41:41 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:10:16 PM
Time Spent: 04:28:35
IP Address: 71.15.195.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rosie Costain**
City/Town: **Belgrade**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rcostain@peopleandcarnivores.org**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am submitting comments on behalf of People and Carnivores—a Montana-based nonprofit that uses human-carnivore conflict-prevention tools to protect people and property and keep carnivores like wolves from preying on livestock and otherwise damaging human property. We ask the Commission to choose Alternative B and amend the proposal by lowering wolf quotas overall and not allowing harvesting of any kind in WMU 313.

The state wolf population saw a reduction in 2022 and should not be reduced further, especially without evaluating the current population level. Furthermore, “potential threat to human safety, livestock, or dogs” is often cited as a reason to reduce wolf populations. We know from our and others’ extensive experience working with communities and private landowners, as well as from research, that the use of non-lethal conflict prevention is effective. Notably, on nearly all of our hundreds of projects, once we apply conflict-prevention tools, we see no losses for humans, property, or carnivores.

Additionally, we urge the Commission to close WMU 313 to wolf harvest. Hunters and trappers have ample opportunity to take wolves in Region 3 outside of WMU 313. The wolves that occupy this unit include wolves that mostly reside within Yellowstone National Park and provide critical scientific data on wolf behavior that can guide and improve management decisions across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and requests.

#294

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:05:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:10:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:59
IP Address: 184.166.97.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Vicki Kober
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: vickikober@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Trapping benefits very few Montanains whereas it negatively impacts many more including people, domestic animals, and wildlife. Trapping is cruial and inhumane and I oppose it completety. As a third generation Montanain, I am committed to living with wildlife. I see no sound argument for trapping.

#295

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:16:13 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:11:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:55:16
IP Address: 192.161.70.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Vicki Sielaff**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vsie0102@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Once again, MTFWP is proposing wolf quotas for the upcoming hunting season without having conducted an accurate, scientific wolf count. Everyone seems to agree that wolf numbers have dropped, as have pack numbers, mostly due to "harvesting" by hunters (poaching notwithstanding), yet MTFWP continues using heavy handed management methods which cater overwhelmingly to hunting and ranching communities. Snaring is indiscriminate, and the use of night optics to hunt wolves is the antithesis of fair chase, yet both are legal in MT. Wildlife belongs to all of us. I would ask that you start representing the rest of Montanans...the non-consumptive wildlife watchers and those of us who appreciate having wolves on public lands. Also, elk populations, overall, are at or over objectives. Livestock depredation from wolves is rare, and when it does occur, confirmed kills are reimbursed. Then there's the millions of dollars of tourism revenue which YNP wolves bring to MT Gateway communities. Therefore, I ask that 1) the wolf quota for WMU 313 be reduced to 1 this season. 2) I prefer that snaring and trapping of wolves be stopped, but since that seems unlikely, at least delay the opening day for wolf trapping to Dec 31 statewide 3) Update the Montana Wolf Mgmt Plan to represent all Montanans , not just ranchers, hunters and trappers 4) Return to "Best Available Science" to manage wolves and other wildlife. Thank you.

#296

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:25:33 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:26:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:00
IP Address: 70.172.80.137

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nick Willius
City/Town:	Mesa
State/Province:	AZ
Email Address:	williusn@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do NOT lower wolf quotas. The deer, elk and moose populations are dwindling.

#297

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:20:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:26:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:39
IP Address: 47.20.235.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Carli Dapper
City/Town: Sea Girt
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: carlidapper@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please stop this inhumane trapping and killing of wolves. It is unfair and against everything that is right and decent... once these animals step across the imaginary national park boundary they are a target. The hunt for sport has to stop. These hunters want nothing more than a the trophy for their wall. What are we doing for the next generation? This is a cruel and inhumane practice, and it must be stopped.

Thank you for your time and understanding in this important matter. We need your help now!!!

#relistwolves

#298

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 1:58:41 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:28:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:37
IP Address: 208.70.13.191

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Angela James
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trolln406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I support any and all reductions to the proposed killing of wolves in Montana. Trapping, snaring, baiting and night hunting do not constitute any level of fair chase.

I support reduction or closure of bobcat and marten trapping.

Please close beaver trapping to improve wildlife habitat and use only non-lethal relocation methods, if necessary.

#299

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:37:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:40:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 72.175.126.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Easton Enott
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: enotteaston@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I'm opposed to this reduction in quota's. The deer, elk, moose etc.. need all the help they can get.

#300

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 23, 2023 7:24:38 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:40:39 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 73.37.52.247

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mary Ericson**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

There should be a quota of zero for wolf trapping and trophy hunting. There is no justification, scientific or ethical, for inflicting pain and suffering on wolves for the purpose of recreation. There's also no scientific rationale for reducing wolf numbers as they limit their own populations. Most wolves do not prey on livestock and when that is an issue there are nonlethal measures that are more effective than killing. And just so you know, I visit Montana in order to see wolves and other wildlife, never livestock. Wolves belong in Montana and are much more valuable alive than dead.

#301

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:45:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:47:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:41
IP Address: 47.157.252.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kirill Haugen
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kkhaugen0908@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Officials,

As a resident, I write to strongly urge you to PROTECT our precious, iconic and ESSENTIAL WILDLIFE especially WOLVES at all costs. It is time to prioritize wildlife and co-exist with wolves as they are essential to our healthy ecosystem. Wolves are also tourist cash cows for the state – wolves are why tourists visit Yellowstone.

I note the following points:

- Gray wolf management should be science-based, not political.
 - o Ensure equal representation of all stakeholders, including non-hunting communities.
 - o Increase transparency in wildlife management decisions.
 - The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population, IPOM, is full of compounding errors, meaning the actual size of the state's wolf population is unknown.
 - o Improve accuracy and proper usage of IPOM.
 - o Halt wolf quotas until a new and accurate method of counting is established.
 - Traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals beyond wolves and lead to unnecessary livestock casualties by disrupting wolf family groups.
 - Trapping should be ended on public lands, and snaring is a primitive, archaic, and torturous method of killing animals and fails to pass the rule of Fair Chase. It also damages Montana's public image as a state that respects wildlife and will deter tourists from visiting.
 - Recognize the positive economic impact of Yellowstone wolves on tourism revenue (\$80 million a year) all of which will be at risk if Yellowstone wolves continue to be baited out of the park and slaughtered.
 - Increased wolf trapping endangers other species federally designated as threatened, including grizzly bears and Canada lynx, as well as family pets – like domestic dogs and outdoor recreationists.
 - Snares are cruel and inherently indiscriminate.
-

#302

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:43:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:47:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:45
IP Address: 38.141.44.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Simmer**
City/Town: **Victor**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **divnsolow@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need to protect our big game animals and livestock. Curbing the hunting and quotas on wolves is not conducive to protecting those Montana assets.

#303

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:47:05 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:48:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:16
IP Address: 128.177.52.108

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bob thennis**
City/Town: **Great falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bthennis@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The wolf trapping and hunting needs to be wide open. They are destroying most of that we hold dear.

#304

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:46:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:50:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:41
IP Address: 192.230.160.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert A Hodgskiss
City/Town: Fairfield
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bhodgskiss@3rivers.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am in support of leaving the quotas for wolf the same as in the past as the numbers are above the recovery threshold by a fair amount and in some areas the ungulate populations have been dramatically lowered.

#305

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:47:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:54:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:09
IP Address: 23.138.152.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Marilyn Wolff**
City/Town: **Stevensville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **wolffmarilyn@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Commission Members: It's very apparent there is no scientific data on wolf populations to proceed with seasons and quotas. Furthermore there should be no trapping of wolves in grizzly locations where the bears need to den for winter beforehand. If there is anyone on the Commission that profits by outfitting or trapping they should recuse on this issue. Stop the killing of the wolves.

#306

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:25:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:59:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:32
IP Address: 98.97.112.69

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Stoerger
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gypsyjourney@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Madam Chair & Commissioners:

Re: Floating start date- I would prefer this date to be set at Dec 31, regardless of bear activity. Rationale: Just because no one reports any bear sightings does not mean that they have not yet denned. Error on side of caution.

Re: Public Process- It appears FWP agents have attended meetings hosted by the consumptive users (ie MT Trappers Assoc.). However, to get an equitable balance and to more fully inform your opinions, I think its a gross oversight that, as far as I know, FWP has not attended any non-consumptive user mtg's (ie. conservation NGOs). This is equivalent to only asking the fox how many hens are in the hen house, rather than getting other opinions.

Re: Alternatives/Analysis- I'd like to see Option B adopted. While I am pleased to see that wolf quota #s have been drastically reduced (compared to last season's quota of 456), they are still based on a flawed system that manages for bare minimum #s. I understand you are trying to comply with the legislatures directive. However, the legislature should not be mandating wildlife policy. You have let politics influence your wildlife mgmt. decisions.

Re: Marten trapping- Please consider closing all of Montana to recreational trapping and snaring. It is frankly absurd that this barbaric 18th century "recreation" still exists. For at least 2 seasons, I have not seen FWP publish any furbearer harvest data. How can the public comment if we don't have access to the data. It begs the question- What is FWP hiding?

Re: WMU 313- I believe the quota for this YNP boundary area should be firmly zero. Spiteful hunters and poachers just line up right outside of park boundaries and pick them off. These are collared park wolves that are part of a years long research study.

Re: Commissioner Tabor- I feel there is a strong conflict of interest with Comm. Tabor to be making decisions on this topic. He is an outfitter up in Region 1 and his family owns Swan Mountain Outfitters. He stands to benefit from higher quotas. He should recuse himself from this vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#307

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:55:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:00:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:53
IP Address: 174.198.132.69

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel Schwab
City/Town:	Florence
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Qbindaredzone@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not lower Wolf quotas in regions 1 and 2. It is obvious that there is a large number of wolves harvested in those regions due to higher concentration of that species. Our ungulates are taking a beating year after year from wolves (and other variables), and that needs to continue to be managed at the rate it has been.

#308

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:58:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:17:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:16
IP Address: 174.79.54.77

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Peggy S
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	peggy781@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Commissioners,

Yellowstone National Park (YNP) Wolves:

First of all, your misguided, should I say magical thinking, about declaring YNP wolves that step over that imaginary line are your Montana wolves is outrageous! American taxpayers paid for wolf re-introduction. So they are America's wolves. And just how many of YNP wolves were lured to cross that "boundary"?

Change YNP and Glacier National Park quota to zero (0) wolf. YNP and surrounding communities receive over \$500 million dollars. Tens of millions from visitors who specifically come to see YNP wolves. I know there is a coalition of businesses in the surrounding community that are working to protect wolves. You should learn from such business people.

I am against the murder of wolves. YNP wolves do not attack livestock. So you are murdering them for no other reason than blood-sport. And that is amoral.

Region 1 thru 5 No wolves should be murdered, and Unit 313 outside YNP - NO wolves murdered.

For all furbearing animals in general and especially for wolves and grizzlies, mountain lions & bobcats:

There must be non-consumptive citizens on the commission and MT FW&P (i.e. pro-wolf, pro wildlife)

Your murder (and let's be real it is murder of innocents; it is not harvest nor cull or any other euphemism) of wolves and all furbearing animals is not science-based. It is based on hate. 2019 data show that wolves in Montana killed 90 livestock out of 2.7 million! Now isn't that an infinitesimally small number. Wolves do not threaten elk populations. In fact FWP is being sued for their elk mismanagement. Your hatred for wolves is go great and not based on any facts. Just read Dr. Chris Servheen. Here's a link to his Op-Ed article

<https://mountainjournal.org/prominent-bear-conservationist-condemns-laws-targeting-grizzlies-and-wolves-in-northern-rockies>

MT FWP you do not even know how many wolves live in Montana!

No sport hunting for grizzlies & mountain lions. Don Peay's Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife is behind this call for slaughter. No studies have been done to indicate any justification for this unwarranted increase in killing mountain lions.

I am against trapping and snaring. Snaring is barbaric. Outlaw it immediately. Ban ram power snares. Trap & snares murder other animals - bears, lynx, federally protected eagles, dogs and so on.

Finally, Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Sincerely,

Nora S.

#309

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:23:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:25:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 216.14.234.178

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dr. Kari Gunderson
City/Town: Swan Valley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cnd2543@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am a 3rd generation Montanan and have lived and worked in the Swan Valley for 45 years. Please see my comments below.
Trapping and Wolf Seasons

1. Snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. The iPOM method of monitoring wolves is outdated and inaccurate. The population effects of wolves killed by poachers or other causes of mortality are not accounted for by the proposed season quota of 289. Many members of the public hold a general distrust as a means of wolf management. There is a high level of distrust of the politically appointed FWP Commissioners, many of whom are outfitters who benefit financially from guided hunts and they hold an anti-apex predator bias. Currently there are no biologists on the FWP Commission who understand the science of wolf ecology and the significant role that apex predators have as a keystone species that help shape processes vital to the health of entire ecosystems.
 2. The opening date for wolf trapping should be December 31 statewide, not before. Eliminate the proposed floating date for the beginning of wolf trapping season in the grizzly bear recovery zones. Early wolf trapping will likely impact grizzlies beyond “occupied zones.” Snares set for wolves and snares are indiscriminate and endanger grizzly bears, other wildlife, and pets. A December 31 opening date for wolf trapping will give grizzlies a chance to be in their dens.
 3. There should be a statewide 50% reduction of trapping bobcats since bobcats are in steep decline in many regions, including western Montana. Since FWP did not make public furbearer harvest data available for the past two seasons we are unable to provide feedback on the proposed 2024 quotas for bobcats and other furbearers.
 4. I never thought I would live to see the day that martens have been extirpated in some parts of the state. I support closure of marten trapping in portions of Meagher and Cascade counties that are east of the Smith River or east of Highway 89 as it runs south from White Sulphur Springs.
 5. Why is there such a high quota proposed for hunting and trapping wolves in Region 1 compared to the rest of the state? It smacks of special interest/financial gain by Swan Mountain Outfitters where Commissioner Tabor’s family operates within Region 1. He should recuse himself from decisions that mean profits to his family’s outfitting business.
 6. Wolves killed by hunting and trapping must be tagged and presented to regional office for data collection.
 7. Wolves traps and snares must be removed by season end date or within 24 hours of region/unit closing.
 8. No party trapping; one tag per trap/snare and no pre-baiting.
 9. Registering of trap lines with the FWP department.
 10. Prohibit the use of bait for hunting of wolves.
 11. Prohibit night hunting of wolves.
-

#310

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:02:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:26:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:08
IP Address: 174.231.83.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rea Warrecker
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rwarrecker@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I oppose the Fish, Wildlife and Parks recommendation to adopt the regulations as presented. As a Montana resident who uses public lands to enjoy and study wildlife through camera trapping (game cameras), I would like to see the non-consumptive community be more fairly represented. I would like to see the quota reduced and trapping banned. Snares, baiting and traps are a danger to people, pets and non-target animals such as lynx and grizzly bears and should not be allowed, especially on public land. In addition, snares are inhumane and show no respect for the animal. Hunting should be 'fair chase' and not involve hours or even days of suffering on the part of the animal.

Wolves are a keystone species that is still recovering in the West and studies have shown that their presence has a trickle down effect that increases biodiversity. I ask that you please amend the regulations to reduce wolf killing in Montana.

#311

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:23:26 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:32:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:07
IP Address: 67.78.98.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Klae Boehme
City/Town:	Pleasanton
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	kboehme@romco.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

No to reducing the Wolf quota in Northwest Montana

#312

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:33:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:37:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:05
IP Address: 174.230.198.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ryan Taylor
City/Town:	New Meadows
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	Hayforty@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not decrease the wolf quota game in Western Montana can not take much more. Elk populations on the idaho border units are no where near where they were pre wolf. Its sad to cover drainages that were once full of elk are now just empty habitat.

#313

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:40:31 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:41:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 174.213.241.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Koeppen**
City/Town: **Florence**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mikekoeppen@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

My wife and I are opposed to the hunting and trapping of wolves. We realize, however, that will not happen. But, until a reliable population estimate is arrived at by a legitimate process, wolf killing should be drastically reduced. Further we want to express our opposition to any snaring of wolves at any time.

We have read up on the current iPOM method being using by FWP, and find it totally inadequate. Using fieldwork requires much more effort, but needs to be done by FWP to arrive at a decent and reliable estimate of the wolf population. FWP is justifying the heavy killing of wolves on a theoretical model. We find that unacceptable. FWP likely would agree with us, if not for the political management of the department by the legislative branch along with heavy pressure from consumptive interests.

We urge FWP to do the right thing and drastically reduce hunting and trapping of wolves until an acceptable population count had been completed. Personally, we believe the best option would be relisting by the Federal government. Montana promised initially to manage wolves as big game animals, but that promise was broken. With up to 20 tags per hunter/trapper, wolves are managed as vermin.

Sincerely,
Michael and Lynn Koeppen
Florence, Montana

#314

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:37:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:42:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:44
IP Address: 50.46.232.199

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **melinda hirsch**
City/Town: **Bellevue**
State/Province: **WA**
Email Address: **melindash@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

In no circumstances should wolves be hunted, snared, etc. They are apex predators—and no matter whether you love them or hate them, they are essential for a balanced ecosystem. They are essential for you and me to stay alive. We have our hands full cleaning up our mess from human-caused climate change. Keep the apex predators, leave them alone, keep the earth and our environment whole and healthy.

#315

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:47:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:00:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:52
IP Address: 69.146.93.140

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Barry Dutton**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **barry@landandwaterconsulting.net**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Snaring and trapping wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate. Currently FWP has no accurate count.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31.

Reduce the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 in Region 6. Some of us would like to see a bobcat once in a while that was not stuffed or skinned and pinned.

Close marten trapping north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15. It would be nice if all Montanans could see a marten, especially children. We should allow them to expand their range back to historic coverage without profiting by their deaths.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that could affect profits for his outfitting business. The commission should adopt ethics standards so conflicts like this are crystal clear, even to those with the least morals. Mr. Tabors past behaviors including violations combined with his war on wildlife are a disgusting distraction from the commission's work.

#316

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:45:13 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:04:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:06
IP Address: 99.20.67.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Liz Cook
City/Town:	DAVIS
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	lizcooksra@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

As a property owner and wildlife biologist, there is no question that wolf lives matter, to their families, to their ecosystems and to all of us who treasure our native wildlife. These highly intelligent, social, ecologically vital animals do not deserve to be slaughtered as they have been in Montana. These are iconic American wild animals that deserve our respect and appreciation. I join most Americans who feel likewise and want to see wolf management directed by sound science, not politics. Under no circumstances whatsoever should wolves be subjected to debasement, torture and torment. Let Montana be an example to the rest of the world in what sound wildlife management and true conservation looks like. Wildlife everywhere need such leadership. Please be it.

#317

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:12:49 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:15:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 69.145.147.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lizzy Pennock
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lpennock@wildearthguardians.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

(Part 1)

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of our members and supporters, WildEarth Guardians appreciates the chance to comment on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department's ("MFWP") proposed season and quota changes for gray wolves. For the reasons below, we urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission ("Commission") to manage gray wolves in a precautionary manner that emphasizes science and coexistence.

We provided this comment in an emailed PDF, in addition to placing it in the small text box on the webpage. Please refer to that PDF for our sources, which are noted with numerals in the pieces of this comment.

WildEarth Guardians ("Guardians") is a regional non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West. Guardians has offices in Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington, and over 7,000 members. For over 30 years, Guardians has worked to restore and protect imperiled native carnivores, including gray wolves. Guardians works to protect wolf habitat in Montana and across the West, promote coexistence and fight lethal wolf "management," educate the public about the importance of wolves to maintaining healthy natural ecosystems, and advocate for protecting these iconic animals under state and federal law, including through listing under the Endangered Species Act.

I. Introduction

We continue to urge MFWP and the Commission to manage wolves as conservatively as possible under the current legislative constraints, and for the public as a whole. Like Doug Smith and Diane Boyd, we are concerned that "of late, Montana has managed wolves in a fashion that emphasizes population reduction without clear evidence or adequate justification," and we hope that MFWP and the Commission act in a way that will "reclaim respect for scientific wildlife management of wolves in our state." Below, we explain the positive benefits that a thriving wolf population has on Montana's wild places, citizens, visitors, economy, and other wildlife, and urge management through a coexistence lens.

II. The Commission should take a precautionary approach when setting the seasonal kill quota.

The precautionary principle is a pillar of conservation biology, which says that "in the face of uncertainty, [there exists] an ethical obligation to risk erring on the side of preservation." The principle directs wildlife managers to be cautious in their manipulations of the natural world, explaining that the "less data or more uncertainty involved, the more conservative" they must be. Since the very basis of the state's wolf management—the population estimate—is unacceptably uncertain, the Commission has a heightened duty to err on the side of wolf preservation when setting regulations for the upcoming season. Therefore, we urge the Commission to limit total human-caused mortality ("HCM") to the lowest percentage possible (14%) while still making an evidence-based effort to comply with SB 314's mandate to reduce the population.

a. A precautionary approach is warranted because the state population estimate provided by MFWP is very uncertain.

Regulated wolf killing in Montana is riddled with uncertainty due to the agency's continued reliance on the integrated patch occupancy model (iPOM) to estimate the population. Several experts have found issues with the model, explaining that it is highly likely that the output overestimates the state population. Even MFWP has stated that the model contains "compounding errors," "uncertainty," and relies on "relatively coarse data inputs." Therefore, when MFWP proposes a quota based on iPOM's estimate, that quota could be a much higher percentage of the population than intended, with potentially dire consequences for Montana's wolf population. To correct for this, the Commission should set err on the side of preservation when setting the quota.

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Population estimates generated by iPOM are also questionable because the data MFWP inputs into the model is biased and uncertain. The 2022 Annual Wolf Report noted that data for the population estimate came from annual Hunter Harvest Surveys of resident deer and elk hunters. Beyond the obvious fact that elk and deer hunters may misidentify wolves, a subset of elk and deer hunters do not want wolves on the landscape, creating bias.

Many large carnivore scientists have raised concerns over unreliable abundance estimates being used as a basis for setting policy. Concerns arising from unreliable abundance estimates are exacerbated when coupled with policies that liberalize the killing of large carnivores (e.g., expanding participation, methods and timing for killing predators). Scientists have also flagged concerns that iPOM is not adequately sensitive to detect changes brought about by widespread and indiscriminate HCM, and therefore population changes resulting from liberalized killing may go undetected.

Lastly, several experts have found errors with iPOM. Dr. Scott Creel's (2022) critique of the iPOM methodology details numerous methodological constraints, data limitations and assumption violations with the model. Dan MacNulty, a professor who was involved in the Yellowstone Wolf Project, has stated that the population "estimates from Montana are unquestionably overestimates" due to double counting of wolves. Doug Smith and Diane Boyd recently echoed these concerns, explaining that iPOM is "respected scientifically for estimating (the area occupied)," but that iPOM "is not known to be a good abundance estimator." Boyd and Smith called for a "better population estimate," concerned that "the approximate nature of the iPOM estimate [means that] no one knows what proportion of wolves are killed each year." Smith and Boyd called for iPOM to be "jettisoned," because it merely "tells you where wolves live and not how many we have." We urge the Commission to take these expert viewpoints into consideration and begin using a better population estimate model.

b. The Commission can limit human-caused mortality of the wolf population to as low as 14% while complying with SB 314's mandate for reducing the population.

We acknowledge that MFWP's proposal decreases the allowed kill quota for the upcoming season from over 450 wolves to 289. We think this is a start in the right direction, but the Commission can—and should—adopt a lower quota. Literature considering levels of human caused mortality (HCM) that lead to a reduced wolf population show that HCM as low as 14% reduce the wolf population. Therefore, the Commission can set the seasonal quota so that overall HCM equals 14%, striking a balance between the legislative directive to reduce the population, and manage according to the precautionary principle.

Although the debate over what amount of HCM in Northern Rocky Mountain ("NRM") wolves stops or reverses their population growth is not settled various studies focusing on re-analyzing data on HCM and population growth of the Northern Rocky Mountains distinct population segment ("DPS") have suggested that HCM is additive and super additive (rather than compensatory) for that population, and that levels of HCM higher than 22.5% or even higher than 14% can halt or reverse wolf population growth.

Importantly, the HCM estimates above do not consider the evidenced systematic underestimation of poaching within all Lower-48 wolf populations. Corrected estimates of poaching, including unquantified 'cryptic' poaching suggest illegal killing is a, if not the main, source of anthropogenic mortality for wolves, including within the NRM. Unaccounted poaching may average 46-59% of total mortality for the NRM wolf population, which by itself raises concerns over wolf population viability.

Additionally, the above studies primarily rely on data from collared animals to arrive at estimates of 'sustainable' HCM. However, a recent study has found that tracking collars can have a positive effect on the survival of large carnivores through potentially dissuading poachers. This evidence suggests the studies above should be interpreted as potentially overestimating the 'sustainable' levels of HCM, given a higher risk of poaching for non-monitored individuals. Lastly, recent studies have evidenced an association between reducing protections for wolves (like Montana has done with liberalized killing in the past two years) and increases in 'cryptic' (e.g., concealed, unmeasured) poaching, further adding to the above underestimation of poaching.

Another factor exacerbating HCM that the Commission should consider arises from social science studies that have provided evidence of an association between liberalizing wolf killing and increasing negative attitudes, including increased inclinations to poach. Therefore, regulated wolf killing further incentivizes concealed, illegal killing, further increasing HCM. We urge the Commission to take these studies into account when setting the quota and to base the quota on a 14% total HCM threshold.

c. A precautionary approach is prudent because killing wolves impacts much more than just the number of wolves in the state's population.

Killing wolves negatively impacts surviving wolves' physiology and behavior which leads to negative impacts on wolf dynamics including wellbeing, fitness, ecological relationships that provide ecosystem benefits and even evolution. Cassidy et al. 2023 explained that merely relying on population metrics will leave some of these impacts undetected. Studying wolves in five national parks including Yellowstone, the authors found that HCM "had a detrimental effect on both pack persistence and reproduction." And therefore, limiting analysis to population size and growth rate "can disguise disruption occurring at the pack level." Notably, the authors concluded that "even the loss of a single wolf, especially a leader, can have detrimental effects on the pack." The authors urged managers to consider pack-level metrics because pack disruption caused by HCM influences social structure and pack-level success in activities like hunting and reproduction. Since the deaths of individual wolves can impact hunting and reproductive success, the implications of wolf hunting and trapping go far beyond the number of wolves in the state, and MFWP is failing to account for those implications.

III. Killing wolves can increase livestock conflict, and relevant science shows that non-lethal conflict prevention methods are often more effective.

Livestock protection is an oft-cited reason in favor of killing a large number of wolves, but a growing body of research shows that non-lethal measures are more effective for addressing wolf-livestock conflict. In many cases, research has shown that killing wolves is ineffective at best, and counterproductive at worst: "the most common result of systematic reviews on the outcomes of removal of carnivores on future livestock predation is no effect." Instead of approving the killing of a large portion of the population, at least partially at the best of some of Montana's livestock producers, we urge the Commission and MFWP to manage through education and assistance, encouraging coexistence with wolves.

Several studies, including some from the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes, have proven that a proactive non-lethal approach to reduce livestock conflict leads to better conflict mitigation. Treves et al. (2016) found various non-lethal techniques functionally effective at preventing conflicts with domestic animals across a variety of predatory species. In addition, husbandry practices like adjusting calving timing and location, increased range riding, the use of fladry, electrified fencing, enclosures, low stress livestock handling, as well as livestock guardian dogs can be more effective than lethal control for minimizing livestock losses.

Between 2016 and 2018, four international teams of scientists independently concluded that several non-lethal methods to prevent predation have been tested numerous times with higher standards of evidence than lethal methods. These teams published independent reviews examining the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions to reduce predation on domesticated animals and collaborated in a subsequent consensus statement which collectively relied on over 27,000 candidate studies. These scientists found that non-lethal conflict prevention methods, including enclosures, fladry and guardian animals, were more effective than lethal. They also concluded that lethal interventions were some of the most ineffective or counterproductive at preventing such conflicts.

Several studies have also shown that killing wolves to address livestock conflict can backfire, worsening the problem and increasing undesired outcomes. The consequences of killing wolves go beyond decreasing the population, and into throwing off the natural balance inherent in wolf pack structure. Hunting and trapping wolves destabilizes packs, which may increase conflict. By disrupting pack stability through lethal removal, increased dispersal through pack dissolution can lead to more attacks on livestock by lone wolves. The loss of even one pack member can lead to decreased reproductive success and pack dispersal, and increased conflict when dispersing wolves seek easier prey like livestock because they no longer benefit from cooperative hunting by experienced adults in packs.

Additionally, predation-related livestock deaths are exceedingly rare, despite the overblown narrative of this issue. The Montana Department of Livestock ("MDOL") reported that in 2022, 36 cattle and 43 sheep were killed or probably killed by wolves. The USDA reported that in 2022, there were 2,200,000 cattle in Montana and 190,000 sheep. Therefore, according to our state livestock agency, in 2022, 0.0016% of cattle and 0.023% of sheep in Montana were confirmed or probable wolf kills. Even Wildlife Services' slightly higher numbers—which MFWP relies on in the 2022 annual wolf report—paints the same picture: a tiny, tiny fraction of livestock present in this state are killed by wolves. Even in situations where livestock producers experience wolf-related livestock issues other than direct predation, non-lethal coexistence measures should be exhausted before relying on killing wolves either as management removals or to support a large quota during hunting and trapping season

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

removals or to support a large quota during hunting and trapping seasons.

IV. The Commission should limit wolf killing in WMU 313 to a quota of one.

Yellowstone's wolves are cherished by wildlife watchers near and far, and the loss of each wolf has reverberating negative impacts for wolf packs, wildlife viewing, and the local economy. We urge the Commission to protect Yellowstone wolves entering WMU 313 from hunting and trapping to the maximum extent allowed by current legislation. Although MCA § 87-1-304 removed the Commission's authority to establish a no-hunting zone in areas immediately adjacent to national parks, the Commission retains some discretion to protect Yellowstone's wolves. For example, the Commission could disallow bait, snares and traps on private lands, and reduce the quota to one wolf in WMU 313.

The buffer that existed before 2021 was essential for protecting Yellowstone wolves, which spend most of their time under the Park's protection. The Wild Livelihoods Coalition "conservatively" estimates that 50% of the roughly 100-wolf population in Yellowstone National Park may be expected to move between the Park and WMU 313, but notes that "the amount of time Yellowstone wolf packs spend outside of the park is fractional." Last season, four of the six wolves killed in WMU 313 were Yellowstone wolves, including two collared adults. The death of these four Park wolves last year, and many more in 2021, is disproportionate to the amount of time the wolves spend in WMU 313. Although a quota of six is a huge improvement from 2021, "the impact of human-caused mortality is evident in pack dynamics the following years." This means that the number of dead wolves is not the only consideration when analyzing the impacts of hunting and trapping.

Hunting and trapping wolves along Yellowstone National Park's border decreases viewing opportunities. Borg et al. 2016 examined the effect that legal wolf killing along the boundaries of Denali and Yellowstone National Parks had on wolf viewing opportunities during peak tourist season. The study found that sightings in Yellowstone increased by 45% following years with no harvest of a wolf from a pack, and sightings in Denali were more than twice as likely during a period with a buffer zone than in years without the buffer. Additionally, increased threats from humans may cause wolves to avoid all humans as they will not be able to differentiate between a spotting scope or a gun. Therefore, hunting wolves just outside the park decreases visitor experience and viewing opportunities both through fewer individual wolves and increased cryptic behavior of remaining wolves that learn to avoid humans.

Reduced viewing opportunities caused by recreational wolf killing harms the local economy around Yellowstone because wildlife viewing produces significant revenue. A study conducted by the University of Wyoming showed that wildlife watchers in Wyoming in 2016 spent nearly twice that of big game hunters, at \$364,965,105 and \$206,337,652, respectively. A 2008 study by University of Montana researchers calculated that spending by visitors to Yellowstone National Park to see wolves totaled \$35.5 million annually. A 2022 study by the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research and RRC Associates estimated that 2021 "direct spending by YNP visitors who would not have visited the park without the presence of wolves is likely at least \$82.7 million." The Wild Livelihoods Coalition estimates that a Yellowstone wolf has an annual "value" of \$500,000 to the local economy. While the Commission should put primacy on the ecological importance of wolves, it should not lose sight of their economic importance.

V. Managing wolves primarily for the benefit of the small portion of the population that hunts and traps wolves is contrary to MFWP's mission.

MFWP's mission is to "steward the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources for the public, now and into the future." (emphasis added). But wolf hunters and trappers are a far cry from "the public." Last year, Montana sold 15,560 wolf hunting licenses and 2,416 non-resident wolf hunting licenses. According to the 2022 census, Montana's population in 2022 was 1,122,867 people. That means that last year, Montanans who purchased wolf hunting licenses represented 1.39% of the state population. The number of people who actively hunted wolves last year was even lower, at 7,457 people or 0.66% of the state population. Active wolf trappers in 2022 (228 people) represented 0.02% of the state population. MFWP and this Commission cannot conceivably argue that the resources spent, controversy generated, and economic value lost by aggressive, regulated wolf hunting and trapping are being done to benefit the public or in furtherance of the agency's mission.

#318

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:10:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:20:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:49
IP Address: 98.125.88.69

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Justin Goodsell
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jjgoodsell@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I strongly feel we need to keep the wolf quotas where they are at and not lower them. It's going to take the deer and elk populations a long time to recover in Region 1. I do feel like we are making progress for them. I don't feel like the wolf population will ever be in any sort of danger unless the ungulate populations goes down again and there's not enough food. The wolves are too smart and resilient. Thank you.

#319

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:59:18 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:36:59 PM
Time Spent: 04:37:41
IP Address: 71.15.193.130

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Beka Greenall
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bekagreenall@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I have debated for some time if making a comment on the wolf hunting and trapping season and quotas would even be worthwhile. I say this because it can feel like our legislature often disregards perspectives they do not necessarily agree with. As a Montanan, I want my voice to matter in regard to issues I'm passionate about. I want to exercise my right to be involved in the management of the fish and wildlife I live amongst. Therefore, I am taking the time to comment today, and I hope that you recognize the time and energy it takes to communicate my feelings to you.

First, I'd like to acknowledge my positionality and how this influences my perspective. I grew up just outside of Bozeman and have been recreating and working in the outdoors here most of my life. I have a PhD in biology and I am passionate about conservation and ethical and responsible resource management. I have appreciated wolves and the other diverse wildlife here in Montana for as long as I can remember. As a scientist, I am well aware of the necessity to preserve functioning ecosystems for wildlife and for the welfare of mankind. The need for wolves on our landscape is irrefutable, their importance as a keystone species is iconic and taught as a prime example of trophic cascades around the world.

With that in mind, I would like to ask you to please consider my perspective, even if it differs from yours. Montanans hold a wide variety of perspectives on things that are important to them, and that diversity is only growing as our population expands. Everyone has the right to be heard and to contribute to the laws in our state. I believe it is important that the regulations put forward are representative of Montanans broadly, not just of a select or more influential few.

Unfortunately, wolf management is controversial and steeped with political agendas. People are uneducated about the issues and become more polarized as they feel wolf management is politicized and not completely science backed. I for one have felt this way, and it frustrates me that wolf hunting and trapping regulations do not seem to consider multiple perspectives.

With that in mind, I will share my feelings about the furbearer and wolf trapping and hunting seasons and quotas. Having grown up in Montana, I've been surrounded by the wonderful wildlife and ecology that we depend on as Montanans. Having spent time working with FWP staff, I understand the need for management of wildlife populations through healthy, scientifically driven methods. I have had a special love for wolves since I was in grade school and went on a field trip to Yellowstone, where I saw a wolf pack for the first (and only) time in my life and heard them howling at night. I was mesmerized by these creatures and in awe of their power, size, and intelligence.

I do not know what the correct answer is in regard to wolf hunting, I personally am against hunting wolves at all, but understand they should be managed appropriately to protect livestock. However, I realize that Montanans have a rich history surrounding hunting and many people feel strongly that the state should manage the hunting of our wildlife rather than have management at the federal level due to the ESA or other federal protections. I understand this is a complex issue that is, for whatever reason, stupidly controversial and sensitive to many people. Thus, I'm not here to comment on the ethics of hunting wolves in general or whether they should be managed at the state or federal level. I do, however, want to offer my comments on trapping and snaring.

According to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS), wolf and other furbearer trapping must be highly regulated to be humane. To be "humane," killing devices used for the capture of canids and other fur-bearing nonhuman animals should render an animal irreversibly unconscious within 300 seconds (Proulx and Rodtka, 2017). As I looked through the FWP website, it was not clear or apparent to me that Montana trapping regulations require this. If it is required, it was not easily accessible on the FWP website. Upon further research, I found that Montana regulations on trapping are severely lacking.

Many people feel that traps and snares are inhumane and indiscriminate. They cause suffering to animals indiscriminately, including people's pets. As a dog owner in Montana, having one of my dogs caught in or killed by a trap is a great fear of mine. As a non-trapper, I receive no education on what to do if my dog is ever caught in a trap. I can read the articles on the FWP page about what to

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

do, but without practice and in a high stress situation, I would be ill-prepared to rescue my or another person's pet caught in a trap.

Trapping is driven by profit—furs are sold for money and as a source of income for people, what is to limit trappers from taking just one more animal, if it means an extra paycheck. This is entirely different from hunting, wherein the motivation is for meat. It is illegal to waste game that has been hunted in Montana. What about the meat of animals that have been trapped? According to the current regulations, “wolves are excluded from being considered ‘suitable for food.’” This is also the case for furbearers—it is only illegal to waste their pelt (per MCA 87-6-603). Thus, the motivations for trapping are entirely different than hunting. Additionally, trapping is simply not abiding by the ethics of “fair chase.” For example, it is illegal to use recorded animal sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing, or capturing of any wildlife except wolves (MCA 87-6-401). Why is this the case? Is it because wolves are too smart to trap without cheating? There does not seem to be anything fair about the way wolves are managed in Montana.

I have expressed my opinions here today as someone who advocates for wildlife and responsible resource management. I support ethical, fair-chase, hunting practices. I do not support trapping or snaring with the information that is available to me as a member of the public. They are inhumane, indiscriminate, unethical, and dangerous means of taking wildlife.

It is my hope that the Commission has an open mind and understands that we, the public, are vastly varied in our opinions and attitudes towards wolf management and trapping. However, everyone's opinions are valid and should be heard. Appeasing the diversity of viewpoints held in Montana is an incredibly difficult task.

Rather than boycott FWP or join super extremist campaigns to fight for what I am passionate about, I am hoping that sending this comment to the Commission can have some impact. As a citizen of this state, I deserve to have my opinion heard and considered, as does everyone else. I hope this is taken seriously and you understand how strongly I feel about this to have taken the time to write this comment. Please make sure to consider all the various viewpoints in the state when making regulations and quotas. Please, please change the regulations for furbearer and wolf trapping in our state. If trapping will not be outlawed completely, then please create stricter regulations for trapping. Please do your part to minimize the unethical, inhumane, and cruel taking of wildlife that share this home with us. We all belong in the outdoors, isn't that the motto of FWP, the outside is in us ALL? Then let us all contribute to the management of species here in Montana.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you would like to discuss anything further, please reach out.

Sincerely,
Beka Greenall

#320

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:42:28 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:44:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:31
IP Address: 72.255.144.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Zack Boughton**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **zackboughton@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Having hunted in NW Montana for years I am against any reduction in opportunity to harvest wolves in this area or reducing quotas on any predator

#321

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:23:04 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:45:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:19
IP Address: 184.166.145.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Eric Clewis
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	eclewis@defenders.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposal for the 2023-2024 wolf trapping and hunting season. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit conservation organization with 9,300 members and supporters in Montana and more than 2.1 million nationwide. Over the last three decades, Defenders has played an important role in the restoration of wolves in the Northern Rockies. This work included our long-running livestock loss compensation program and our ongoing conflict reduction program. We transitioned our compensation program and a \$100,000 start-up fund to the Montana Livestock Loss Board in 2008 and continue to assist livestock producers in Montana and across the West with conflict reduction tools and techniques to minimize losses to wolves and other predators. We operate these projects in partnership with county, state, tribal and federal agencies.

The 2021 Montana legislature passed several laws that conflict with ethical, science-based wildlife management and contradict the facts on the ground. These harmful laws tied the hands of the agency's own experts and the Commission. While we acknowledge that this Commission is bound by statute to reduce the wolf population, killing wolves to manage for the lowest possible number is not just unsustainable, it also violates the way in which we manage native wildlife in this country. In 2021, the commission was presented with a suite of options that fell within legislative directions ranging from liberal harvest and methods of take to more conservative approaches. While none of these options were befitting of managing this species, the commission went a step beyond obligations placed upon them by statute and went with the most extreme wolf hunting/trapping proposal possible. We ask that you consider this season setting process as an opportunity to move this agency back towards its intended purpose of managing wildlife based upon the best available science to the benefit of all Montanans. We therefore request that the Commission reduce the WMU 313 quota to the lowest legal limit, remove provisions allowing snaring, night hunting, and baiting, enact a floating trapping season end date, and retain snaring restrictions in Lynx Protection Zones (LPZs).

The rationale behind continued persecution of this species conflicts with the department's own data. Statements made by politicians and anti-wildlife interests that wolves are decimating Montana's deer and elk herds are simply not factual, and their efforts to see more wolves killed due to this belief amounts to a drastic misunderstanding of the status of ungulate populations in this state. FWP has consistently made it clear that deer and elk numbers are robust across Montana. The 2022 Elk Count Spreadsheet on the department's website demonstrates that regions 1 and 2 are both at the elk population objectives and regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are well over objective.

Additionally, there is not sufficient information on projected long-term impacts to the wolf population and regional connectivity that would result from continued implementation of extreme hunting and trapping methods aimed at drastic population reduction. In fact, there is widespread concern about the efficacy of Montana's wolf population assessment and its ability to detect wolf population declines. Dr. Scott Creel, a widely renowned carnivore population ecologist out of Montana State University, recently released an assessment of the improved Patch Occupancy Modeling (iPOM) used to assess Montana's wolf population. In his report, he noted that iPOM, as a series of unrelated models, compounds error within each individual model component. Furthermore, the estimation error found within the territory size model alone is so large that it makes the entire model inaccurate. The iPOM method can only be an effective tool for managing Montana's wolf population if this department begins to utilize some form of intensive field-monitoring of wolves once again. The commission should take a hard look at the best available science and incorporate the findings of Dr. Creel into its decision-making process.

Yellowstone National Park's wolves, the same that are found in WMU 313, are unequivocally prized for their worldwide social interest and scientific and economic importance. Montana gains significant economic benefit from tourism dollars spent in and around National Parks and many gateway businesses rely heavily on these dollars. In 2020, 3.9 million national park visitors to Montana spent approximately \$445 million in local gateway regions and supported 6,690 jobs and \$619 million in economic output to the Montana economy. Widespread killing of wolves in Montana and especially the killing of Yellowstone wolves when they cross the park border, result in negative economic impacts to small businesses that rely on tourism. According to the Greater Yellowstone Wildlife-Related

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Activity Valuation Study completed in 2022, wolf tourism is estimated to contribute just over \$82 million to gateway communities in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Given the economic and scientific benefit that these wolves bring to our state, we recommend that the Commission reduce the wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 to the lowest legal limit.

Finally, we strongly oppose continuing to allow snaring, baiting, and night hunting of wolves in Montana as it will certainly result in injury and death to other wildlife species, including listed species such as grizzly bears and lynx. Furthermore, to reduce the any potential negative impact to lynx, we also recommend that snaring continue to be restricted in Lynx Protection Zones (LPZs). Trapping end dates should also be flexible to allow for early emergence of grizzly bears from denning sites. Snares present a real and significant danger to the health and safety of all animals on public lands and the risk posed by this method of trapping is simply unacceptable. We ask the Commission to reject the use of these methods of take across Montana as they have no ethical or science-based justification.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continues to be at a crossroads with wolf management. This agency has been advancing work to reduce conflict and balance wolf recovery with other goals, however, extreme anti-wolf legislation and regulation is increasing division and mistrust. We urge you to carefully consider your options and choose the approach that best preserves the legacy of sound wildlife management that this agency has fostered in the past.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Eric Clewis
Senior Representative, Northern Rockies
Defenders of Wildlife
eclewis@defenders.org

#322

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:37:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:46:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:40
IP Address: 184.166.240.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Healow**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lkhealow@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Montana should have NO trapping of wolves. It should be stopped today and no more wolves should be killed. Montana needs an evidence-based, scientific, wolf count to see how many wolves are left in the state. The methodology should be accurate, based on peer-reviewed science.

If wolf trapping should continue, and wolf trapping should be prohibited in grizzly zones, if it continues in grizzly zones, it should not begin until December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on anything that has an impact on outfitters. His vote decreases public confidence in the ability of the MT Fish & Wildlife Commission to impartially serve Montana's best interests.

I support dropping the bobcat quota from 100 to 50 in Region 5 and from 50 to 25 in region 6.

I support the closure of trapping martens north of I-90 and east of I-15.

#323

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:59:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:47:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:09
IP Address: 174.45.122.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kristopher Killorn
City/Town:	Belgrade
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kkillorn@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioner,

It has been stated that the overall wolf quota will be decreased from 450 to 289 statewide. I would like to urge you to talk to your outfitters, wolf hunters, and NGO (Non Government Officials) on this matter. Although there was a decrease in wolf numbers last year some the data doesn't make sense as you will see in the latter part of the document as well as the attachments. We urge you to watch are declining ungulate populations specifically in deer on your management decision. It is the job of the Fish and Game Commission as well Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to manage predators when an ungulate population is in decline. We saw this earlier this year on an increase in the mountain lion quota. We are not asking you to increase the quota, plainly leaving where it is at. Hunters and trappers with the 400 quota only harvested 289 wolves. Wolves get smarter the longer we hunt and trap them, and you need to account for that. Also it is fact that when less wolves are in an area the litter sizes increase. Finally the data that is provided sends very mixed and bias views on the modeling of wolf populations in this state.

Current Wolf population in Montana around 900-800 depends on the source, this years count is actually 1089, but we will assume 800 According to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the average wolf pack in Montana has 6 to 8 animals. Packs typically include a breeding pair, their offspring, and other non-breeding adults. Wolves are capable of breeding at 2 to 3 years of age.

Litter sizes range from one to eleven, but on average four to six pups are born. Wolves live in families (or packs) that vary in size. Sometimes only consisting of a nuclear core of parents and a litter of pups, a pack will often include a dozen or more mostly-related family members.

Wolves depend on a variety of large ungulates (hoofed animals) for food. Although studies have been conducted in some areas to determine the actual number of prey killed each year, the results are estimates. Based on an average estimate of 15 ungulates per wolf per year.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks estimated that there were about 900 wolves in Montana in 2017. Researchers from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the University of Montana estimated the state's wolf population at more than 800 using a new statistical technique.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks estimate there is 21 breeding pairs in Montana.

The question is how are these numbers made. If the average pack size is 6-8, then this state would only have 126-168 total wolves. The goal of the FWP is 15 breeding pairs or 300 wolves

I really don't know how they come up with their numbers. If the average pack size is 6-8, then on 300, their should be about 35-37 breeding pairs?

It is rumored that the FWP wants to cut down the quota to 289, when we really don't have a reason to. With a quota of 400, all take only adds to 289.

The total calendar-year 2021 wolf harvest in Montana was 299. In addition, Wildlife Services killed 39 wolves that were found to be attacking or killing livestock. In 2020-21, 329 wolves were taken while 2019-20 saw 293 harvested. In 2018- 19, 295 wolves were taken.

The conclusion is that to take over 330 wolves in a season is highly improbable. Also with a population increase that should happen just due to litter size gives no reasoning to the FWP to decrease quota numbers. By the simple number we are not in a over decline till we reach a wolf population of 600 or under. Montana goal is set at 300. I ask you as a commissioner to evaluate your districts, if you need adjustment please make notice but don't decrease the state quota.

Sincerely,

Kris Killorn

#324

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:44:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:49:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:54
IP Address: 154.27.106.94

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan Lampers**
City/Town: **Three Forks**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lampers@sthealthyhunter.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I would love to see the wolf season extended at-least through spring bear season. This is a time when a lot of us are in the field and could not only take advantage of the opportunities, but also get a better handle on the high population we're seeing.

Thanks

#325

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 4:56:48 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:02:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:42
IP Address: 146.115.190.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sarah Stewart**
City/Town: **Gardiner**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sarahbstewart@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We are opposed to all wolf trapping and snaring.

The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed.

We strongly believe that a proper count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate.

Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31.

We support reducing the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 in Region 6.

We support the closure of the trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business. This seems very obvious to us and most people.

Thank you for your true attention to our comments.

#326

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:00:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:26:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:26:30
IP Address: 216.14.235.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rob Rich**
City/Town: **Condon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **r1rich3@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

1. The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately, and no wolves should be killed. Killing wolves for these reasons is ecologically unsound and ethically unconscionable. A count of wolves should be conducted that is scientifically sound and accurate, and the primary effort should be increasing coexistence and respect with this vital apex carnivore.
 2. Instead of a floating starting date for the wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones, delay the opening to December 31. Since climate change is causing bears to stay out of their dens later each year, and since bears move readily outside these “occupied zones,” December 31 is the least we can do to minimize harm. There should also be motions to close the season earlier than March 15, given that grizzly bears are coming out of their dens earlier and earlier each spring.
 3. Bobcat populations are struggling and increasingly interfacing with ESA-listed Canada lynx territories throughout their range. The significant decline of bobcat populations throughout their range is cause for commensurate reductions in the proposed trapping quotas. The proposed 50 percent reduction should occur statewide at the very least, and at best the season should be closed.
 4. Similar to the situation with bobcats, significant declines in the marten population evoke the need for a statewide marten trapping moratorium.
 5. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his family outfitting business.
-

#327

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:21:36 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:27:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:01
IP Address: 104.219.107.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Glenn Graham**
City/Town: **Redwood City**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **glenngraham76@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

- The snaring and trapping of wolves should be eliminated immediately. It is inhumane and unjustifiable.
 - Delay the opening of wolf trapping season in occupied grizzly zones to December 31.
 - Reducing the trapping quota of bobcats from 100 to 50 in Region 5, and from 50 to 25 in Region 6. Next year end trapping of bobcats. Its inhumane and unjustifiable.
 - No trapping of martens in a portion north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15. Its inhumane and unjustifiable.
-

#328

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:16:07 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:32:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:57
IP Address: 208.78.80.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tom Meine
City/Town:	Dillon
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tmeine1263@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I hope we can keep our wolf quotas at a level that agrees with the scientific studies that have been proven to work and not let the emotions of the antis with no science backing determine the quotas. The last time the commission gave into the antis they ended up in a lawsuit that is still ongoing. Sound scientific studies using hunting and trapping as a management tool are the best way to manage all of our game and predators. Thank You

#329

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:33:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:36:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:05
IP Address: 184.166.168.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **David**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dslackin@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please keep wolf quotas where they are. Our elk, moose, and deer populations are struggling with the predators and lack of habitat in region 1. Thank you

#330

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:40:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:43:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:21
IP Address: 35.134.218.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Danny Henley**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Henleydl.78@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

No more wolf quota reductions, the population is doing fine. We are loosing our elk and deer. Your own surveys prove this.

#331

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 5:53:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:00:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:06
IP Address: 174.22.0.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Christopher Rhoades**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **highcountrywhitetail@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I do not agree with lowering the quotas anywhere in the state for wolves, if anything I believe they should be eliminated altogether (unlimited harvest) or raised. With how hard and expensive it is to trap and hunt wolves, we do not have the ability to over harvest them as hunters and trappers due to how smart they are and how fast they reproduce. Especially in region 1 which strangely has the least elk and most wolves. I fully support managing them similarly to coyotes, year around seasons and unlimited harvest. Thank you.

#332

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:15:44 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:17:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 69.145.137.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Spenser Mayhew
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	spensermayhee@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Do not lower quotas!

#333

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:15:21 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:18:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:56
IP Address: 72.35.112.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michelle Breinholt
City/Town:	Willow
State/Province:	AK
Email Address:	shelly.breinholt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Just...STOP KILLING WOLVES. You know it's wrong, I don't have to tell you all the reasons why.

#334

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:41:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:43:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 108.174.114.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Charles Jones
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Lancejones168@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not lower the wolf quota in Montana. Wolves are extremely difficult to pursue as a hunter or trapper.

#335

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:42:40 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:43:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:18
IP Address: 71.36.49.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jordan Linder**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **devil_dog783@msn.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Leave the wolf quotas where they're at. Protect our deer/elk/moose.

#336

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:54:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:57:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 63.153.21.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ty Aukshun
City/Town:	Bridger
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	renegadesrt6@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The population of wolves has grown out of control as is. There are so many more wolves than you are willing to admit and you want to cut back quota if anything you need to increase it with a longer season. Look at what happened to Idaho they are absolutely out of control there.

#337

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:58:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:03:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:04
IP Address: 108.174.122.106

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lawrence Richardson
City/Town: Darby
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We do not need to reduce our wolf quotas. I am a hunter and trapper and enjoy the outdoors wolf numbers are three time higher than the state objective so as sportsman why would we lower the quota?

#338

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:59:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:04:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:50
IP Address: 174.198.129.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kathy Richardson**
City/Town: **Darby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Love406fur@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not consider giving the wolf hunters and trappers less of a quota. The anti's will continue to have FWP in legal suites even if you drop quotas. We as trappers & hunters are trying to keep wolf numbers in check with what our numbers in the state should be. You must realize that wolf packs continue to grow with each breeding that is done. This will eventually get out of control if the numbers continue to grow. We must keep them in check and do not allow the anti's to get in charge of #'s.

Thank you. Kathy Richardson

#339

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:57:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:05:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:08
IP Address: 76.64.196.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **roland d'amour**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **theputridexistence@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

you must outlaw all snares and traps. these archaic and sadistic devices shouldn't have been in use for a long time- pretty crazy that people actually still use these. not only cruel, but these traps can kill any animal (including endangered ones).. we need to focus more on living with wolves and preserving their natural habitat, rather than kill them, just because ranchers are selfish and don't have any interest (or compassion) in getting along with them. people also come to our state to see wolves, so it's in our best interest to protect them. it is said that you need a new system for keeping count of wolf populations, until this is rectified, you must put off any culls.

#340

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:17:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:19:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:48
IP Address: 63.153.90.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	D. Steintl
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	steintl@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Honorable Commission,

As a resident of Montana for over 21 years, I STRONGLY SUPPORT the scientific management of Montana's furbearer and wolf populations through trapping and hunting.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE with the new proposal that any non-target capture of one lynx or one grizzly bear shall initiate any in-season trapping regulation changes. This new rule is overly punitive to trapping activities and is not required with other outdoor activities that stress and impact individual lynx and grizzly bear health and mortality, such as vehicle, snowmobile, or downhill skiing activities within lynx and grizzly bear ranges.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE with the proposal for reduced wolf quotas. Montana's prior quota system, as utilized prior to and during the 2022 trapping season, responsibly managed Montana's wolf populations in a scientific and effective manner. The newly proposed quotas appear to be driven by emotion rather than the scientific management of wolf populations. I consistently see wolf tracks and sign throughout Region 2, and there is no scientific reason for such a drastic reduction in quotas across western Montana.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE with floating the wolf trapping start-date based upon grizzly bear activity. This greatly diminishes the area available to wolf trappers who do not possess expensive snowmobiles because by the time wolf trapping opens in my area, many of the best Region 2 forest service roads for wolf trapping have already closed due to snowfall, and only those with snowmobiles can attempt wolf trapping.

I also humbly MAKE THE RECOMMENDATION that the requirement for RELAXING SNARE DEVICES EXCLUDE SNARES SET IN UNDERWATER AND UNDER-ICE SNARE SETS. In other words, snares set completely underwater or under-ice for beaver within the lynx protection zone should not require a relaxing device as there is no risk in catching lynx in underwater or under-ice snares. This rule change is important to help minimize furbearer loss, should an underwater snare relax after dispatch, and would not increase lynx mortality at all.

Thank you for carefully considering my above recommendations to Montana's 2023 trapping regulations.

Very respectfully,
D. Steintl

#341

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 6:40:08 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:27:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:35
IP Address: 66.109.156.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nathan Kane
City/Town:	Trout Creek
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Elkoholic234@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I have 2 sons. One is 2 the other was just born July 10th. I fear that if we continue to let the wolf populations stay and grow well above the 400 wolves we were originally supposed to have and manage, that my boys wont be able to enjoy the same outdoor experiences that I did growing up. I believe all things are good for our environment, including wolves, but I also believe we as responsible outdoorsman need to manage them. Without the proper management we will lose our traditions we enjoy so much here in our wonderful state. As I walk through the mountains I am finding fewer and fewer signs of elk and more and more signs of wolves. In certain places that I used to shed hunt I now find that I have better luck walking the creek bottoms looking for wolf kills than I do walking the ridges looking for sheds. If we reduce the number of wolves we are allowed to harvest and put more restrictions on trapping them we are setting ourselves up for failure. I understand that this day in age its almost entirely political, which is sad and our families are the one paying the price for it. We hope to see more wolves removed and help our deer and elk get back towards the numbers they once were.

#342

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:18:28 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:36:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:43
IP Address: 174.45.65.76

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sharon Sutherland
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sharisuth@charter.net

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

First of all, I think the wolf hunting and trapping season in 2023-2024 should be cancelled, because MTFWP doesn't seem to have a real idea of how many wolves there are. More regulations to make it easier to kill wolves were implemented last year, yet less wolves were killed. It seems that the IPOM method of counting is not reliable, and MTFWP should go back to counting sightings.

Second, please drop the number of wolves killed in Unit 110, outside Glacier, to 1, and in Unit 313, outside Yellowstone, to 1 also. I witnessed the devastation of the Lamar Canyon Pack after their alpha female was killed outside Cooke City. They just disappeared. Plus, it seems that the hunters are honing in on the frequencies of the wolf collars and using them to know when wolves are close to the Park's boundaries.

Please do not use a floating date to institute the start of wolf killings, but make it December 31, so no federally protected lynx, grizzlies and wolverines are affected

It's time MTFWP counted the constituency of those who like to view wildlife, not kill them. It is a much larger group of people than the 1/2 of 1% trappers, who pay \$28 per license to kill up to 20 wolves. Yellowstone gets almost 4 million visitors annually, and research has shown that the majority want to see a grizzly and wolf. They bring in \$82.5 million annually to the area. How does this compute financially? Establish the wolf stamp that was talked about a couple of years ago. People will buy this to help manage wolves non-lethally.

Modernizing the wolf plan should include ALL public lands users, not just hunters, trappers, livestock interests and outfitters.

#343

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:39:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:41:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:09
IP Address: 38.44.96.105

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Casazza
City/Town: Eureka
State/Province: MT
Email Address: dcasazzaconcretegmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Appose

#344

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:42:20 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:43:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 98.97.37.72

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lance**
City/Town: **Sumas**
State/Province: **WA**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Keep the wolf quotas how they are. The ungulates are suffering too much as it is.

#345

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:45:03 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:46:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:52
IP Address: 174.203.7.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jake**
City/Town: **Huffman**
State/Province: **TX**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I believe that if the wolf quotas are reduced even more it will hurt the elk population in the area which are already struggling.

#346

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:53:33 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:57:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 150.195.186.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Zach Heidbrier
City/Town:	Troy
State/Province:	MO
Email Address:	zheidbrier@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I wanted to reach out and urge you NOT to lower the wolf quota in Northwest Montana. The ungulates in this area have drastically reduced in number due to over predation from heavy wolf and grizzly bear populations.

Areas where elk were once surveyed in the thousands are now in the low hundreds. Reducing the wolf quota is wrong and bad management.

#347

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:15:56 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:20:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:57
IP Address: 75.74.209.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Richard Plasencia
City/Town: Miami
State/Province: FL
Email Address: Richard@theravenouschef.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Elk, deer, and moose populations are being decimated. We've seen it everywhere they've been reintroduced or protected beyond reason. If anything wolf hunting should be expanded. Traveling to Montana to hunt is becoming futile. If this continues we'd be better off spending our hunting dollars elsewhere.

#348

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:16:14 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:25:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:25
IP Address: 208.123.203.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Levi Bowler**
City/Town: **Columbia Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **levibowler@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

quotas should not be reduced based on past harvest records. This is not a compromise this is an agenda. What does science say? Take more predators if thats what needs to happen. Take less predators if thats what needs to happen..... but don't compromise with those that have a larger agenda... they are not going away.

#349

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:43:18 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:28:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:45:25
IP Address: 37.19.221.245

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bridger Brennan**
City/Town: **Great Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bridgerbrennan@me.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

We need fewer regulations on trapping and hunting wolves, not more.

#350

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:34:31 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:55:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:01
IP Address: 199.38.104.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cecilia Mink
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT
Email Address: protectrgriz@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

To Whom It May Concern;

As a citizen of Montana, I am very disappointed at the lack of respect for wildlife in our state. Wildlife are what makes Montana Montana. I am bypassing the typical "science" as it will be discussed over and over again. I am giving you other topics to think about before you make the decisions that will have dire consequences for our state, our wildlife and its citizens.

First and foremost, Commissioner Tabor needs to recuse himself. This is a conflict of interest since he has ties to an outfitting business.

Secondly, there is no animal that should be hunted and killed for a trophy to hang on someones wall.

Thirdly, we are becoming a state with a reputation of "killers of all animals". Are you really wanting to face the fall out from the national media that this will draw. The revenue that this state and local business' will lose from tourists, photographers who have said they will stop coming to Montana, will be far greater than any outfitter or hunter will bring to the economy. You are putting your locals out of business.

I can not understand why we have such need to massacre another living creature, not to mention to putting the Grizzly as a secondary casualty due to your chosen dates.

Cecilia Mink
Whitefish, MT

#351

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:47:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:57:03 PM
Time Spent: 01:09:41
IP Address: 174.231.82.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris Fillingham**
City/Town: **Hamilton**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **chrisfillinghamfs@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am writing to express my concern about lowering wolf quotes. If Montana is housing approximately three times the amount of wolves that the US Fish & wildlife Service states we can house as a carrying capacity to not negatively affect ungulate populations, why in the world would we be considering reducing harvest quotes!? Even though we have not been meeting them. I believe that upping the quotes would serve as a challenge to sportsmen and to show that FWP would like a positive shift in the current trend. Thank you for your time, Chris

#352

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:34:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:59:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:33
IP Address: 65.129.28.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Troy Wollbrinck
City/Town:	Boise
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	openthrottletroy@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The number of wolves in both Montana and Idaho is vastly higher than estimated by the department of fish and wildlife. The idea of reducing the quota on wolves is an asinine approach to wildlife management. Especially after the western states had such a devastating winter. While wolves are an essential part of the ecosystem their populations are undoubtedly growing out of control and will continue to do so if the quotas are limited even more than they are now.

#353

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:55:46 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:02:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:36
IP Address: 174.215.116.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Robert Roman
City/Town:	Post Falls
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	greattempest@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to see Montana manage the wolf population to mirror the recommendations made by the US fish and wildlife when the experimental non-essential Canadian grey wolves were reintroduced. They recommended 400 on Montana, I believe. That would take a lot of weight off the ungulates and the livestock. It would leave an ample number of wolves to continue thriving in Montana.

Thank you,

Robert Roman

#354

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:05:15 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:12:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:18
IP Address: 174.215.119.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gary Finney
City/Town:	Coeurd'Alene
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	gary@f4wm.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please do not cut back on the wolf harvest. Why would you not manage for the 400 wolves that Fish and Wildlife Service said that Montana had suitable habitat for? Let's give our ungulates some relief from the devastating effects of the wolf predation.

#355

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:48:06 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:15:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:20
IP Address: 47.45.180.147

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tyler Corwin
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: corwin.tyler@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

It's understandable to feel pressure from special interest groups and from outside entities, but the reality is the wolf is thriving in Montana (according to set expectations with reintroduction). With the passing of new legislation last season to give more advantage to the hunter, it appears the wolves won. The wolf harvest numbers were lower last year than in previous years and that is not because of lack of participation in license sales. Wolves are extremely smart and difficult to hunt. I hunt one particular drainage and see a particular pack so often, that I have names for each of the 11 members. I told the Biologist about this pack and they said they weren't aware of a pack in that drainage. That's my concern. The science just isn't telling the whole picture. The boots on the ground are seeing the reality of a successful reintroduction with a thriving population. Biological models can never truly predict the biological abundance of a population like a wolf with perfect accuracy. For the citizens that live in the sticks and spend time in the mountains, we know the predicted population models certainly fall short of the actual population. I understand lowering harvest numbers in regions that have lower numbers of wolves. However, region 1 and 2 should be left alone. There is far too much country without road access, and far too dense of cover for hunters to meet quotas that would lower overall populations. Decisions should be based on truth and never based on emotion, because emotion can be irrational at times. As a resident with a wildlife biology degree and hails the wolf his favorite animal, yet has a wolf tag filled, I understand the best way to keep a stable ecosystem is to manage the wolf population through the human intervention of hunting. As someone who is on ground zero hunting and watching these animals year round, we will never come close to reducing their population below targeted ranges through hunting alone. The harvest numbers support this statement, and that's the only true hard fact/number to present in the debate. Thank you for your time.

#356

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:43:54 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:23:22 PM
Time Spent: 08:39:27
IP Address: 174.206.43.104

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **William H. Funk | Save the Yellowstone Grizzly**
City/Town: **Staunton**
State/Province: **VA**
Email Address: **williamhfunk@savetheyellowstonegrizzly.org**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Blindly trapping/snaring wolves and other scarce megafaunal predators like bears is something that should have died out a century ago, an inherently wasteful and blindly vindictive campaign against native wildlife whose harms ripple through the entire ecosystem. And MFWP's perennial excuse--that wolf populations are rebounding to the extent that they need violent reduction--is wholly without scientific evidence, and thus open to legal actions.

Similarly, trophy hunting for these magnificent, fading embodiments of the American wild is a vapid "sport" that runs directly contrary to the professed conservation goals of MFWP. At the very least, the "floating date" for the beginning of the wolf-trapping season in grizzly bear recovery zones should be December 31 statewide, not before. This would reduce the "accidental" trappings of "explorer bears," young male grizzlies that are seeking to repopulate native habitats and thus expand their gene pool, a critical concern for this federally listed epitome of native wildlife.

#357

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 8:51:27 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:28:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:25
IP Address: 209.222.123.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	C
City/Town:	GV
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	cscrimager@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please revise your season quota's to 1 maximum in each region, but I'm highly against it. Please eliminate unit 313 0 wolves. You should be protecting your resources, not treating them like vermin. Trapping and snaring should be illegal, but it isn't yet so please check trap within 24hr mandatory. Please you must know how many wolves you actually have to put these tags on them. The current regulations are way too extreme for this amazing keystone social species that have family dynamics just as we do. This is highly disruptive to their survival and statistics have shown they really take a small percentage of livestock each season and they don't eat all the elk.

#358

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:28:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:36:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:21
IP Address: 69.145.21.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	KC York
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	info@trapfreemt.org

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

WOLF PROPOSALS:

We support any reduction in the number of wolves who can be killed. However, wolves are more than numbers. They are family units and depend on the pack. They have a rightful and necessary role in the ecosystem. Killing them disrupts their ability to function and as nature intended. Research shows without the pack and the critical pack members, wolves are also far more likely to prey on easier species, i.e. livestock. "Killing wolves actually leads to more livestock deaths."

We are especially concerned with all the legal liberalized unethical and unfair chase means to kill many more wolves, including pre-baiting, setting up cameras, party trapping, capitalizing on the Judas wolf with a 48 hr trap check drawing pack members in, shooting over bait, night hunting, snaring, quadrupled quotas, and bounty incentives, that even fewer wolves were reported killed. Why? They are either being poached and/or there are far fewer wolves remaining to begin with. Research shows permitting the killing of wolves results in more killing, more poaching.

The department is entrusted to manage wildlife. They have a scientific and ethical obligation to get an accurate count of wolves. IPOM is an estimate and a flawed one according to the experts. According to Dr. Scott Creel, "This model demonstrably did not predict wolf territory size accurately. Because the model underestimates territory size, its use in the iPOM will systematically overestimate the number of packs that occupy a fixed area, and thus overestimate population size." And, "The Montana iPOM is a sequence of unrelated models, so estimation errors simply compound from one model to the next."

We adamantly oppose the new map delineating a smaller portion now for "occupied grizzly bear range" resulting in opening more area to wolf trapping on November 27th seriously risking the trapping and snaring of protected grizzlies and posing a significant human safety problem. We requested and failed to receive the documentation pertaining to the changes in the map for the application of a floating wolf trapping opening date.

In order to try and avoid trapping/snaring grizzlies, the wolf trapping season should open no sooner than December 31 and close no later than February 28. The wolf trapping season historically ran from December 15 to February 28 to try to avoid grizzlies. However, findings are grizzlies are entering hibernation later and emerging sooner. Therefore, the wolf trapping opening later than December 31 and closing prior to February 28 should be based on grizzlies presence or sign thereof.

In addition, we are exhausted from hearing the elk population has to be reduced followed by how to kill more wolves. Thus, the 2023 season on wolves should be closed where elk are overabundant.

Wolves support hunters keeping the herd strong by targeting and taking out the weak, aged, and sick wolves. Therefore, areas with CWD should also be closed to killing wolves. Wolves are our allies and first line of defense against CWD.

We advocate for the additional following changes in the Montana wolf regulations which are permissible even under the aggressive bills against wolves that were signed into Montana law. The current unfair and unethical methods to kill more wolves are options the F&W Commission passed and are not stringent requirements under the law.

We propose:

A wolf quota of 1 for unit 110 outside Glacier and 1 for unit 313 outside Yellowstone National Park as needed and justified.

The wolf quota per person should be 5 wolves.

No party trapping in which multiple trappers add their tag to a trap.

All traps and snares should be required a 24 hr/min daily trap check.

Trap lines should be registered with the department for enforcement purposes.

Closure of wolf season in areas overabundant with elk and/or CWD.

Snares for wolves should be permitted on private land, ONLY, and posted if the property is in block management.

Traps and snares should require removal within 24 hours of a region closing or upon meeting personal quota. Otherwise, traps and

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

snare should be removed no later than the last day of the season.

Night hunting of wolves should be prohibited.

Pre-baiting should be prohibited.

Wolf trapping not before 12/31 and closing no later than 2/28 dependent on grizzly activity for extension of closure periods.

Prohibit shooting wolves over bait.

Hunters and trappers should have to present all wolves to the area regional office within 10 days and data should be collected on the wolves instead of allowing them to disgracefully rot in the field.

For public safety, our public lands should be posted if wolf trapping is in progress.

Reporting forms should be universal and filled out completely.

BOBCAT PROPOSALS We support the reduction in quota for Region 5 from 100 to 50 bobcats and in Region 6 from 50 to 25 bobcats. We ask that all regions significantly reduce quotas in sync with the findings far fewer bobcat are being reported trapped.

For the 2015 season, bobcat quotas were reduced in Regions 5 and 6 due to FWP officials said they had seen a drop in bobcat numbers in those areas.

In 2014 for Region 5

250 quota and 205 bobcats were reported killed.

In contrast, 8 years later, i.e. 2022 season

100 quota and 64 bobcats in Region 5.

For Region 6, in 2014, 23 bobcats were reported killed out of a quota of 90.

For 2022, 10 bobcats reported killed with a quota of 50.

Documentation available upon request.

MARTEN TRAPPING CLOSURE:

We support and all marten trapping should be closed. We are not overrun with marten. They were extirpated before in areas and this pattern of reintroduction, trap and kill, reintroduce needs to end. Rare species such as fisher fall victim to trapping of marten, too.

LASTLY:

The recreation and commercial unregulated trapping of beaver needs to be stopped. Effective non-lethal methods should be demonstrated unsuccessful before a beaver trapping permit is issued.

The department has failed to live up to their promise and address the trapping of dogs in lieu of the EQC doing a study.

The swift fox trapping season should be closed in order to protect the species. Likewise, with fisher.

All non-targets trappings should come off the quotas.

We hope you will do the right thing for wildlife and present and future generations.

Thank you,

KC York on behalf of the board of directors

Trap Free Montana

PO Box 335

Hamilton, MT 59840

References:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/killing-wolves-actually-leads-more-livestock-death-180953605/#:~:text=The%20answer%20to%20that%20question,by%20wolves%20in%20the%20next.>

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-38148-z#disqus_thread

Methods to estimate population sizes of wolves in Idaho and Montana Dr. Scott Creel, Distinguished Professor of Letters and Science, Department of Ecology. Montana State University. Bozeman MT 59717

#359

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:34:45 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:45:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:49
IP Address: 209.222.123.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **R King**
City/Town: **CFalls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Nikon.gr@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

The season quota's are too high. Reduce down to one per region. 0 in Yellowstone unit 313. Traps must have a mandatory 24hr check. They shouldnt be permitted in my opinion. Use the wolf stamp to bring in funding to help conserve wolves. Please don't let them go extinct with these liberal hunting quotas. I hope they get back on the endangered list where they belong.

#360

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:55:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:05:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 63.153.106.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sally Blevins**
City/Town: **Darby**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sallyandraven@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Wolves should not be considered trophy animals. Eliminate any snaring or trapping of wolves, bobcats, and marten.

#361

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 9:42:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:06:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:03
IP Address: 97.121.209.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lila Randolph-Poore
City/Town: Red Lodge
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 12lilamt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

1. I would like to first ask you to end all snaring and trapping of all animals. These methods are indiscriminate and they endanger tourists, children, pets and wildlife. In particular, no wolves should be trapped or snared until a scientific count can be done by biologists.
 2. If trapping is to be allowed, all start dates should be delayed until December 31 in all zones but particularly in grizzly zones.
 3. In Region 5, reduce trapping of bobcats from 100 to 50 and in region 6, reduce from 50 to 25. The decline in populations is evident in the reduced number of Bobcats trapped in previous years.
 4. End all trapping of martens due to reduced numbers.
 5. Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on any issues that effect his outfitting business. This should go without saying but it is unethical to be making decisions having to do with public resources that will increase your personal bottom line.
-

#362

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:11:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:30:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:20
IP Address: 69.146.142.119

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Patrick Ames
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: lunaswan415@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Four generations of my family have been born and raised in eastern Montana. Everyone in my family hunts, or hunted, including my mother and aunts. I was a friend of the late and great Jim Posowitz....we always followed the Fair Chase Ethic". You are a sorry bunch of cruel, immoral and unethical umbilics. You are an embarrassment to the vast majority of Montanans who want to hunt in a humane way. Trapping and trophy hunting are barbaric. We demand that you stop the senseless hunting and trapping of wolves until you have verified scientific data on how many wolves we actually have in Montana.

Traps set for wolves and snares will endanger grizzlies and other wild animals. Delaying the wolf trapping season to December 31 will, at the very least, give grizzlies a chance to be in their dens.

Until an approved scientific study quantifies mountain lion populations and shows the effect of lions on ungulate populations, no increase in killing should be approved.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Bottom line; Montanans are intelligent, informed and we vote. We do not approve of your selfish, senseless, trapping of our enormously valued wildlife. You must stop your pandering to an extremally small specialty group that do not represent the vast majority of sane Montanans.

You are greatly harming our tourism industry.

#363

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:39:31 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:43:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:58
IP Address: 96.42.96.158

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

This plan is ridiculous. Ungulates in Montana are devastated. Livestock damage is at all time highs. Even if quotas were removed wolves would flourish. FWP manages their wolves about as good as their tag draws

#364

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:39:39 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:47:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:01
IP Address: 72.174.139.201

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Claudia Narcisco
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	cdnarcisco@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

According to the Alternatives and Analysis: Furbearer and wolf harvest is analyzed based on population and harvest monitoring data collected by the department. Population and occupancy models assist the department in assessing specific species and populations. Alternative A: The commission may approve the fall 2023–winter 2024 furbearer and wolf trapping and hunting seasons and quotas as presented by the department. Alternative B: The commission may choose to amend the proposal presented by the department and adopt the amended version. I encourage you to amend the proposal. Below are my comments on changes.

Wolves have been a target of many of Montana's legislators. The 2021 legislative session was particularly aggressive on wolves with legislation permitting night hunting and trapping, baiting, snaring and other methods. The intent was to maximize the kill rather than adhere to the tenets of fair chase, which Montana was once proud. As a result, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has been tasked with administering wolf and furbearer hunting and trapping to maximize the kill rather than based on sustainable and science-based management. This leaves our wildlife vulnerable. Not only wolves and furbearers but other imperiled species including grizzly bear, lynx and marten.

The liberalization of wolf hunting and trapping has resulted in almost 300 wolves known to be killed by trappers and hunters annually. Based on the "Shoot, Shovel, and Shut-up" bumper stickers I see there are likely to be more unknown. At the same time the estimated population is increasingly uncertain. Numbers I've heard range from 1025 to 1200 wolves, meaning the known kill approaches 25 to 30 percent of the population annually. This leaves wolves particularly vulnerable should a disease such as mange, avian flu now known to transfer to grizzly bear, or other known or unknown diseases strike. Use of the Integrated Patch Occupancy Model (iPOM) that might be appropriate for distribution, is not adequate for estimating population. A reliable population count is essential and foundational to proper wildlife management. Pressures of the aggressive high wolf kill imposed by the legislature necessitate a return to a verifiable on the ground physical count. The odious slaughter of Yellowstone wolves last season demonstrates the need for more accurate numbers, as well as protections in areas surrounding our premier national parks and other refugia. Please return to a quota of one wolf in WMU 313.

Wolves and furbearers are valued wildlife held in the public trust of all American citizens. Montana does not own our wildlife but is entrusted to manage for all citizens, not the one half of one percent of Montanan's who deem themselves entitled to kill and torture wildlife for their own warped pleasure. There is little reason outside of science or necessary agency intervention to permit trapping, especially on public land. By nature of wildlife being in the public trust, the comment period should be open to all American citizens.

People from around the world come to view our world class wildlife. The economies of gateway communities around Yellowstone National Park alone depend on the over 80 million dollars brought by these visitors. As tourism has increased, incidents of wolf predation on livestock have declined and are static at 1/10th of one percent. Any loss is compensated by the livestock loss board so the producer doesn't suffer a significant economic loss. Consider it a tithe for use of forage once available to wildlife.

Not only are people from around the world watching how we manage wolves, but so are other partner agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. FWS is monitoring wolf management as a surrogate for how Montana will manage grizzly bear once delisted. The 2023 legislative session responded to this oversight by dropping several bills that demonstrated Montana cannot be trusted to manage imperiled species.

Wolves are integral to maintaining healthy populations of elk, deer and other prey. We learned in fifth grade that wolves above all predators target the weak, diseased and injured. If allowed to perform their ecological role, chronic wasting disease might be controlled without transferring the cost to taxpayers. Similarly, I suspect wolves target weak and diseased livestock. FWP and Wildlife Services must test livestock lost to predation by wolves for the occurrence of disease. Livestock producers must be responsible for operations, husbandry and mitigation measures.

A number of years ago. I commented in favor of a wolf conservation stamp. I was disappointed when it morphed into the wolf management stamp that funded lethal control measures. I was astonished at the 'ownership' hunters and trappers in attendance

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

claimed over wildlife in the public trust, based on subsidizing wildlife management through the Pittman Robertson Act. The Governor's directive to modernize MT Wolf management plan must give all stake-holders equal representation on FWP commission board, including non-consumptive users. It should be overseen by an independent science-based advisor.

Finally, I request that the commission recognize and manage beaver as a keystone species essential to maintaining riparian and stream function, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat. Beaver once numbered between 60 and 400 million. Pre-European colonization, the bottoms of many broad alluvial valleys in the American West were river-wetland complexes highly adapted to local disturbance regimes and served as hubs of biodiversity. These river-wetland complexes are dynamic with beaver playing a key role valley-wide. Declining groundwater levels are common in parts of the western US, and the impact on the ability of wells to pump groundwater is not yet known. Climate change will certainly make proper riparian function due to beaver impoundments critical to available water supply. I urge you to consider the importance of beaver as a nature-based but under-utilized solution to climate change. I request that beaver not be trapped until studies of the impact of beaver on water and riparian function are done.

#365

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:53:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:57:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 67.143.192.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Deborah Slicer
City/Town: Huson
State/Province: MT
Email Address: deborahslicer031@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I recommend zero trapping of wolves in Montana. This commission is not listening to the majority public which does not support wolf trapping in the state. Citizens who have read reports know that IPOM is suspect, that the state has no reliable population figures, that wolf hysteria and greed are behind the proposed recommendations. Thank you for reading this. Deborah Slicer, PhD

#366

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:01:01 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:03:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:49
IP Address: 65.219.130.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Zander Petrich
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	zpetrich1@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am a resident of region 3 and I respectfully ask that the quotas are not decreased, if anything they need to be increased. We continue to see elk displaced and killed due to wolf predation and mature bull populations being destroyed for current and future generations. Please manage the wildlife and set quotas basing data on biology not politics. Thank you

#367

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:03:41 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:25:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:27
IP Address: 72.174.1.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Stalling
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Stallingd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I am an avid hunter and past president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, and I adamantly opposed to the ongoing, no scientific killing of wolves in Montana, killing based on politics driven by myths, lies and misconceptions about wolves. These proposed regulations will make a bad situation even worse, and violate several tenants of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation — In particular, the tenants related to the public trust and that wildlife management be driven by science.

Wildlife should be managed based on what we know about their ecology and behaviors. Wolves are not. Wolves, like other predators, did not evolve with much predation. They have intricate social structures and reproductive behaviors and strategies and are self-regulating. Killing certain wolves can distrust social structures and breeding behavior, causing packs to split and breed more, often exacerbating the issues managers claim to be solving by killing wolves.

Wolves are being managed based on politics influenced and controlled by relatively small special interest groups of hunters and agricultural interests.

Wolves should be protected and managed based on science, and all citizens should have a say in how wolves are managed. If adopted, these trapping and hunting seasons and quotas for wolves will further erode the declining trust many citizens have in Montana's ability to care for, protect and manage the wildlife and wild places that make Montana so special, and are held in trust by ALL citizens.

#368

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:24:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:29:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:43
IP Address: 66.62.113.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cassandra Rideg
City/Town:	Huson
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	9milefarmandmerc@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Comments on Wolf Proposal 7/24/2023

As a Montana family that hunts and fishes, with a small twenty-five-acre ranch and livestock, I would like to make comment on the Wolf Proposal for this 2023/2024 hunting season. I am not impressed with the trend Montana FWP has turned to in managing wildlife. Primarily in lack of transparency and the consideration of opinions of all the stakeholders. You are managing a public trust in our wildlife. This is considered a public resource (though I no longer believe that wildlife should be called a “resource”), therefore managed for the well being of every Montana resident and every American. That being said, this is my list of discrepancies that I see in the new Wolf Management Proposal.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams on February 3, 2023, specifically asked previous MT FWP director Hank Worsech to stop the aggressive wolf hunting laws in Montana in order to first not loose state management of wolves altogether, and second to not jeopardize the eventual delisting of Grizzlies. In the last Montana legislative session most of the wolf killing bills were voted down by our legislators (voicing the will of the public). The US FWS is watching Montana FWP Grey Wolf Management Plans closely to see if we will amend our overly aggressive hunting and trapping laws. They are even considering relisting the Grey Wolf in the lower forty-eight states specifically because of the anti-wolf killing practices in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. I am sure this will come into play if and when the federal government chooses to delist the Grizzly. As a hunter I know that I will not get my game if I don't put forth the time and effort. So why is Montana FWP lowering the standards by allowing high tech tools and not supporting fair chase means in hunting. We are not in a military zone, so why are we allowing the use of thermal and infrared scopes in hunting. This is going too far, and it is not safe when you are unable to see what is beyond your target. It is also poor sportsmanship to leave animals in traps for more than twenty-four hours, especially in winter and when non-target animals are the ones trapped up to 50% of the time (our pets included with no acknowledgement or compensation - this has happened three times to family/friends). Trappers need to check traps every 24 hours.

I am not asking Montana FWP for special privileges for the wolf. I am asking you to manage wolves like any other species. Manage them for species health, for the benefits they provide to their prey populations and keeping our wild lands healthy. I am not sure why there is not a public wolf advisory board like there is for so many other mammals managed by Montana FWP? It would be effective to have such a collaborative, with all stakeholders represented. You need to not only include hunters, trappers, outfitters, and ranchers, but also those in agriculture, hospitality, ecotourism, advocates, and landowners like my family. Under Governor Gianforte's directive to rewrite and update Montana's Wolf Management Plan, this could be possible. We desperately need to get away from politics steering wildlife management. This needs to be guided by nonpartisan/ independent, science based, experts, transparent and open to public comments.

By killing too many wolves not only do we run the risk of losing management of the species, but declining numbers adversely affect the economy in and around our two National Parks and the surrounding areas. Tourism dollars in Montana are greatly depended upon by towns in and around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Research has shown that human-caused mortality of wolf pack members adversely affects wolves and wolf pack behavior. This is something that all national parks strive to avoid with their wildlife. I believe that bordering national parks the Wolf Management units (313 & 110) should reflect this concern by having quotas of zero to one animal. In our valley we have had wolves for many years and prior to the Yellowstone reintroduction. They have been non-intrusive neighbors, causing only a few problems early on. In some respects, they have been beneficial to have here. They have managed to keep the deer and elk from camping out in our pastures, hayfields, and hay yards, where damage hunts have been only a temporary solution. We have a very hefty and growing deer and elk population. My greatest concern as a livestock owner is, a known wolf pack is much better than a fragmented pack or totally new wolves altogether! It would be a shame if over-hunting of wolves leads to increased livestock depredation and hardship for livestock producers. My second hope was that by allowing modest populations of predators (wolves, lions, bears, and coyotes), we might just slow the spread of diseases like Brucellosis and Chronic Wasting Disease. There is now documented research and evidence to support this could be the case.

Knowing directly of the recent scarcity now of wolves in our valley and in many areas in Montana, I feel that Montana FWP needs to conduct an accurate physical count of the wolf population. The current population was estimated at 1,025 individual wolves. Even if there were 1,000 animals in the state, I would consider this a very small population. I believe their population to be considerably less. The iPOM population estimating system does little to prevent counting individual wolves more than once and as a process it gives us

Public Comment: Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

more of an estimate of wolf distribution across the landscape instead of an actual representation of an accurate population number. This is the opinion of a Computational Ecologist friend and several wolf researchers I have heard presenting their research. iPOM is a very new population estimating process that has been used exclusively with wolves, and while certain parts of it have been peer reviewed, the whole process in its entirety has not been peer reviewed. Please return to doing actual physical counts on wolves before going forward with the current quotas proposed for the up-coming hunting /trapping season. They seem extremely high for each of hunting regions, considering added, more aggressive hunting tactics, extending the season length, and the fact that wolves killed in the past several hunting seasons were well below the quotas set. With the current loss of species diversity across the United States and globally, doesn't it make sense for Montana FWP to err on the side of caution instead of exacerbating the problem? I as a hunter and rancher am willing to try to coexist with wolves, shouldn't Montana FWP, as the keepers of Montana's wildlife, do the same for all the public present and future generations? Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your time.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Rideg

#369

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:33:32 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:35:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:04
IP Address: 174.204.198.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Cory Hart**
City/Town: **Albany**
State/Province: **OR**
Email Address: **cory400exquader@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

I vote no for the wolf quota reductions. There's more than enough Wolves. This is a terrible idea. The deer/elk/moose populations don't need this either.

#370

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:40:16 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:57:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:55
IP Address: 72.174.128.91

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jill Devine
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jill.ann42@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the Fall 2023–Winter 2024 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Please immediately eliminate the snaring and trapping of wolves! No wolves should be killed. Conduct a wolf population count that is scientifically sound and accurate.

At least delay the opening to Dec. 31.

Reduce trapping quota of bobcats to 50 in region 5, and to 25 in region 6.

Close trapping of martens in portion north of I90 and east of I15.

Commissioner Tabor should recuse himself from voting on decisions that mean profit to his outfitting business.

Think of the suffering these poor animals endure and find it in your heart to stop the horrific suffering.

Thank you.
