

"There's no way for these traps to avoid wildlife that's banned from being hunted, and reducing wolf populations will only increase disease in deer populations, something we've already been seeing here. Make the better decision and leave wolves alone. They'll ignore livestock if you stop cutting off their food supply.

Steve Cooper Farmville, NC"

"I support the use of snares and bait in the use of trapping wolves. The use of snares and bait should be allowed on public lands as well

Philip Noreen BELGRADE, MT"

"These proposals are not science based and will damage the delicate eco system. I do not support these proposed changes and it is disgusting to even propose these changes given they are proposed for special interest groups. Snaring, trapping, and baiting are cruel and don't represent the principles of hunting. Elk are over populated in most areas of Montana and wolves help maintain healthy elk populations.

Amanda Crowder SANTA CRUZ, CA"

"The proposals provided to you will injure and kill far more than wolves. Not only is this war on wolves biologically, scientifically, and socially unjust, but opponents to the multiple anti-wolf bills also overwhelmingly dominated in verbal and written testimony, including scientists, wildlife biologists, and FWP retirees. We urge you to heed to the responsibility that you have been entrusted to set policies for the protection, preservation, and management of fish and wildlife, and not for special interests. No other species is managed down to the bare minimum. There are a variety of things you still can do to lessen the indiscriminate destruction that will otherwise unfold. It isn't a matter of if another grizzly, lynx, dog, prized elk, trophy moose, golden eagle, beloved dog, or even a child, gets trapped or snared, it's a matter of when. Leghold traps set for wolves have a 9" jaw spread, weigh 10 pounds, and take either a special trap setting tool to open or someone weighing over 200 pounds! Snares are lightweight, cost only a couple of dollars, are legally set in mass quantities, are inconspicuous, often forgotten by trappers, and are deadly. As much as you have authority over the wildlife, you also have an obligation to the public and their safety. After considerable research, outreach with effected parties, and consult with experts, we urge you to implement the following for the wolf 2021 season:

- Require 24-hour trap checks. The Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies and numerous research studies express the need for 24 hour or at most daily trap checks to reduce injury and increase any chance of surviving afterwards. 36 states have 24 hour/daily trap checks within their trapping regulations.
- Prohibit the use of snares on public lands.
- Require written permission from landowner for the use of snares.
- Mandate wolf trapping certification inclusive of snaring for anyone trapping for wolves.
- Require snares have diverters, relaxing lock, 275 lb. rated breakaway, a stop for a minimum loop size of 10", and the bottom of the loop a minimum of 18" above the surface.
- Limit the number of wolves who can be snared to one per certified trapper.
- Limit the number of snares and leghold traps a trapper can set.
- Require trappers keep maps of their snare locations.
- Prohibit power snares and the use of drags on traps and snares.
- Require disclosures and warning signs for traps and snares on block management areas.
- Revise wolf trapping season dates to January 2 - Feb 28 to try to avoid incidental trapping of grizzlies and upland game bird dogs.
- Prohibit the use of snares on high use areas of wintering elk and deer.
- Apply setback of minimum 150' to all public roads for traps and snares.
- Require trapping warning signage at trailheads and high use recreational areas.
- Establish 1 wolf quota or closure of the wolf season in units over elk management objectives, where elk shoulder seasons occur, where chronic wasting disease has been detected.
- Maintain a maximum quota of 1 wolf in units adjacent to national parks. Overage comes off the following year/s or adjacent applicable wolf management units.
- Allow 1 wolf per license.
- Present the hide and skull of all trapped or shot wolves in an unfrozen condition to designated FWP.

Prohibit the use of bait and night hunting of wolves. -Require the reporting of all non-target catches. -Require annual reimbursement reports (SB267) for wolf trapping and hunting. Montana's wildlife, reputation, and safe use of our public lands are being drastically compromised. Those after wolves are having no trouble killing them as is evident in the annual record-breaking harvest reports. The mantra promoting the poaching of wolves is prolific. According to Montana FWP reports, ""Over the 6-year period, 2012-2017 FWP license years, a total of 349 incidental captures were reported."" These include protected species such as grizzlies, lynx, wolverine, raptors. Montana wildlife rehabbers who specialize in raptors, say the average cost is > \$1000 per bird who enters the rehab center. Per FWP, ""Fifty-five percent of the incidental captures resulted in the release of the animal, and 45% of the animals died as a result of the capture."" How much are these animals worth and what does it cost us all? Montana FWP summation reports states, "" Wolf Sets captured 7 species on 26 occasions over the six-year period (~4/year). Footholds are the only sets allowed for wolves in Montana. 73% of the incidental captures in wolf sets were released, and 27% died. Species that died or were euthanized included 2 bobcats, 1 deer, and 4 mountain lions during the six-year period. Species released from wolf traps included 1 deer, 1 elk, 8 domestic dogs, 1 grizzly bear, 1 lynx, and 7 mountain lions."" For every wolf trapped, how many indiscriminate animals are there and who never get reported? Do you really think that trappers will? From public record in Idaho, 813 wolves were trapped as well as 620 non-target species of which 269 were released alive and 351 were killed."" Idaho permits the snaring of wolves. Alaska Fish & Game biologist estimate that in areas with heavy trapping pressure, wolf snares catch up to 1% of the moose annually. Most moose caught in wolf snares die either at the capture site or after release. A Canadian trapper on a trapping Tv series, shared how exposed jugular veins and carotid arteries are on a lynx and that is why snares are the ultimate tool to kill them. In comparison, due to wolves' thick neck musculature, lucky snared ones die in hours, whereas others reportedly can take days. 104 dogs were reported TRAPPED over 30 months according to FWP reports. FWP had said it was not unusual for 50 dogs a year to be trapped in Montana. Annually, we receive notice about trapped pets, including valuable hunting dogs, in Montana. Wolves are highly social and depend on the pack cohesiveness to kill their natural prey. Disrupted wolf packs are shown to pose a greater risk to livestock. Killing the alphas, which is a common goal, leaves uneducated juveniles. Wolves keep animals such as elk strong and healthy. Ask biologists in Yellowstone just how tough the elk there are. Look at the ebb and flow of those untouched wolf and elk populations. It's the prey who dictate the number of predators. We urge you to do the right thing, to the best of your ability, and prove that Montana can manage wolves, respectfully, based on science, responsible stewardship, and the public trust doctrine for present and future generations. If not, we hate to think what is to come. References and resources are available upon request. Thank you, KC York President/Founder Trap Free Montana Public Lands email: info@tfmpl.org Trap Free Montana KC York Hamilton, MT"

"Commissioners, You've laid on the table with the proposed new bills such a high target population, of wolves and also so many other predators, to eradicate. And sanctioned such a broad spectrum of methods to unleash on them --from where this observer stands, you are far over-playing your hand. No measure I have read actually works out to a more moderate path IF artificial means rather than natural controls of wolf numbers are at all called for. (sure, snare details and special investigation language will help a little to exclude bobcats and grizzlies from accidental kills). You may think you've got the perfect 'surgically precise' set of new reg. standards to up in-state predator killing, particularly of wolves. But the fact is you are opening up high numbers of kills with ALL METHODS available at once, snaring, baiting, night hunting, trapping including cyanide bomb traps (as 1 of 5 states registered to use them, how exclusive a club). My family has every other year for the past 8 visited Montana to enjoy its parks, revel in Yellowstone a great deal, and especially observed the stories and growth of multiple

national parks' wolves. Our tourism & conservation dollars have enriched so many of your communities-- those on private lands as well and nationally protected. I watched your first June Town Meeting Zoom, from the otter snaring proposal discussion on, without offering commentary. (Will attend August 20 also) So I witnessed your deliberations, broad sections and focused discussions – and one member's careful, even low-volume-voiced {paraphrased} "Yes, we are confident this won't trigger an Endangered Species Listing" But it's ridiculous to think your opening up every possible method of wolf kill won't seriously overshoot that "450 wolves" 50%+ population reduction [a staggering number considering the pack size wolves need to bring in enough kills to sustain both their numbers and the opportunistic feeders [especially grizzly families] who gain sustenance and benefit the surrounding environment as apex predators. , You will eradicate pack after pack with this target number, let along the excesses to which so many hunting communities go when given looser rein in their grisly sport. amid the post-insurrection-attempt mania and radicalization, that factions of this country are still in the grips of. Their seizing on this bonanza of approaches will abs. No Doubt exceed your target population. A sentence or two hand-waving that more than 15 breeding pairs themselves need to be present to allow packs to maintain those core breed pairs means nothing to MT citizens overjoyed to see your model new Governor. When the Governor of Montana can't just practice his riflery accuracy to shoot his token wolf (receiving that li'l written warning slap on the wrist) – when his display to the whole state is an orchestrated trapping [for extended agony savoring] then shooting, he loudly and cruelly broadcasts an "open season's coming, get ready" message... He's sounded the "dog whistle" bellowed "GOOD FUN Cruel wolf killing open season time's comin'!!" You're feeding that zealotry going after such a high number of kills and with so broad spectrum a set of killing methods, extended time periods, etc. Baiting, trapping, snares, etc. – You sure are in a hurry, aren't you. And only on private lands where surveillance and data collection will be far, far tougher. Your "Only Private Lands" incorporation into each item in these proposals – your wolf eradication enthusiasts are surely well aware Montana's 63% is the highest private space state in the wolf reintroduction area. The wolves, til recently on the Endangered Species fully scarce or Threatened List, of course have required protection on both public and private land to survive, per Federal definitions for the ESA and wildlife management. And that they get free rein to use the cyanide bombs and other excessiveness as you launch your proud new era. At least you're transparently setting yourselves up as bad actors in going after wolves so full-bore. Prepare for a worse P.R. disaster than Wisconsin's first post-delisting predator hunt 'extravaganza' – "Wolf kill total continues to rise well over quota in Wisconsin's first hunt." tinyurl.com/WiscPredatorHuntWolfQuotaSmash May this catastrophe you think you're surgically carving out to indulge Montana sport hunting citizens with, may it fail utterly to snow the Biden Administration into giving it a pass. May prolonged national condemnation hit you and Idaho, etc. hard. Heidi Clark Sedona, AZ"

"I wonder how many hunters would like to be caught in these snares, how would they like their children to get caught in them? Snares are especially cruel. Hunting just to kill is senseless and should not be allowed. Our wildlife is on the decline and pretty soon these beautiful animals will be gone forever. What an injustice that we take away land from animals and kill them just because. Surely in this time of human advancement we can make better use of resources than this. I respectfully ask you to stop this senseless, cruel killing of God's creatures great and small. Kimberly Leonard Rockwell, NC"

"I do not support any of the New Tools or proposals. I do not support any change to the 2020 Wolf regulations. As an out of state resident, my voice might have less weight. But I have visited Montana for 3 of the last 5 years, to immerse myself in the natural beauty and wildness, and particularly with the hopes of seeing wolves. And why Montana? As compared to Idaho or Wyoming? Because Montana so

far has been the leader in ethical and scientific management of all wildlife. These new proposal are neither ethical nor scientific. According to the FWP's own website (<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/species/elk/population-and-distribution>), the Elk population is over objective in most areas for 2020. Further, many tourists such as myself, who come to Montana with the hope of seeing wolves, have a positive impact on the local economies (https://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/study-parks-wolves-worth-millions/article_6116d733-c9a0-5a5c-a74e-87b563ceedf1.html). These new rules would kill a lot more wolves than are already being killed, and I would even suggest stricter protections for wolves. So once again, as someone who visits Montana very often, I do not support any of the new rules or proposal and do not support any changes to the 2020 regulations. Abhishek Patwardhan North Potomac, MD"

"I have been a resident and sportsman of MT for 30 years. This state's hunting and fishing regs are some of the best in the country, and that's why our state is treasured by sportsmen like myself. However, ALL of the proposed 2021 Wolf Season regs are NOT fair chase, NOT compatible with a reasoned approach. For example, allowing the bag limit with a single wolf license only encourages multiple kills, as does increasing the individual bag limit itself. Well-regulated hunting can be an effective and responsible wildlife management tool, meant to control the numbers of certain species and their distributions to ensure a balanced ecosystem. But it's not meant to drive animals down to bare minimum number, which is what this legislation does. And hunting wolves with bait? Hunting wolves at night? Allowing snares as well as traps? This is unethical, unreasonable, and against everything our dear state stands for. Let's continue to have a Montana that is unique, smart, driven by science and not one driven by those whose distaste for a particular animal is way, way, off track. Thank you for considering my comments, and using your discretion with these proposed regulations. Tom Petersen Missoula, MT"

"I oppose the permitting of wolf hunts as described in the proposed 2021 hunting season. There are many non-lethal depredation mitigation strategies which can be employed with beneficial effect without the ecological and ethical problems inherent in lethal wolf hunting. In the absence of federal protection, states must take the lead in preserving wolf populations. Wolves do not understand or recognize state boundaries, which their own territories overlap. I urge s no vote on the proposed options and encourage the Montana FWP to implement a ban on wolf hunts and other lethal means of wolf population control by the general public. Thank you. Brian Gay East Hampton, CT"

"I am a hunter. I hunt to eat, enjoy nature, teach my kids and all those around me how to respect animals and nature. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to trapping and the hunting of wolves. Trapping is no longer needed as a method to harvest fur. ""back in the day"" it was a needed method but is no longer needed nor ethical. The wolf limit is far too high. These new numbers and methods are not scientific nor founded. PLEASE REDUCE THE limit until we can officially define a sustainable number. Just think for a moment. Is any other harvest set at 50%? Elk is about 10% and there are an estimate 120,000%! Yeah, bad numbers for wolves folks. Think about it. I propose the following: 1. Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf populations is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. 2. I Oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. I suggest a limit of 10%, JUST LIKE ELK. I oppose mid-season reveal to increase the limit. This is dumb... Do you do it with Elk and Deer? No.. 3. Fix the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. I Oppose any trapping in areas where there are

lynx, wolverines, and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. JUST STOP SNARING! Have you ever witness and animal dieing by snare? google it. 4. I Oppose trapping and the use of snares. 5. I Oppose all baiting and night hunting.
Greg Albrechtsen Gardiner, MT”

"I was beyond horrified to learn that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) commissioners are considering changing wolf-hunting regulations to allow night hunting, baited hunting/trapping, and snare trapping. These vile methods are among the cruelest ways to kill an animal, causing the victim immense stress and suffering. I understand that commissioners are also contemplating increasing the number of wolves allowed to be massacred each year. Wolves are essential to healthy ecosystems, causing a trickle-down effect that increases plant and animal biodiversity. The large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose that wolves have preyed on have benefited as a species and their populations are at an all-time high. Wolves hunt long-range, chasing their prey, instead of ambushing them. This means that the weaker, elderly, or disease-ridden large ungulates are tested and tried by wolves. This cuts off the disease or sickness from spreading throughout the herd, leaving the most capable prey animals to survive and pass on their genes. However, this ""ancient evolutionary success story shared by both predator and prey"" (Living with Wolves) occurring is rare itself. Wolves only have a 14% chance of successfully bringing down their prey and feeding their family. If these regulations are passed, the stakes against them will be raised even further and it will cripple their recovering keystone population. Passing these changes would give the state a huge black eye and cause devastation to all wolves, their families, their prey, and their ecosystems. Please hold true to Montanas nickname as the Treasure State and prove that FWP treasures wildlife by voting against these proposed hunting regulations.
Yun Hehm Novi, MI”

"Good afternoon FWP Commission Pat Tabor, Pat Byorth, KC Walsh, Lesley Robinson and Brian Cebull, my name is Justin Webb. I am the Executive Director for the Foundation for Wildlife Management. Newly expanded to the great state of Montana with new chapters in Sanders County and the Flathead Valley as well as the Big Hole River area. (Not to be confused with a Wildlife ""Preservation"" organization). I'm writing today in hopes this email and attached Idaho Fish and Game Studies reach you prior to the end of the public comment period for implementation of the newly legislated wolf seasons. I have spent the last 11 years studying wolves and working with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to maximize sportsmen ability to assist our department in managing wolf populations in areas where wolves are having detrimental impacts on Big Game species or Livestock producers... All the while attempting to minimize land user conflicts and protect sportsmen ability to trap wolves. Recognizing that just across an imaginary Idaho/Montana State line, targeting many of the exact same wolf packs that Montana sportsmen target, Idaho hunter success rates are less than 1/4 of 1% while our trappers average north of 35% success... We have trapped and snared wolves from November 15th to March 31st for the past 10 years in Idaho Unit 1, where more wolves are trapped and snared than any other unit in the state... In this same 19000 square miles of land, (google earth image attached in an email I sent directly) we also house 91 documented grizzly bears or roughly 1 Grizzly in every 14.5 mile square. (Please find study attached to the email I sent directly). Within those same confines we also have more than 250 Lynx images recorded in another study (also attached to the direct email for your review). The point I hope you take away from this being that in our highest density areas for both Grizzly Bear and Lynx, we have logged literally hundreds of thousands of Wolf Trap and Wolf Snare nights over the past 10 years, with ZERO conflict between Wolf trappers/Snares and Grizzly or Lynx... NOT ONE INCIDENT with 10 solid years of hard data recorded... Also having spoken to many professional wolf snare-men from Alaska and Canada, as well as having paid some of them to come provide education to Idaho

trappers, these individuals will tell you the odds of catching Lynx in a properly set wolf snare are slim to zero at best. (Education is key when it comes to snare placement to avoid incidental catch, but lynx are not caught by wolf snares that are set properly. I do understand the verbiage of legislation requiring the use of snaring within the state of Montana may limit your ability to place requirements on that use, but I do strongly encourage you to require trapper education that includes an extensive snaring component for all trappers to be eligible to use snares. Snares are a very efficient and effective tool when used properly, they just require a bit more instruction on choosing set locations than foothold traps do). My ask of the Commission is to please use the credible data, from Idaho, Canada, and Alaska that clearly show that wolf trapping and wolf snaring efforts do not jeopardize Grizzly or Lynx, and are not viable excuses to keep Montana Sportsmen from productively managing Montana Wolf populations. Please remember the entire recovery goal for wolves in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming Combined is 300... The science and data show us currently sitting at well over 3000 animals... If management is not based on the science and data gathered by the professionals each of our states have paid to gather said data, then what becomes the purpose of having State Game Management agencies? Just food for thought... Thank you for what you do for the great State of Montana, the wildlife within it, and the passionate outdoor community who utilizes it. Montana residents would like to see the new laws that were passed through legislation, utilized to the fullest extent as they were intended. Please implement the least restrictive wolf trapping regulation options available to allow for productive wolf management, especially within units 1, 2, & 3. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Sincerely, Justin Webb F4WM Executive Director justin@f4wm.org 208-610-4455
Justin Webb, Foundation for Wildlife Management Trout Creek, MT"

"I am opposed to the 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting & Trapping Regulations Proposal for the following reasons: The proposed revision of the hunting and harvesting of wolves in Montana will have a negative effect on the rebalancing of the environment and other ecological benefits. Wolves help control the elk and other wildlife populations. Wolves are a huge reason that many tourists visit our gateway community of Gardiner among others, thereby greatly bolstering the local economy. If enacted, the proposals allowing for the hunting and trapping of increased numbers of wolves will surely diminish their numbers which will in turn negatively affect this vital part of our tourism industry. Self monitoring by trappers does not always work. I am against the use of trapping and snares in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears. These barbaric methods of trapping can and have resulted in the inhumane killing of other living creatures as well as pets.
Kate Phillips Gardiner, MT"

"Dear FWP People ~ The wolves are a keystone animal in the Yellowstone Region, and deserve our respect and protection from over hunting for sport and using very unsporting snare traps. The amount of people who travel to Yellowstone region to see a wolf brings in more economic \$\$ to the park rather than from the few wealthy hunters who want a trophy or two. I am asking you to follow the most ""Limited Tools Option"" when making this huge decision. With Hope ~ Deborah
Deborah Muth Red Lodge, MT"

"Wolves are vital to a healthy ecosystem. They should be relisted as an endangered species. Please put a stop to the hunting and slaughter of wolves. It is not backed by science and they should be protected. Protect our wolves!
Yancey Miller Duluth, GA"

"I support the ""Limited New Tools"" for the proposed 2021 Wolf Season as a ""maximum"" management strategy. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rick Kerr Choteau, MT”

"Please end the use of snares entirely. Snares torture animals to death in a more horrible way than any other method and should not be allowed period. They kill indiscriminately and trappers (who routinely torture animals to death) simply do not honestly report the number of non-target animals killed including pets and endangered species. Each commission member should take their family out and let them witness an animal struggle and die in a snare. Then let your family vote on snares and trapping in general. We must end this historic, barbaric practice of torturing animals to death. Montana is better than this.

Barry Dutton Missoula, MT”

"Wolves are majestic and special creatures who deserve so much better than this. Using snares and trapping is extremely inhumane (for any animal). I urge you to consider protecting the wolves instead of hunting and killing them. They are living beings who experience pain and feel emotions.

Sara Leesburg, VA”

"I am totally 100% in favor of being able to snare wolves this season.

Steve Lasar Dillon , MT”

"I am radically against the proposed 2021 Wolf season options. The snaring as number one. The by-catch will be uncontrolled and intense. You know that from the past and you know that from your biologists when they used snaring for among others, trapping grizzly bears. Besides that snaring is cruel and it just is not necessary. Trapping is bad enough with all the other contraptions but snaring is barbaric. Stop it. Baiting is another thing I am against. Why? because it has nothing to do with a fair hunt or fair trapping practices. All of this is pointing at wanting to kill as many wolves as possible. I know our governor would love to kill as much wildlife as possible, get them stuffed and brag about them to his friends, and I know FWP is good friends with him but this is outrageous. Hunting at night should also be illegal.. how is anybody going to decipher between legal kills and opportunistic poachers? Right now we know if we hear people out and about after sunset and see lights on public lands during the night, that something is going on. Do you really think your game wardens can be on duty 24/7 to keep people honest? Or at all places at the same time? You know better I hope, although if there is any common sense in the top echelon of FWP I wonder how these proposals in general came about...) So, no to night hunting. Also, I think trappers should mark the area where they are trapping. My dog got into a foothold, only 10 ft away from me. On state land. Yes, the trap was set away from the roads, there are no roads in that piece I am talking about. Had there been a note at the entrance that that square mile beheld a trap, I would have avoided it. How come trappers have all the rights and owners of dogs under voice control do not have any? Warped! This attitude of FWP to now suddenly go totally into an opposite direction of what specialists have accomplished over the last several decades which was based on science and studies, is outrageous. Us Montanans feel more and more as not heard anymore and it has been enough. Quit this ludicrous behavior, stand up to a governor who loves to kill, and get rid of people in your organization who have no clue about what wildlife, nature in general needs. We are going to lose precious specialists/biologists who can not find themselves in this new attitude, and our wildlife, one of the main attractions of this state, will be decimated again. Whooptedoo, 50 years of extremely hard and dedicated, science and trial and error based work down the drain. Uggh, how can you even consider this. Barbaric. Controlled management yes. Riffle hunting season yes. Some trapping maybe too but not this. Wake up and reverse. Am so disgusted with upper management FWP right now. And I have always been a fierce advocate of what FWP always stood for. But not with all their new rules and

regulations since our new governor came in office. Wake up, people! Montanans are getting fed up with you in a hurry!

Madelon Nartin Eureka, MT”

"To Montana FWC I oppose these unnecessary and unethical proposals to slaughter wolves in Montana. Such measures, including night hunting, snaring and baiting, and substantial quota increases - are not proposed for any other reasons than to politically and financially benefit a very small and select few at the expense of many: the wolves, humans, and other parts of the ecosystems affected. This is not to mention the vast resources paid by American taxpayers to reintroduce grey wolves to Yellowstone and Glacier, adjacent to which this legislation would promote wolf extermination. The recent example of the Wisconsin wolf hunting season demonstrates just how quickly decades of careful management can be overturned. I urge you as a Montanan to adopt/maintain all ""limited new tools"" options in moving forward with changes to the current wolf season. We have in this state a unique opportunity to continue and grow a science-based management of wildlife, but this legislation illustrates how fragile it is. Thank you for your consideration.

Megan Duffy St Ignatius, MT”

"We adamantly oppose the use of snares anytime and anywhere for trapping wolves. The bycatch is unacceptable, and it is a horrible reflection on Montana. We also oppose baiting and night hunting and support only the seasons and limits in the limited new tools.

Jack and Rachel Potter Columbia Falls, MT”

"July 26, 2021 Fish and Wildlife Commission Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks 1420 E 6th Avenue Helena, Montana 59601 fwcomm@mt.gov Re: Montana wolf hunting and trapping regulations for 2021-2022 Members of the Commission: On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Montana wolf hunting and trapping regulations for 2021-2022, approved by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 24, 2021. These comments are submitted on behalf of the more than 8,800 members and supporters across Montana. Since 1919, NPCA has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System, working with our more than 1.6 million members and supporters to preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for present and future generations. NPCA has a longstanding interest in protecting national parks and their resources, including wildlife, land, and water, both inside national parks and on park adjacent landscapes. We are particularly interested in this proposal as it relates to one of Yellowstone and Glacier National Park's most iconic species, gray wolves. NPCA recognizes the challenges of managing wolves across Montana and supports advancing management that balances wildlife conservation and the viability of working lands. Montana has long been a leader in science-based approaches to wildlife management leading to arguably some of the nation's most robust wildlife populations. During the 2021 Montana Legislative session wolves and other large carnivores were targeted by a litany of legislation that diverted away from the precedent set for decades of science-based management. These new laws undermine the ability of professional wildlife managers to use science and their local expertise to manage for healthy populations and instead promote the unprecedented attack on predator species. These new laws undermine the tenants of fair chase and ethical hunting practices that have been foundational to Montana's hunting and trapping legacy. In addition, many of the new laws allow for extended trapping seasons and increased snaring further raising concern due to the impact these changes could have on federally threatened species including grizzly bears and lynx. While Montana has been managing wolves through most of the state without quotas, three hunting districts that abut Yellowstone and Glacier national parks have retained quotas to reduce the impact of hunting on the

conservation of packs that move between the parks and adjacent landscapes. The removal of quotas around Yellowstone and Glacier in hunting districts 110, 313 and 316 is an unnecessary proposal that will impact tourism opportunities in gateway communities. Millions of people come to Yellowstone and Glacier each year for the chance to view wolves in the wild. These tourists spend tens of millions of dollars annually supporting small businesses in and around national parks in Montana. In addition, wolf viewing supports gateway communities during the 'shoulder seasons' and winter, when park tourism declines but wolf viewing remains a popular activity. Decreased winter tourism due to limited wolf viewing could significantly reduce the critical off-season economic support upon which these communities depend. We strongly urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission to maintain local flexibility within wildlife management by keeping the quota systems in place for hunting districts 110, 313 and 316. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input during this comment period. We look forward to reviewing the information provided as the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission considers the impact this proposed change will have on the unique resources that attract millions of visitors to Yellowstone and Glacier. Best Regards, Kelsie Huyser, Yellowstone Wildlife Fellow Yellowstone Field Office, National Parks Conservation Association Bozeman, MT
Kelsie Huyser Bozeman, MT"

"I am opposed to all wolf hunting. However, I understand you are required by law to promulgate regulations that govern wolf hunting in Montana. As such, I support wolf hunting regulations that define a ""sustainable"" level of wolves as having already been achieved via wolf kills during the 2020 hunting season. By extension, I am not in favor of the proposed rules here. You have the authority to define and establish a ""sustainable level"" of wolves (87-1-901 MCA). I ask that you refrain from authorizing any additional wolf hunting except in relation to loss of cattle. In addition to the foregoing, I am opposed to all wolf trapping and trapping in general. I am a hunter and I am in favor of ""fair chase"" hunting of game animals only. Trapping is not hunting, ever. I know we all have wide-ranging ideas about how best to manage wolves and I appreciate your consideration of my comments as a fellow Montanan.
MICHAEL WOOD Missoula, MT"

"Please enact the most restrictive regulations possible for the upcoming wolf season. Please eliminate all wolf and other trapping as soon as possible. Its bad enough that trappers want to torture animals to death, but even worse that they are so inept that they need more tools of torture, longer seasons and more access. Forcing the +99% of us to share public lands with these activities is a taking of our rights that will surly result in conflicts and litigation. Once again we are pretending to regulate an activity (trapping) that relies on self-reporting by people who torture animals to death for fun. FWP has no idea how many pets, non-target animals and even target species are killed each year. I have personally tried to get this info from FWP and failed despite being a consultant to FWP for decades and a scientist with research skills. Trapping may have been an appropriate activity in the 1800s but has no place in the modern world. Less that 1% of Montanans and .001% of Americans torture animals to death in this manner. Trapping gives us a horrible name across the country and deflates our huge tourist industry. Many Montanans and most visitors have never seen the animals we allow trappers to torture to death. I have spent my professional and recreational career outside and have seen few myself. I would like to share the site of a wolf with companions in the future.
Barry Dutton Missoula, MT"

"The public lands belong to all Americans, and yet you are subjecting wolves and 60,000 or more innocent animals to a slow and extremely cruel death in order to satisfy less than 1% of Montana citizens who admit that they are inflicting extreme pain. To satisfy the greed and blood lust of a very small minority, you are endangering the entire wild lands of Montana. There is no sane justification for

allowing this barbaric practice on public lands. Besides being extremely cruel and inhumane, the trapping of wolves, beavers and other animals is not only unpopular with the American majority but it goes against the best science and concern for healthy wild areas. Wolves, unlike hunters, kill the sick and least healthy deer and other ungulates, and thus promote the genetic health of herds of animal, while trophy hunters do the opposite. Beavers are important for our wetlands. The fox keeps rat population in check, thus protecting us against diseases they may carry. All these creatures were designed to maintain a healthy balance of nature. Your plans for extended trapping threatens that delicate balance of nature. Only harm will come from it. Do you have the wisdom and courage to protect the wild things and our public lands?

Dr. Roberta Ray Butte, MT"

"I was stunned and horrified to learn that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) commissioners are considering changing wolf-hunting regulations to allow night hunting, baited hunting/trapping, and snare trapping. It is unimaginable that these terrible changes are even being considered. These vile methods are among the cruelest ways to kill an animal, causing the victim immense stress and suffering. I understand that commissioners are also contemplating increasing the number of wolves allowed to be massacred each year. Wolves are essential to healthy ecosystems, causing a trickle-down effect that increases plant and animal biodiversity. They are also an integral part of Montanas culture. Passing these changes would give the state a huge black eye. Please hold true to Montanas nickname as the Treasure State and prove that FWP treasures wildlife by voting against these proposed hunting regulations. I do not live in Montana but will no longer visit the state if these regulations pass. Which is a shame, as Montana is such a beautiful state. Thank you for your kind and immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Robin Jacobson New York, NY"

"Against 2021 wolf season options. The only option I support is putting wolves back on the endangered list. Doing less only serves to rev up the blood lust of those who torture and kill for the love of it.

Linda Holtom Missoula, MT"

"I support the "NO CHANGE" tool based on the 2020 - 2021 hunting season as the best management strategy for 2021 - 2022. I support ""no change"" because: 1. Science should be used to inform wildlife management. Experienced scientists and biologists should guide decisions around our valuable wildlife resources, not legislators and lobbyists. 2. People in MT, the US and around the world (tourists \$\$\$) value wildlife and wild places, and MT is one of the most amazing wild places in the country. Respecting wildlife is a constitutional value that defines Montana's ecological character. 3. The other proposed tools from the 2021 legislative session are simply bad economics for our state. So much investment has been made into healthy wolf populations in MT and the best way to offset those investments is through the vital multi-million dollar wildlife tourism industry that wolves help bring to the state. These proposed 2021 tools threaten to irreparably damage wolf tourism as well as MT's reputation as a science-driven epicenter for wildlife.

Rebecca Frucht Livingston, MT"

"I urge the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Commissioners to vote AGAINST new wolf-hunting regulations. These outrageous regulations would not only greatly increase the numbers of animals and ""non-target"" animals slaughtered but also expand some of the most brutal and vile practices like snare trapping, night hunting and use of baits to lure wolves into gunsights. All this so landowners and hunting outfitters can make more money out of killing innocent animals and think there will be more elk and deer to make money killing them, too. Even though a neighbour, I will NOT be visiting Montana

ever again if the regulations pass. I will make sure everybody I know, knows about the savagery with which Montana treats innocent wild animals. By the way, the Commissioners are talking about ""harvesting"" as if the hunters and trappers went out there to pick up some lettuce. You are discussing increasing the barbaric KILLING of sentient, thinking, feeling, living animals who value their children, their parents, their groups, their societies, their lives, their wildness, their freedom. Wolves are a keystone species. Without wolves, ecosystems cannot thrive. Studies have shown that the presence of wolves has a trickle-down effect, increasing biodiversity in animal AND plant species. The arrogance, greed and imbecility of humans ""managing"" (controlling) Nature has a heavy price to pay. Let Nature find balance and harmony. She alone knows what, how, when to do. Of course by the time we ""get it"" it will be too late - for us, too. I urge the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners to have the wisdom and backbone necessary to vote AGAINST the proposed new wolf-hunting regulations.

Thank you

Graciela Iparraguirre Cody, WY”

"Option 1 - ""Limited New Tools"" gets my vote. I am a seasonal resident of Polebridge, MT, for the past 32 years. My wife and I really enjoy each and every wild wolf sighting we've ever had. And there is nothing in this world that can compare to hearing, in person, a pack of wild wolves howling. Thanks for your time reading this.

Philip Jones Polebridge, MT”

"The 2021 Legislature passed three bills that ignored science and simply aim to kill more wolves. They included HB 224, HB 225 and SB 314. Collectively they call for snaring, extended trapping seasons, night hunting, baiting and taking multiple wolves on one license. Baiting of wolves near traps is a major concern, because it will certainly draw other native carnivores near them including threatened and endangered species like lynx and grizzly bears. I support ethical, fair chase hunting and trapping of wolves and management based on the best available science, not emotions and local politics. The legislation that passed – and signed into law by the Governor – are neither ethical nor constitute fair chase. Montana’s wolf seasons were working well, and Montana had strong participation and good success among wolf hunters. This is archaic and does not represent an educated, engaged and free Montana.

Ashleigh Magill Whitefish, MT”

"I, along with my family, strongly object to the hunting of wolves! There are so many reasons, foremost being that it is repellent to hunt these majestic iconic American wild creatures. This is not science-based wildlife management. But I will list a few more reasons: Elk populations are over objective in most areas in Montana; access to elk is the problem and not wolves killing all the elk (absurd argument); it is highly unethical to kill a mid-term or later pregnant animal; Montana is commercializing Montana elk, moose, and deer; cattle depredation is low and compensated for. Furthermore, tourism will suffer because of anti-wolf management: We will not visit states that have so little appreciation and respect for the wild predators that you are fortunate to have within your borders. Montana wildlife belongs to all Americans. Stop the killing!

Julia Stevenson Washington, DC

"End trapping of these iconic animals asap

Anthony Boote MISSOULA, MT”

"I urge you to modify the draconian proposals submitted by the legislature regarding the killing of wolves. In particular, snaring is an abhorrent practice, which will catch many animals not intended,

including dogs, lynx and grizzly bears. I would like to see you adopt the following measures: Require 24-hour trap checks. Prohibit the use of snares on public lands. Obtain written permission from landowner for the use of snares. Require wolf trapping certification inclusive of snaring for anyone trapping for wolves. Require snares have diverters, relaxing lock, 275 lb. rated breakaway, a stop for a minimum loop size of 10", and the bottom of the loop a minimum of 18" above the surface. Limit the number of wolves who can be snared to one per certified trapper. Limit the number of snares and leghold traps a trapper can set. Require trappers keep maps of their snare locations. Prohibit power snares and the use of drags on traps and snares. Require disclosures and warning signs for traps and snares on block management areas. Revise wolf trapping season dates to January 2 - Feb 28 to try to avoid incidental trapping of grizzlies and upland game bird dogs. Prohibit the use of snares on high use areas of wintering elk and deer. Apply setback of minimum 150' to all public roads for traps and snares. Require trapping warning signage at trail heads and high use recreational areas. Establish 1 wolf quota or closure of the wolf season in units over elk management objectives, where elk shoulder seasons occur, where chronic wasting disease has been detected. Maintain a maximum quota of 1 wolf in units adjacent to national parks. I visited Yellowstone several times the year wolf hunting in MT was instituted, and because of Park animals getting killed right outside, we saw almost NO wolves. I visit Glacier annually and have NEVER seen a wolf there for the same reasons. Overage comes off the following year/s or adjacent applicable wolf management units. Allow 1 wolf per license. Present the hide and skull of all trapped or shot wolves in an unfrozen condition to designated FWP. Prohibit the use of bait and night hunting of wolves. Require the reporting of all non-target catches. Require annual reimbursement reports (SB267) for wolf trapping and hunting. These laws appear to intend to wipe out the gray wolf once again, and if not amended, will probably result in re-listing them on the ESA. The only reason to kill 80% of Montana's wolves is abundantly clear: pure and simple hatred. The elk population statewide is above target; wolves are taking less than 1% of livestock, and ranchers are reimbursed for 3x what the livestock is worth; wolves can help eradicate chronic wasting disease by targeting the sick ungulates; trappers constitute 1/2 of 1% of MT's population. How is it fair that such a small percentage of people rules how the rest of us recreate on public lands? I hike 365 days a year with my dog, but don't go near public lands during trapping season for fear of her getting caught. How is this right? Wolves also bring in \$42 million annually to the state's coffers from folks coming to view them. A friend and I alone spent several thousand dollars making trips to Yellowstone in April and May to see wolves. Please exercise some sanity and do what you can to reduce the slaughter and the possibility of non-target animals getting caught in traps and snares.

Sharon Sutherland Belgrade, MT"

"Dear Commissioners: I am writing with the request you implement all the new wolf management laws that were passed by the 2021 Legislature and signed into law by the Montana Governor. As a Montana resident, 23-year Montana Hunter Education Instructor, hunter, trapper, and life-long outdoors enthusiast, I've sadly watched our Montana ungulate populations unnecessarily take a beating from Montana's steadily increasing wolf population. Add to this the unconscionable loss of livestock, hunting dogs, and pets, it is obviously time that aggressive wolf management action be taken. The 67th Montana Legislature thoroughly explored, debated, and vetted the several wolf harvest proposals. Both sides of each bill were presented, and testimony provided. After all the required processes and procedures, these bills were passed out of their respective committees and voted on by both houses. Ultimately, they were signed into law by the Montana Governor. I thank you in advance for implementing wolf management regulations matching the intent of the newly passed wolf management laws. It is critical that Region 1 and Region 2 be included in all the wolf management regulations,

Sincerely, JR Strand Missoula, MT

JR Strand Missoula, MT”

"I am totally against initiating an ""enhanced"" season for hunters. There is no reason to add more wolves to the allotment nor is it ""sporting"" to kill trapped animals. Snares and traps should not be allowed under any circumstance. Currently I believe the wolves should remain on the Endangered listing until there are increased numbers that would support hunting seasons. Science has proven that wolves are a viable source to enrich the ecological balance of nature from grazing lands, water resources and wildlife management. We are just beginning to see the benefits and more time is needed to firm up these biological/environmental improvements. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concern.

Barb Godwin

Barb Godwin Collinsville, IL”

"I am writing to urge you to consider the following for the 2021 Wolf hunting season. Please maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 316 around Yellowstone, and the current quotas around Glacier. The communities in and around these areas benefit economically from live wolves. Millions of dollars are spent each year by people wanting to see live wolves. The quota of 450 wolves for the 2021 season is too high. This is at least half the wolf population. We all know that every year several units go over quota with no recourse, and we all know that there is poaching that takes place. Killing more than half the wolf population is not a viable solution. Please don't allow any trapping in areas where there are lynx and/or grizzly bears, and please do not allow traps with snares. This is a barbaric and inhumane way to kill any animal. Please do not allow the use of baiting while hunting and do not allow hunting at night. Shouldn't hunting be about fair chase? Where is the fair chase in trapping, baiting, and night hunting? There isn't any. Finally, I normally come to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem twice a year to specifically watch wolves, and spend approximately \$3000 in your state each stay. If Montana is going to pass such barbaric ant-wolf bills, I will seriously consider spending my money in more wolf-friendly states such as Colorado, Oregon, and California - states where wolves are treated much better.

Beth Phillips West Allis, WI”

"I'm very much against expansion of the wolf hunting season and especially I'm again the use of snares. My friend's dog was caught and killed in a trap (and she's a regional forest manager). The vast majority of Montanan's don't trap, but do recreate on public lands. Please reject these regulations.

Katherine Supplee Missoula, MT”

"I have commented on behalf of Bear Creek Council as a representative of the local interests we have in wolves. I would now like to comment personally, as a businessman, co-owner of Yellowstone Wolf Tracker (YWT). YWT has been in business for about 15 years and grown steadily in that time, as has the thriving wildlife tourism industry in the Yellowstone region of Montana. We now employ 5 full-time guides, 3 part-time guides, and one administrator, year-round. This is in addition to the business supporting its two owners, my wife and myself. We rely heavily on a thriving, non-hunted wolf population in our area to be successful with our business. Your predecessors have recognized this in the evolution of hunt/trap regulations through the years. I sincerely hope this commission will vote to retain the protections afforded to our area with a very low quota and harvest. The units around the parks are very small areas of Montana but make a big difference in protecting our livelihoods. I am also a biologist (BS and MS from MSU) and a hunter for game meat. I prize my Montana residency for the opportunities afforded to me in deer, elk, and pronghorn opportunity. From both viewpoints, I don't understand the legislature's recent move to kill more wolves. As a wildlife biologist, I don't see any biological justification in terms of a 'problem being solved' here. As a sportsman, I think going back to

controversial and archaic approaches will stain and ultimately jeopardize hunting opportunity in the long run. Please consider these arguments in your deliberations and above all, continue to protect the wolves near national parks to safeguard Montana's growing ecotourism industry. Respectfully submitted, Nathan Varley
Nathan Varley Gardiner, MT"

"I'm urging all FWP commissioners to vote against new wolf-hunting regulations. Wolves are keystone species of ecosystems and every organism in a wolf-inhabited ecosystem has benefited from the trout/fish of the rivers to the prey of the wolves themselves with the return of wolves. The large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose that wolves have preyed on have benefited as a species and their populations are at an all-time high. Wolves hunt long-range, chasing their prey, instead of ambushing them. This means that the weaker, elderly, or disease-ridden large ungulates are tested and tried by wolves. This cuts off the disease or sickness from spreading throughout the herd, leaving the most capable prey animals to survive and pass on their genes. However, this "ancient evolutionary success story shared by both predator and prey" (Living with Wolves) occurring is rare itself. Wolves only have a 14% chance of successfully bringing down their prey and feeding their family. If these regulations are passed, the stakes against them will be raised even further and it will cripple their recovering population which ecosystems fully rely on. Furthermore, wolves do not threaten livestock. This established study shows wolves are responsible for only 1% of predation on sheep in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Study: <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/wolf-issues/ranching-solution/> In addition, several studies show that wolf hunting will only worsen the 1% livestock predation. Since wolves are extremely social creatures, killing a member of the pack disrupts the pack's dynamics. Because each member of a wolf pack works together to bring down prey, a wolf pack will struggle mentally, emotionally, and physically to get food and will be forced to succumb to easier and less nutritious prey such as livestock. As for direct wolf and human conflicts, there are so few and it's so rare that they are considered to be statistically non-existent. Finally, one of the most commonly used hunting methods, mentioned in the proposed regulations, traps, and snares, is simply egregious. These traps leave the wolves to slowly die an extremely agonizing death with some wolves biting off their limbs (self-amputation) in desperation to end the pain as their family watches on, unable to do anything but bring regurgitated food. If these extremely cruel new wolf-hunting regulations over an extremely minor problem pass, I can guarantee you that I will not be visiting such a state in the future and will encourage my city to not choose to do so too. Let the wolves live their natural lives to the fullest.
Sue Park Novi, MI"

"I am not a wolf hunter but I know they destroy one of our most majestic species the ELK which provide meat sport and beauty to our wilderness. Wolves also hunt into residential areas and have killed domestic animals and horses can be damaged by the tearing and hobbling of areas of their legs that can not be repaired. I would like to bring back a balanced nature initiative that is realistic and not allowed to be run by "environmentalist" that have no regard for the true balance that is our birthright.
Candace Blake HOT SPRINGS, MT"

"They have been snaring in Idaho for years without any incident with the Lynx. The success rate of trapping is way higher than that of hunting. I believe changing regs for Lynx is unfounded. We need to keep the effectiveness of our wolf take to keep within our management plan.
Kristopher Killorn Belgrade, MT"

"Please protect and preserve Montana's wild wolf population. We the public want them alive and free on our public lands. One of their many benefits is they help balance the ecosystem and keep all

populations healthy. Elk populations are already healthy and thriving in Montana. Wolf kids of cattle are rare and already compensated for. Tourism will suffer from aggressive work management, as many of us come to Montana specifically to catch a glimpse of this magnificent wild canine. Montana's wildlife belongs to all Montanans, and Americans, not just a few special interest ranching and hunting exploiters. Please do the ethical and responsible thing and keep Montana's wolves healthy and safe for all of us. Thank you. Erika Bambauer, azulb616@gmail.com Santa Rosa, CA
Erika Bambauer Santa Rosa, CA"

"I'm urging all FWP commissioners to vote against new wolf-hunting regulations. Wolves are keystone species of ecosystems and every organism in a wolf-inhabited ecosystem has benefited from the trout/fish of the rivers to the prey of the wolves themselves with the return of wolves. The large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose that wolves have preyed on have benefited as a species and their populations are at an all-time high. Wolves hunt long-range, chasing their prey, instead of ambushing them. This means that the weaker, elderly, or disease-ridden large ungulates are tested and tried by wolves. This cuts off the disease or sickness from spreading throughout the herd, leaving the most capable prey animals to survive and pass on their genes. However, this "ancient evolutionary success story shared by both predator and prey" (Living with Wolves) occurring is rare itself. Wolves only have a 14% chance of successfully bringing down their prey and feeding their family. If these regulations are passed, the stakes against them will be raised even further and it will cripple their recovering keystone population. Furthermore, wolves do not threaten livestock. This established study shows wolves are responsible for only 1% of predation on sheep in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Study: <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/wolf-issues/ranching-solution/> In addition, several studies show that wolf hunting will only worsen the 1% livestock predation. Since wolves are extremely social creatures, killing a member of the pack disrupts the pack's dynamics. Because each member of a wolf pack works together to bring down prey, a wolf pack will struggle mentally, emotionally, and physically to get food and will be forced to succumb to easier and less nutritious prey such as livestock. As for direct wolf and human conflicts, there are so few and it's so rare that they are considered to be statistically non-existent. Finally, one of the most commonly used hunting methods, mentioned in the proposed regulations, traps, and snares, is simply egregious. These traps leave the wolves to slowly die an extremely agonizing death with some wolves biting off their limbs (self-amputation) in desperation to end the pain as their family watches on, unable to do anything but bring regurgitated food. If these extremely cruel new wolf-hunting regulations over an extremely minor problem pass, I can guarantee you that I will not be visiting such a state in the future and will encourage my city to not choose to do so too. Let the wolves live their natural lives to the fullest.
Yuna H. Novi, MI"

"As president of Bear Creek Council (BCC), I thank you on behalf of our members for the opportunity to comment on your proposed wolf hunt for 2021-2022. Based in Gardiner, Montana, Bear Creek Council is an all-volunteer, grassroots advocacy organization. We organize locals around issues that affect our quality of life on the doorstep of Yellowstone Park. We have a long history of interacting with FWP on the wildlife issues of our area, and with FWP's commission to set harvest goals for the wolf subunits on the boundary of Yellowstone Park. Bear Creek Council believes that all native wildlife, including wolves, are intrinsically valuable and worth preserving for both an aesthetic and ecological benefit to people who choose to live near Yellowstone. We can not emphasize enough how our livelihoods are different culturally and economically from most of the rest of rural Montana. For over a decade, our membership has made the case that our area's wildlife (e.g., wolves, bison, grizzly bears) require a special approach to management that recognizes that these animals are a world-class resource. As an example, we have seen firsthand how wolves are essential to our local economy, as well as, to

Montana's larger tourism industry. Wildlife watching tourism is now the top economic driver in the Yellowstone region, and accounts for a large proportion of Montana's tourism revenues. Many of our members are employed in or benefitting from the wildlife tourism that supports our area. Most of the larger community, from Gardiner to Livingston to Bozeman, benefit indirectly from the park's wildlife tourism via the service industry. We have built a special relationship with past commissioners and realize that now many of you are new and possibly unfamiliar with our situation. In this letter, we hope to provide the detailed arguments for our position on the proposal, but we emphasize that there is no substitute for experiencing this firsthand. Thus, we invite each of you to see the interest that wolves generate by scheduling a visit to Gardiner so that we might host you (at no expense to you) for an informational session. Come see Yellowstone's wolves for yourself! Potential changes to wolf harvest in 313 and 316 affect us greatly, so BCC advocates for no change to any of the wolf harvest subunits. We have convinced past commissioners and officials that the wolf packs of Yellowstone Park are highly regarded and unique in their reputes, not just in Montana but around the world. Therefore, they require the utmost protection to achieve stewardship worthy of their value. Their values include importance to ongoing scientific research, the centerpiece of a thriving ecotourism industry, and their ecological benefit, including their role in limiting pathogen spread. Studies now show that wolves remove animals with chronic wasting disease. Scientific studies in and around Yellowstone Park provide some of the world's most valued research on many topics, not least of which is predator-prey dynamics. These studies require great effort and investment by wildlife professionals and should be highly valued for their potential to address questions continually invoked in social and management debates, not just in our region, but around the world. In their economic importance to tourism, the loss of even a single wolf that figures prominently in Yellowstone's wildlife viewing is disruptive to the tourism industry overall. The loss of this individual, perhaps a pack leader, can cause the pack to dissolve and disperse. While these wolves generally reside in northern Yellowstone where they are viewed regularly by visitors, they will occasionally wander beyond the border where they are naïve and vulnerable to hunting and trapping. These animals account for much of the known harvest reported in these two units historically (including 2018 and 2019). Additionally, the quota in these units is often exceeded before it is closed. Lastly, we see around the world how wildlife communities subject to hunting are not compatible with the ecotourism industry—the animals develop survival strategies that make them skittish and seldom viewed or photographed. Our activities require a protected population to thrive. A prominent event occurred at the end of 2012 when two leaders of a local wolf pack were killed by hunters. They generally resided in the Lamar Valley, a world-renowned destination for wildlife watching, where they were seen by tens of thousands of visitors through the year. They happened to leave the safety of the park, and their deaths drew local, as well as international condemnation and calls for boycotting the area's tourism industry. At the same time, the loss of these key individuals triggered a series of events that led to further wolf mortality, and ultimately to fewer wolf sightings in the park. The final result was a down-turn in the area's wildlife watching industry. After 2012, the reduction of quotas in Montana (through advocacy efforts) and the cessation of hunting in Wyoming (by federal law), allowed the industry to build back some of its lost prosperity. We are loath to see a repeat of this incident. Opportunities for wolf harvest are abundant throughout Montana and are not significantly reduced by preserving these quotas in two relatively small units by Yellowstone, and a third by Glacier. There is no livestock in 316, a wilderness area, and very rarely livestock in 313, the Gardiner Basin, so depredation has not been a persistent issue. Landowner rights under Montana law to protect property from wolves is not affected by quota setting. To summarize, we are dismayed by the raft of recent legislation to liberalize wolf harvest because (1) they do not address or attempt to solve a demonstrable problem, (2) by introducing draconian measures, they only benefit small special interest groups in the state at the expense of mainstream hunters, and (3) FWP management was balanced before bringing these controversial approaches forward, in part because it was successful in harvesting a large proportion of

the state's population by traditional means while still protecting valuable packs. North of us in Paradise Valley where the governor illegally shot a trapped wolf, reported harvest rates are very high, likely unsustainable. We urge the state to take a closer look at that and how it may be affecting game damage on private land. Similarly, we urge the state to investigate how wolves and other predators affect the spread of chronic wasting disease and other pathogens that threaten other wildlife. High wolf harvest combined with high elk density appears to invite the spread of such pathogens. Please consider our request and our positions as stakeholders in wildlife management that affects many people, jobs, and tax revenue throughout our region of Montana.
Nathan Varley Gardiner, MT"

"Wolf Hunting & Trapping Regulations Proposal 2020 – 2021 Comment My husband and I are writing this complaint against this year's proposed revision of the hunting and harvesting of wolves in our "Treasured" State of Montana. As you all know, in 1995, Wolves were re-introduced to Yellowstone National Park for historic and ecological purposes. Subsequently, controlling the overpopulation of elk, the furthering of their "generational health," and the recovery and rebalancing of the environment has benefited not only our elk population but other wildlife as well. I would call this a successful endeavor. In addition to these ecological benefits, it's worth mentioning that the increasing numbers of wolf-watching visitors are contributing enormously to the coffers of numerous business enterprises in our communities that funnel tourists to and from Yellowstone. Many of these tourists base themselves in our border towns that surround the Park. Most stay for long periods of time, rent accommodations, eat at our local restaurants, shop at our stores, rent vehicles, purchase gasoline, and employ local guides and outfitters. They are also year 'round visitors that help to bolster our economies in the "off season." The proposals allowing for the hunting and trapping of increasing numbers of Wolves, if enacted, will surely diminish (if not eventually eradicate) their numbers thereby jeopardizing this vital part of our tourism industry. We believe that the killing of these animals in increasing numbers and in such inhumane ways as trapping, will contribute to tourists seeing Montana and Montanans as barbaric for allowing such a torturous methods of execution of wildlife. Then there is the issue of monitoring traps and trappers. To advocate that this manner of capturing and killing of an animal be permitted on private land is noteworthy. We personally know from past incidences that "self monitoring" by the trappers themselves does not work and leads to other creatures and even our pets getting killed or maimed by these archaic and cruel devices. In summation, the arguments against these latest increases & allowances are many. These measures would absolutely do the most harm to Wolves – that being the apparent intent. But the conservation of our natural habitats should also be considered to insure the safety and well-being of all living creatures, including ourselves and our pets. And of course, the health of our local economies will surely suffer catastrophic consequences. So we are urging you to please revisit these proposals with the above considerations in mind, and rescind or at least fundamentally alter the proposed hunting and trapping regulations for 2021 – 2022. Sincerely,
Christina and Jerry Kahrs Gardiner, Montana
Jerry & Christina Kahrs Gardiner, MT"

"I do not agree with the snaring at all. Too many opportunities for domestic or other animals to get hurt. Also don't like the use of dogs, if someone wants to hunt them ok, but do the work yourself, no dogs. Hunt numbers are too high. I understand the need for control but they are an important part of the ecosystem and 100 more than last season is too many. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. And yes, I'm a hunter.
Patricia Smith Laurel , MT"

"I'm urging all FWP commissioners to vote against new wolf-hunting regulations. Wolves are keystone species of ecosystems and every organism in a wolf-inhabited ecosystem has benefited from the trout/fish of the rivers to the prey of the wolves themselves with the return of wolves. The large ungulates such as deer, elk, and moose that wolves have preyed on have benefited as a species and their populations are at an all-time high. Wolves hunt long-range, chasing their prey, instead of ambushing them. This means that the weaker, elderly, or disease-ridden large ungulates are tested and tried by wolves. This cuts off the disease or sickness from spreading throughout the herd, leaving the most capable prey animals to survive and pass on their genes. However, this "ancient evolutionary success story shared by both predator and prey" (Living with Wolves) occurring is rare itself. Wolves only have a 14% chance of successfully bringing down their prey and feeding their family. "In typical conditions in the wild, wolves probably live close to the edge nutritionally, usually carrying a relatively small amount of body fat." (David Moskowitz, a professional wildlife tracker, photographer, and outdoor educator in Wolves in the Land of Salmon) If these regulations are passed, the stakes against them will be raised even further, crippling their already small recovering population (in contrast to the thriving deer, elk, and moose). Furthermore, wolves do not pose a true threat to livestock. This established study shows wolves are responsible for only 1% of predation on sheep in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Study: <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/wolf-issues/ranching-solution/> In addition, several studies show that wolf hunting will only worsen the 1% livestock predation. Since wolves are extremely social creatures, killing a member of the pack disrupts the pack's dynamics. Because each member of a wolf pack works together to bring down prey, a wolf pack will struggle mentally, emotionally, and physically to get food and will be forced to succumb to easier and less nutritious prey such as livestock. As for direct wolf and human conflicts, there are so few and it's so rare that they are considered to be statistically non-existent. Finally, one of the most commonly used hunting methods, mentioned in the proposed regulations, traps, and snares, is simply egregious. These traps leave the wolves to slowly die an extremely agonizing death with some wolves biting off their limbs (self-amputation) in desperation to end the pain as their family watches on, unable to do anything but bring regurgitated food. If these extremely cruel new wolf-hunting regulations over an extremely minor problem pass, I can guarantee you that I will not be visiting such a state in the future and will encourage my city to not choose to do so too. Let the wolves live their natural lives to the fullest.

Yuna H. Novi, MI"

"The attitude towards wolves (and bears) you are enabling and pushing on those who have the ability to care about someone besides themselves is truly disgusting. This archaic, egotistical way of thinking is not only responsible for the extreme oppression and near-annihilation of these majestic creatures, but it removes wolves and the valuable role they play in the ecosystem. Since the colonization of America, white men have felt justified in the stealing of land, the genocide of Indigenous populations, the enslavement of those they view as "others" or inferior, and the rape of the earth and the natural world. Not much has changed unfortunately. What does it say about your state and legislative body that you are so nonchalantly able to sign off on the slaughter of the natural world? You are hurting yourself, Montanans, and the rest of the country by depriving it of a balanced ecosystem. Covid-19 is here because of our twisted relationship with the natural world and it is only a glimpse of what is to come if humans do not come to understand that this is a shared planet with incredible creatures who love, mourn, have families, and who are worthy of life just the same as human beings. We are but one creature on this planet. Our ability to dominate, conquer, destroy, and inflict suffering does not mean that is something to hold in high regard or capitalize on. Any other point of view is speciesism. Villainizing wolves is shameful, narrow-minded, and showcases your blatant disregard for wildlife and your willingness to resort to violence. Cruel indifference and wanton contempt for nonhuman life is

despicable and is not in any reflective of the qualities one should hold in a public office or government agency. I hope that your state is punished with a lack of federal funds for your actions and the actions of the Montana Legislature. I also hope your likely cozy relationship with the agricultural/cattlemans industry is a mistake that haunts you and one that your children or grandchildren come to question you about in the near future or someday. From my point of view, there are no good answers you will be able to offer them.

Nikki Dennis Portland, OR”

"Some of these proposals conflict directly to what is now state law. The intent of the extended season was to specifically bring down wolf populations and most wolves in Montana are in regions 1-3. Also, snaring all other legally trapped wildlife is allowed on public land, not allowing wolves to be snared on public land is not justifiable. Wolf trappers must take the wolf certification class to trap wolves and now all trappers must take a mandatory trapper education class so the snaring of wolves on public land would not increase the ""potential conflicts with other users"".

Michael Laird Dillon, MT”

"I am a 4th generation Montanan with children who will live and work here. We oppose the proposals. We WANT wolves here. We need wolves here. The legislative enactments are representative of extremist positions. Science and biology are being shoved aside for the benefit of the few interested in trophies and thrill of kill, leaving the state stripped of ecological balance. Be careful what you wish for, because you're going to put the wolves back on the Endangered Species List for your short-term pandering to the ever-decreasing population of hunters. As the population of Montana continues to shift to non-native born, many coming here to enjoy our state's wildness, you will find yourselves on the wrong side of history. Your children will decry your choices.

Betsy Brandborg Helena, MT”

"I hunt deer and elk in Region 2 (Mineral, Missoula Counties). It is very difficult to harvest elk on Forest Service (Public Lands) in Western Montana. I frequent the Fish Creek area mostly. A typical day in Fish Creek entails long hikes, many days of fueling up a vehicle to get to a trailhead, observing little to no sign of elk, seeing wolf tracks mostly, occasional bear sign, occasional mountain lion tracks, and coming back empty handed at the end of the day. In the last three years, even harvesting a whitetail buck in Fish Creek is getting difficult. If it takes the Maximum New Tools option to help get small herds of elk back onto Forest Service lands in Montana it would be a good start. You can see it, large herds of elk have been habituated by wolf pressure to private land near interstates and urban areas. Thanks for reading my comment.

Kevin Elmstrom Superior, MT”

"I urge the commission to adopt the ""Limited New Tools"" option for the 2021-22 wolf season. In general, I oppose all of these unnecessary, indiscriminate, and unethical measures but the ""Limited New Tools"" is the best option available in order to limit the damaging bills that originated from the previous legislative session. I also believe that trap checks must be required every 24 hours, as there is no excusable reason to allow wolves to suffer for extended periods of time in traps. Finally, I suggest maintaining a maximum quota of 1 wolf in units adjacent to national parks and Requiring the reporting of all non-target catches. Montana's tourist economy is dependent on healthy populations of wildlife and these final suggestions are intended to preserve these populations in the face of the overly aggressive wolf hunting and trapping proposals. Thank you for your consideration

Dylan Paul Flather Hamilton, MT”

"Dear Chair Robinson and Commissioners, I am an attorney and represent Outdoor Heritage Coalition ("OHC") and I write this letter on their behalf. OHC is a Montana based non-profit which supports and promotes the interests of anglers, hunters, ranchers, trappers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. It is OHC's mission to promote and defend the outdoor traditions its members have enjoyed for generations. The purpose of this letter is to provide OHC's support of the Maximum wolf management option, which was adopted by the commission for public comment on June 24, 2021. OHC believes this option to be the best wolf management strategy. It will decrease the wolf population—as mandated in House Bills 224 and 225 and Senate Bill 314—while maintaining sustainable hunting and trapping opportunities for wolves. OHC recognizes that the Montana Legislature gave discretion to the Commission in developing a management plan. OHC asks the Commission to use that discretion to fulfill the intent of the Legislature by allowing the maximum harvest for a sustainable population of wolves; thereby reducing the impact of wolves on very important big game species and domestic livestock in all parts of the state of Montana. OHC would also emphasize that trapping, and more specifically the use of snares, is the most efficient tool for meeting the wolf population goals set forth by the Montana Legislature. While supportive of the proposed management strategy, OHC also urges this commission to allow for the use of snares on public land in addition to private lands, and especially in Regions 1, 2, and 3 which have significant wolf populations. Also, and importantly, limiting the use of snares solely to private land greatly reduces the chances a trapper will enjoy the kind of results intended by the Montana legislature. The vast majority of the wolf population resides on public land. Limiting snaring to only private land will thereby undermine the Montana Legislature's goals. Snaring is the most efficient device for reducing the wolf population. By limiting the regions in which snaring may be utilized the commission is handcuffing the most useful tool available for fulfilling the wolf management plan. Furthermore, limiting the expanded wolf trapping dates to areas outside the lynx protection zones is unnecessary. FWP has already adopted best practices for snares to avoid non-target captures of lynx. Compare 2020 Furbearer and Trapping, FWP Montana Trapping and Hunting Regulations at 5 with Howard Golden et al. How to Avoid Incidental Take of Lynx While Trapping or Hunting Bobcats and other Furbearers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2003). Current best practices, combined with the requirements laid out for wolf snares, will significantly reduce the chances of a lynx being taken incidentally. In fact, harvest data of furbearer species from states that utilize these best practices show almost no lynx mortalities associated to non-target catches. For example, Idaho has not reported a lynx death caused from a trap or snare. In addition, there is no data showing that wolf snares, which are constructed with larger cable and use larger loop sizes, have resulted in incidental captures of lynx—much less any lynx mortalities. During the three-year wolf harvest in Minnesota, before federal relisting, snares for wolves in the Minnesota lynx zone were allowed. During that period, no lynx were reported to have been incidentally caught. Thus, the requirement to limit locations for snaring is unnecessary. In addition, OHC emphasizes the importance of education. The best way to reduce negative and unintended interactions with wildlife is by providing the public with robust educational programs and resources. In an era where we are connected more than ever, OHC would ask this commission to explore ways to reach more people who utilize Montana's fish, game, and natural resources. OHC strongly believes education will increase broad public acceptance of sustainable harvests, through hunting and trapping opportunities, as part of wolf conservation in Montana. This is a very important issue to all sport persons, landowners, and the Montana public—as shown by the passage of laws intended to responsibly reduce the wolf population in Montana. OHC thanks you for your consideration of this important issue and looks forward to seeing the Commission implementing the intent of the Montana Legislature. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Gary R. Leistico Attorney for Outdoor Heritage Coalition Outdoor Heritage Coalition Gildford, MT"

"To the Montana FWC, I'm writing to request that you adopt/maintain the "limited tools" options across the board in moving forward with changes to the current wolf season. I'm already leery of the current quota limits in the recent wolf seasons but understand that that's not up for comment. As a Montanan, I'm glad for the state's comparatively science-based management of wildlife, especially as against Idaho and Wyoming's Fish and Wildlife Departments' handling of rarer fauna in the Northern Rockies. It's with distress and frustration that I followed the passage of the recent bills in this year's legislative session targeting gray wolves in the state. It seems to me that gray wolves are once again serving as proxy in some perceived "culture-war" as the Republican party abandons any pretense left toward our country's legal systems, democratic voting process, and our own state seems to support or laugh off a governor with a history of hunting and trapping violations. I don't feel that leaving it up to individual hunters to manage the state's wolf population is a good move at this point, where destruction of over half of the estimated population would be the high bar for revisiting annual restrictions. Individual hunters are not evaluating pack structure in their take and trappers are certainly not. Much havoc could result from that many wolves killed in a single season in terms of the health of the state's population as well as fallout in terms of fracturing of family groups and potentially increased predation of livestock by young wolves without the security of the pack structure and the knowledge of older wolves. I think the current quotas, bag limits, and trapping season length seem more than adequate for the ostensible purpose of maintaining a healthy population, as the state's population seems to be currently decreasing. I'm vehemently against snaring as a practice. Despite well-intentioned regulations, and neat claims, snaring has been shown time and again to result in the deaths of many "non-targeted" species, domestic dogs, and to be a cruel, potentially long-lasting, and at times ineffective way to kill any animal. As a hunter, the night-hunting and baiting provisions struck me as going against the fair-chase ethic of wildlife hunting in this country. It also seems, like trapping in the state, that it would be much harder to police and regulate not only for wolf hunting, but for any number of species or domesticated animals that might be accidentally killed. While I respect private property, I believe that making exceptions in wildlife management on private lands will result in work-arounds that will incentivize a "game farm" mentality and lead to treatment of the public good of wildlife in this country as the private provenance of large land owners. It's this way in Texas for instance, where hunters pay for access to hunting on private lands. The recent wolf hunting season in Wisconsin is a stark illustration of how quickly decades of careful management can be overturned in weeks. The legalization and normalization of new methods of killing animals will also increase the "bycatch" and the sense that poaching and animal cruelty will be increasingly tolerated. In light of the recent adoption of the law allowing up to 90% of Idaho's wolves to be killed this season, and Wyoming's aggressive wolf management, Montana has an opportunity to remain more even-keeled and to serve as a bioregional source of wolves in the Rockies while these animals weather the flippancy and caprice of politically-motivated "management". Thanks for considering this comment.
George K St. Ignatius, MT"

"The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has a long history of basing wildlife management decisions on science, public safety, and the Montana Constitution's public trust doctrine. You are well aware that snares are a very inexpensive way to trap, and allowing their use will increase the number of snares on our lands. Montanans cannot afford the loss of horses, hunting hounds, working dogs, livestock, and wildlife that this increased use of snares could cause if not properly regulated. In any case, it is counterproductive to good management to take more wolves. Wildlife biologists have learned that wolves evolved as a self-regulating apex predator, with intricate social structures and breeding behaviors. When we kill wolves, we disrupt pack behavior, leading to an increase in wolves, and increased loss of livestock. Biologists also tell us that wolves are the best defense against highly contagious Chronic Wasting Disease. Wolves take out the sick animals, reducing the spread, and wolf

scat cannot spread the disease. Wolves also restore riparian zones. Without them, erosion and grazing destroy plants, leading to more erosion, as well as less food and water for livestock. Healthy riparian zones mean healthy land and water for livestock and farming. Considering these facts, I urge you to make the following common-sense revisions for the 2021 wolf season: (1) require 24-hour trap checks; (2) prohibit the use of snares on public lands; (3) mandate that trappers obtain written permission from landowners for the use of snares; (4) require wolf trapping certification for anyone trapping wolves; (5) require snares to have diverters, relaxing lock, 275 lb. rated breakaway, a stop for a minimum loop size of 10", and the bottom of the loop a minimum of 18" above the surface; (6) limit the number of wolves who can be snared to one per certified trapper; (7) limit the number of snares and leghold traps a trapper can set; (8) require trappers keep maps of their snare locations; (9) prohibit power snares and the use of drags on traps and snares; (10) require disclosures and warning signs for traps and snares on block management areas; (11) revise wolf trapping season dates to January 2-Feb 28, to try to avoid incidental trapping of grizzlies and upland game bird dogs; (12) prohibit the use of snares in high use areas of wintering elk and deer; (13) apply setback of minimum 150 feet to all public roads for traps and snares; (14) require trapping warning signage at trail heads and high use recreational areas; (15) establish one wolf quota or closure of the wolf season in units over elk management objectives, where elk shoulder seasons occur, where chronic wasting disease has been detected; (16) allow one wolf per license; (17) require presentation of hide and skull of all trapped or shot wolves in an unfrozen condition to designated FWP; (18) prohibit the use of bait and night hunting of wolves; (19) require the reporting of all non-target catches; (20) require annual reimbursement reports (SB267) for wolf trapping and hunting. Thank you for your excellent work in the past, and your consideration of these common-sense measures. Sincerely, Gail Trenfield 30760 Mission Creek Road St. Ignatius, Montana 59865 406-745-3001 57pogeno@gmail.com
Gail Trenfield St. Ignatius, MT"

"Dear Montana Fish and Game Commissioners: The shift away from science-based wildlife management the Fish and Game Commission proposes through the new regulations for trapping and predators jeopardize Montana's livestock industry, but not in the way you might imagine. I work closely with the ranching community. We have recently learned that regulations to increase wolf and grizzly harvest are likely to spawn a Montana products boycott, especially for beef. This alone is concerning, but exponentially so when coupled with the 3,300 percent rise in consumer demand over the last decade for plant-based, pseudo meat. The last thing ranchers need is a Montana beef boycott. Because consumer choices are trending toward meat alternatives, I am working with ranchers to seek other revenue streams. Montana ranchers are in a strong position to "sell" their services as stewards of significant public benefits such as biodiversity, water quality, and carbon capture. A consortium of major companies has joined together to launch a \$13 billion market for farmers and ranchers who provide ecosystem services. These companies include Cargill, ADM, Nestle, General Mills, Tyson Foods, McDonald's, American Farm Bureau Federation, Mars, and the National Cattlemen Beef Association. Montana ranchers are in a strong position to be among the first ranchers to benefit from this significant market, which is scheduled to launch in 2022. The laws and regulations that threaten Montana's wildlife resources and biodiversity jeopardize ranchers' opportunity to benefit from this growing market. Lastly, the killing of approximately 1,000 wolves will likely result in lawsuits and efforts to re-classify the wolf as an endangered species since an argument can, and will, be made that the state of Montana is not competent to manage a recovering species. This could trigger complete protection under the Endangered Species Act. The laws and regulations on hunting bears with dogs could also thwart the delisting of grizzlies and the ability of Montana to manage this species. For these reasons, I urge the Commission to return to Montana's proud tradition of managing our wildlife with science and stop

pandering to the extreme desires of a tiny number of trappers and hunters who threaten the greater interests of the Montana public and our tourism and ranching economy. Sincerely, Lill Erickson
LILL ERICKSON Livingston, MT”

"I support SB314. This is our state! we don't need help from outside influences to manage it. We have to live with the consequences.
Paul Faber Miles City, MT”

"Wolf need protection! Stop killing them! Is not a sport and is not the way to manage them, they are key pieces for a healthy ecosystem
Gabriela San diego, CA”

"The State of Montana is violating its agreement with the federal government to manage wolves responsibly as it does bears, mountain lions, elk and other native wildlife. If the state pursues this course of action, it will demonstrate that grizzly bears should never be delisted to state management and that wolves should be relisted under federal protection. As an Idahoan who has seen the propaganda used to demonize wolves in Idaho, I had long admired Montana's more measured and science based approach to managing wolves. This new anti-wolf legislation represents a sharp departure from science and ethical wildlife management. I regularly travel to Montana but will reconsider those plans in the future and will avoid purchasing products from Montana and encourage others to do the same while the state is seeking to eradicate wolves so irresponsibly. I oppose trapping, snaring and the use of bounties for wolves and other wildlife. Montana's fall from responsible wildlife management is deeply disturbing and I will seek to help wolves regain federal protection and to eliminate Montana's role in their management as long as the state pursues persecution of wolves. Suzanne Asha Stone, Director International Wildlife Coexistence Network Boise Idaho
Suzanne Asha Stone Boise, ID”

"I have read through the proposed changes for the 2021-2022 wolf hunting and trapping regulations. I would deeply appreciate my opinion to be considered when the final decisions are made. Wolves are, as you know, apex predators who serve an extremely important role in controlling the populations of animals they hunt, and insuring that those populations are healthy. Any time wolf populations are drastically culled there are enormous repercussions amongst other species. I would strongly urge you to conduct thorough research and study all possible alternatives before allowing the slaughter of wolves. I would suggest enlisting the help of experts in working out a program which will allow wolves to peacefully coexist with ranchers and others who wish to participate in the unnecessary slaughter of these magnificent creatures. I am certain that a compromise can be reached which will be acceptable to both ranchers and those who value the important contributions wolves make to our ecosystem. Thank you for your time. I truly hope that the proposed changes to the trapping and hunting regulations will not be adopted. If they are, I will change my travel plans and will definitely not visit Montana!
Sincerely, Melanie Marez
Melanie Marez Simi Valley, CA”

"Let the wolf season run to the end of spring bear season
ed russell Great falls, MT”

"wolf hunting and trapping should be outlawed.
John Oetinger Missoula, MT”

"Montana has historically been held up as an example of reasoned and science-based wildlife management. The FWP Commission now has the opportunity and responsibility to see that these standards are upheld by: Preventing the use of unethical measures such as baiting and spotlighting of wolves that violate fair-chase hunting principles. Returning to your original science-based cap of killing no more than 29% of the wolf population. There is no scientific reason to increase the cap to 50%, and it threatens the already-declining wolf population. Meanwhile, elk populations are above target in most of the state, and livestock depredations are low. Maintaining the current quotas of two wolves in each of wolf management units 313 and 316 outside of YNP and the current quotas around Glacier NP. Regulations are necessary to protect these wolves, which are of particular value to research and to the local and state tourist economies. (I live close to YNP and have never seen a wolf in the park without at least 10 up to a hundred tourists watching them from the road.) Not relying on "emergency" meetings to "consider" in-season adjustments. The timeline required for these procedures makes them essentially useless and just gives the appearance that some regulation is being done. There should be specific rules that are "automatically" applied should quotas be exceeded or non-target animals be trapped. Permanently banning the use of snares on public land to protect non-target wildlife and pets. Giving more consideration to stakeholders such as conservationists, researchers, wildlife watchers, and recreationists, not just hunters (especially outfitters), trappers and ranchers. I have until now been proud of Montana's wildlife management history. Unfortunately, this year we have seen proposals and laws that have destroyed that reputation both within and outside of the state. I am urging you to use your discretion and authority to reverse some of the harm that these changes will inflict on our wildlife and citizens.

Donna Onstott Livingston, MT"

"Please do not change the Montana regulations on hunting wolves. I feel that baiting, snaring, entering the den is awful. Montana's wolves are one of the riches of wild Montana. Reducing their population in any way is unacceptable. Harming them by allowing the things proposed is unacceptable as well. My opinion is that Montana's wolves should get more protection, not less.

Fred Baker Gardiner, MT"

"The proposed expansion of hunting of wolves goes too far. Wolves are a part of Montana's heritage and a critical part of the ecosystem. Hunting is a serious sport and these proposals are simply allowing for wholesale slaughter. If people can't get a wolf using fair play than they aren't entitled to get a wolf.

Susan Mittelstadt Helena, MT"

"There should be no trapping of wolves on public or private lands. The only exception should be live trapping if it is done by a state or federal agency as critical predator control. The use of snares is inhumane and unnecessary especially since monitoring and actually checking the traps by MT fish and wildlife dept. is almost never done and non target species are threatened with this method. The only way to control wolves should be done through hunting in areas where populations are well established. There is no reason to eliminate the wolf by the archaic method of trapping. We need to remove trapping from all public lands!

Susan P. Lanning Clyde Park, MT"

"Please consider a different way of managing the population of wolves. Our ecosystems are dying and these animals play a huge factor in maintaining the sustainability of our public lands. Yellowstone was on the verge of collapse until they reintroduced the wolves, that is scientific evidence that these animals are necessary to keep the western landscape healthy. It is the ranchers and farmers who need to adapt

different policies of managing their livestock and crops so that they can continue to work alongside these native species.

Briana Foisia Parish, NY”

"I think that decimating a native species by 80-90% is abhorrent and should not be allowed. We need to protect keystone species and not allow them to be driven extinct like in the last century. Thanks.

Kaycee

Kaycee Prevedel Laramie, WY”

"Greetings - I am a concerned member of the public who enjoys being able to observe wildlife and visit the remaining natural areas of the United States, including parks located in Montana. I am concerned because the current Wolf Hunt Proposal threatens not only my and others' enjoyment of these areas, but also more importantly threatens wolf conservation and wildlife biodiversity. A healthy wolf population can and should be considered one of Montana's greatest assets. It has been scientifically proven that wolves are extremely important apex predators, and contribute greatly to the conservation of biodiversity, both plant and animal. People enjoy seeing wild wolves in the ecosystem, and wolf viewing is a major source of tourism in states with healthy populations. I oppose the proposed take quote of 450 wolves - this is 50% of the population! Indiscriminate wolf hunting breaks apart wolf family systems and can actually cause an increase in pups born in the next season. Removing entire packs can wreak havoc on an ecosystem, and only encourages that territory to be filled with other predators. Please consider fixing the regulations rather than constantly setting up emergency meetings - decisions made in haste are usually only temporary fixes, and can often cause more harm than good. Trapping in general should be restricted, as most traps are inhumane and often trap unwanted targets, including endangered or threatened species, domesticated animals, or even humans. I also oppose night hunting and the use of snares, as well as all baiting of predators. Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and I hope that any new legislation or regulations will take these comments into account. With Regard, Nicole Overby

Nicole Overby Oceanside, CA”

"Please maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near YNP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and silver gate gateway communities a healthy wolf population is the highest value to the state, economically for research, tourism and because the public want wild wolves in the ecosystem. I oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season, period. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the wolf population. I Support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency and ad hoc meetings. Do not allow any trapping at all in the areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears and restrict all other trapping w snares. I oppose trapping and the use of snares! I oppose all baiting and night hunting as not fair hunting practices at all.

Johanna Reed Tucson , AZ”

"Let Fish and Wildlife manage Montana’s wildlife. Let data and best practices determine the dates for “hunting,” not a legislature influenced by special interests. Limit the trapping of wolves. Do not expand the trapping dates nor the bag limits. We have CWD among our ungulates — undoubtedly more than we even know. In most parts of the state, we also have an excess of big game. Wolves are doing exactly what we need them to. They are essential to our ecosystem. They keep herds on the run. More calves die in spring snowstorms than are ever taken by wolves. Plus ranchers are handsomely reimbursed for any predation. Wolves do us a service and pay for themselves through tourism. We like it that Montana is equated with wildness and with wolves

Sandra Lambert Livingston, MT”

"Dear FWP Director and Commissioners, Grizzly and Lynx are no excuse not to allow sportsmen to manage wolf populations. Idaho has 10 years of data showing our highest wolf trapping harvest unit also housing a Grizzly bear in every 4.5 mile square with zero wolf trapper/Grizzly conflicts ... ZERO ... Also in that same unit we have 256 Photo trap images of lynx and also ZERO wolf trapper/lynx conflicts..
Reginald Gunsel Mizzou, MT”

"Commissioners I will try to be brief in my comments. I am a resident trapper and hunter in Montana and have been a resident since I was born 70 years ago. Regarding the wolf issues: I have known from the start that snaring would be a tool to use in wolf management. I would really hope that before just opening it up to all that there would be a comprehensive wolf snaring education class in effect. We have snaring of other animals, but the wolf snares have potential to cause some real problems in uneducated hands. There are ways of addressing the by catch issue, but without an education format the potential for disaster that will affect all snaring could be extreme. I feel strongly about the education issue and have stated many times since the inception of the wolf regs', that once snaring became a law that we need to educate trappers about their proper usage. One regulation that I believe you could address is the breakaway on the wolf snare. Many, not all, of the trappers that I have gotten info from about use of snares in Alaska and Canada, recommend a 750-pound breakaway. I personally feel that 1000 pounds is too much. You have Representative Fielders' info on other aspects of the wolf issue and for the most part, I agree with him. I am in agreement with the proposal to increase the otter harvest in both proposed districts and all of the other trappers that I have personally talked to also agreed. I could give you a long dissertation on that subject also, as I have been observing the increase in otter for over 35 years. However, now is not the time. I wish you the best, as I know that these are hot issues with the wolf. Respectfully submitted by, Robert Sheppard PO Box 129 Ovando, Mt 59854-0129
ROBERT SHEPPARD OVANDO, MT”

"My sons and I are hunters and have enjoyed traveling to Montana over the years. However, the killing of wolves is over the top horrendous! These animals are endangered and should be protected by your state, not slaughtered into oblivion! We can no longer travel to your state, nor recommend others travel to Montana. Your decision makers are living in the past and are blind to the fact that we are in a major extinction crisis that they, the decision makers, are hastening! We are disgusted with the ignorant and callous direction Montana seems hell bent to go!!
Harold Chalfant Malvern, PA”

"Dear Montana FWP Commissioners, As a Park County resident with family ties to Paradise Valley dating back to the late 1800's, I write to advocate on behalf of Montana's wildlife heritage. As the Commission considers implementation of the anti-wildlife legislation passed in the recent legislative session today, I urge you to consider the widespread, diverse, strong and credible opposition to these unnecessary measures. In addition to the points outlined below, please consider the increasing trend toward holistic landscape stewardship in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and beyond. Impressive strides have been made by innovators across Montana to consider ways to farm and ranch alongside wolves, grizzly bears and bison alike. From electric fencing and fladry around calving pastures, to range riding and corralling herds at dusk & dawn, carcass management, wildlife tracking, and increasingly the use of technology to detect stressed livestock or allow for the timely detection of a carcass. There is incredible opportunity for Montana in regenerative practices which include predator coexistence. As citizens and lawmakers we are tasked with considering the policies and practices

which will carry us into the future. Those realities cannot be grounded in snaring and trapping wolves, placing bounties on a hunt and allowing them at night, loosening stipulations for killing grizzly bears, limiting their relocation and hounding black bears. These laws do not represent the majority of Montana values and have clearly been proposed by a small group of special interests, creating barriers to responsible management, potentially resulting in Endangered Species Act re-listing, while also harming Montana's economy. Key points to consider: There should be no expansion of the wolf trapping and snaring season; it puts grizzly bears, lynx, all non-target wildlife and our companion animals at greater risk. Even FWP acknowledges there will be more killing of non-target animals including livestock and pets. Snares have no place on our lands; they are dangerous and real torture for wildlife. They are inexpensive, so many more will be set near trails and on game trails. Wolf snares will lead to many more fatalities of family pets and non-target wildlife. Night hunting endangers people and livestock. Elk and Deer numbers are at record levels, increasing after wolves returned and revitalized the land. Motorized sportsmen will claim all the elk are gone, so make clear that game numbers in all parts of the state are at record highs or slightly increased. In 1995 when wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone, there were 109,500 elk in Montana. In 2020 there were 136,000 elk, 25 percent over objective! Predators cause less than one percent of livestock fatalities. For compensation, ranchers receive three times the value of any cattle or sheep killed by predators. Trapping has no place on our public lands; it's destructive to the ecosystem, cruel and endangers public safety, which should be the number one concern of all public officials. It is wrong for less than 1% of our population, trappers, to control our public lands and threaten our safety. Unlimited wolf killing is not supported by science or facts; it is a misguided desire to destroy a keystone species. Montana's greatest treasure is its wildlife, but traps and snares kill indiscriminately, destroying the health and beauty of our diverse lands and undermining our important tourist-based economy. River Otters are a US Forest Service "Sensitive Species" and are listed on Appendix 11 CITES endangered species list. Why is there a trapping season on a species classified as sensitive and endangered? A species with a slow reproduction rate. Fish, Wildlife and Parks states that no one knows how many otters are in Montana. No one knows when they breed, but probably in the spring every 2 to 3 years. It takes 8 months for the young to exist on their own. Otters are frequently killed in beaver traps. The challenge before us as Montanans is how to adapt, to create laws with the next generation in mind by taking a long view on responsible wildlife management. It is possible to recognize our history while designing for the realities of the future, and this includes our relationship with the large species which have defined the backdrop of the American West for millennia. Thank you for your consideration and service. Respectfully, Lara Birkes 31 Deep Creek Rd South Fork Livingston, MT 59047
Lara Birkes Livingston, MT"

"I wish to provide comments on the 2021-2022 Wolf Hunting and Trapping Regulations Proposal. I provide the following comments as a Montana resident and a past and present local small business owner, hunting guide, and wildlife tour guide who supports an economy based on both hunting and non-hunting wildlife experiences. 1. With few exceptions, I support all of the options under 'Limited New Tools' for wolf management in the proposed wolf hunting season options table. 2. Due to the incredible economic value of wolves, I strongly support maintaining the current quota of 2 wolves in management units 313 and 316, near Yellowstone NP, and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is the highest value, economically, for ecosystem services, and because people simply want to see and have wild wolves in the ecosystem. I operated wildlife and hiking tours in Yellowstone and on the Gallatin NF. Established in 1990, my business was the first wildlife watching tour operator in Montana and Yellowstone. Since that time multiple wildlife tour operators have established themselves. It is appropriate to expand wildlife tourism economic benefits beyond the borders of our National Parks. It is critical to maintain the

wildlife of the ecosystem, not just the National Parks. A larger and greater ranging wolf population will help facilitate this. 3. The proposed hunting quota of 450 wolves annually is too high. This plan would take 50% of the population, which is not sustainable at a population level according to MTFWP's own data, stated objectives (harvests not to exceed 29% of the population) and other peer reviewed North American research (e.g. "Population Dynamics and Harvest Characteristics of Wolves in the Central Brooks Range, Alaska"). Montana's wolf population is of value to a diverse array of stakeholders from hunters to wolf watchers. Their populations should be managed as a resource (like mountain lions), not limited to lowest numbers and range. High harvest quotas like this make FWP seem as though it is managing wolves as vermin and abandoning the North American Model of Wildlife Management. Overharvest will lead to wolves being federally relisted, which will restrict management options in the future. If this high quota is aimed at increasing elk populations or decreasing depredation, it is important to note that elk populations in the state already exceed FWP's goals in nearly every region, AND depredations are low (averaging 60 domestic animals per year, including cattle). 4. The wolf season needs to be shorter. Snaring, hunting, and trapping should never go into March and not past mid-February. It is wasteful and unethical. Snaring should not be allowed during any bird or lion hunting season. 5. Trapping or snaring should not be allowed in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears. Non-target capture and mortality is likely because the snare (in particular) and trap size will allow capture of larger individual animals. Bear cubs are very likely to be caught. In other areas, these activities should be allowed ONLY on private lands, with landowner permission. These activities pose significant risk to all other users of public lands, to livestock, domestic animals, and non-target wildlife species. They significantly limit multiple uses on public lands, which is completely unfair to other users/stakeholders. 6. I oppose all baiting and night hunting. It is unsporting and unethical, and simply makes Montana hunters look bad to the public. People and dogs may suffer from these activities. They are too dangerous. Baiting will also lead to more bear problems that will increase costs and workload for already under-resourced state agencies. I acknowledge that MTFWP staff are already working very hard with limited resources. Their jobs do not need to become more difficult or dangerous. Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Ken Sinay Former owner (1990 to 2020): Yellowstone Safari Company Current owner: Yellowstone Now! Current Guide: Yellowstone Llamas POB 42 Bozeman, MT 59771 406-539-7359 Ken Sinay Bozeman, MT"

"NO HUNTING !!!! Wolves are a natural part of a healthy ecosystem and are the keystone predators that allow for a healthy Elk population.. Snares are unethical and this is not hunting. This is no reason for this hunt. The cattle depredation is minimal and owners paid for losses ..to be killing a keystone predator is killing the goose that lays the golden egg. This proposed hunt is not science based. I am opposed thank you
rebecca mandich tesuque, NM"

"Wolf hunting is already adequate to control the population. These new pressures on wolves are intended to wipe out the population. These new laws are being up out by men and women who are members of the trappers association and former Wildlife Services (the killing agency). Wolves have a right to be here and have brought the ecosystem back into balance. It is obvious that these new laws are being pushed by wealthy trophy hunters and are not what the majority of citizens of this state are in favor of. Wolf watching is a huge draw here and brings in more money than any other wildlife in the state. This is an economic issue as well as a moral one. Trapping is indiscriminate and inhumane, not to mention archaic. Come into this century. Listen to the people of this state, not just the minority trapping and trophy hunters.

Ren Evanoff Livingston, MT"

"I am a tourism professional who evaluates impacts of keystone wildlife on local tourism economies around the world. I am due back in the Yellowstone ecosystem in November of this year to continue evaluation and work on wolf tourism impacts. I am gravely concerned about the new proposals to hunt Montana wolf populations and have heard and read the grief coming out of not only Montana residents, but also those who travel to Montana with the hopes of sighting a gray wolf. Once a charismatic species dwindles in numbers, the impact is felt not only on the ecosystem, but on the tourism draw that is no longer. I have seen this occur in other wildlife destinations around the world, and how the long term impacts of low predator or charismatic species numbers negatively affects local tourism economies. I oppose the new wolf hunting legislation not only for what it means for wolf populations, which still need to stabilize notwithstanding their numbers in certain pockets, but also in terms of what it means for the image of Montana and its place in the great American West that is so revered globally. Thriving American natural heritage is something to be proud of, and the new legislation threatens Montana as a wildlife jewel of the West. I urge you to please reconsider these measures and to listen to the pleas from biologists and conservationists who are eager to discuss these issues and support their claims with scientific data.

Mari Tada Miami, FL"

"The intent of the legislature was clear and completely reviewed that we need to reduce the number of wolves in Montana. Areas with too many wolves have very few elk and the ones that are there have moved into the farmers fields. This makes them easier to count and produces a false reading that the elk population is better than it really is. The areas I have hunted use to have moose that we would see daily. Now, I haven't seen a moose there in 3 years. 1. Longer season in all regions, Especially 1, 2, & 3. Idaho has proven that Grizzly and Lynx protection zone is a cop-out to cater to the "Antis" 2.

Eliminate or Increase the Quota in Regions 1, 2, & 3. Wolves need separate regulations in all regions 3. Snaring needs to be legal on all land by at least the next season. 4. Baiting and Night hunting needs to be approved statewide. 5. Unlimited Quota for trapping 6. Include wolf license in all Sportsman Licenses 7. No setbacks on all closed roads Everything can be reviewed next year and revised as needed. The evidence from Idaho, Alaska and Canada says we will not hurt the wolf population but we may save the ungulates if we act NOW

Larry D Rattray Proctor, MT"

"• Require 24-hour trap checks. • Prohibit the use of snares on public lands. • Obtain written permission from landowner for the use of snares. • Require wolf trapping certification inclusive of snaring for anyone trapping for wolves. • Require snares have diverters, relaxing lock, 275 lb. rated breakaway, a stop for a minimum loop size of 10", and the bottom of the loop a minimum of 18" above the surface. • Limit the number of wolves who can be snared to one per certified trapper. • Limit the number of snares and leghold traps a trapper can set. • Require trappers keep maps of their snare locations. • Prohibit power snares and the use of drags on traps and snares. • Require disclosures and warning signs for traps and snares on block management areas. • Revise wolf trapping season dates to January 2 - Feb 28 to try to avoid incidental trapping of grizzlies and upland game bird dogs. • Prohibit the use of snares on high use areas of wintering elk and deer. • Apply setback of minimum 150' to all public roads for traps and snares. • Require trapping warning signage at trail heads and high use recreational areas. • Establish 1 wolf quota or closure of the wolf season in units over elk management objectives, where elk shoulder seasons occur, where chronic wasting disease has been detected. • Maintain a maximum quota of 1 wolf in units adjacent to national parks. Overage comes off the following year/s or adjacent applicable wolf

management units. • Allow 1 wolf per license. • Present the hide and skull of all trapped or shot wolves in an unfrozen condition to designated FWP. • Prohibit the use of bait and night hunting of wolves. • Require the reporting of all non-target catches. • Require annual reimbursement reports (SB267) for wolf trapping and hunting.

Janice Stroud Victor, MT”

"If the intent is to manage wolves better then open the season earlier statewide, instead of an early opener for areas where minimal wolf harvest occurs. Snaring on private land only doesn't help with reducing wolf populations in the western part of the state where most of the wolves are.

Jerry McKinley Great Falls, MT”

"Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission is brazenly sabotaging the good name of FW Commissions *nationwide, by supporting morally bankrupt and bogus hunting practices that deliberately harm native species and recklessly degrade wild places for everyone. Snares should NOT be used on public lands, and barbaric hunting practices of a keystone species (native wolves) brings suffering to animals and people-- and gives Montana a reputation for sadism, ignorance, and ugliness. The Commission should act immediately to restore dignity, trust, and authority to its voice and mission. Montana will otherwise be the laughingstock of the world for its heartless and ignorant reversal of decades of science-based conservation policy that protects all resources and safeguards the public good. Do the right thing.

Mary Larson Big Timber, MT”

"No Brainer here for those of you who know me, we need to go with the MAXIMUM NEW TOOLS option. This has been a long time in the coming and is very necessary. We've got way more wolves than we ever promised to keep and they are pummeling out high mountain mule deer 24/7/365 to the point where we'll never get them back to healthy populations. There will be absolutely no risk of ever nearing the minimum wolf numbers with this proposal as they are part of our landscape now and these tools are not near aggressive enough to bring populations in to check. Thank you for finally listening and opting to give us more tools in the tool box.

Steve Kamps Ovando, MT”

"Great idea's I would like to see starting date's on private ground for wolves start on November 1st. I also strong urge that FWP do the courses on snaring and carry on as part of certification process like they done by providing wolf trapping coarse's . Thank you Red

KENNETH P SCHOENING FRENCHTOWN, MT”

"Please read the guest editorial by KC York in the 7/26/21 Missoulian. I endorse these statements 100%. Catherine H. Ream Ph.D.

Catherine H Ream Clinton, MT”

"In favor of all expanded wolf hunting and trapping proposals.

Randy Fey Red Lodge, MT”

"I am writing to protest the adoption of HB 224, HB 225 and SB314. As a Montana citizen of 48 years, a mother, a grandmother, an RN and a lifelong proponent for wild places and wildlife, I find the aforementioned three bills ill-advised, impractical, uninformed and a pointedly sadistic implementation of wildlife management. I urge the Commission to hold public meetings across Montana to allow ample opportunity for public input before making this decision. I also anticipate that the Commission will exercise solid judgement, current wildlife management knowledge and great caution in application

of these new laws. I ask the Commission to utilize Limited New Tools for the three bills detailed below. House Bill 224, "Allow for the Snaring of Wolves by Licensed Montana Trappers" was a partisan bill introduced by first-year Rep. Paul Fielder. Representative Fielder was Director of the Montana Trapper's Association (District 1 – Northwestern MT) from 2016 to 2018. Do keep in mind that snares do not differentiate between animals. Enactment of this bill will cause collateral damage to unintended wildlife and domestic animals. Likely such incidents will be numerous. Traps wound and imprison until the animal dies or is killed by the person that checks the trap. A quick death is not ensured if the trap is not checked in time to provide such for the animal. Another darker scenario is that even if the trapped animal is found, there is no guarantee the trapper would choose to offer a quick death for the animal. There is no science that supports trapping wolves to control their populations. Wolves self-regulate their population based on instinctive territoriality and resources available for sustenance. They are beneficial to ecosystems in many ways, including culling wildlife populations. With CWD increasing in both number and species in the state, cutting the number of wolves that could help control this disease seems shortsighted. House Bill 225, "Establish Wolf Trapping Season Dates", dependent upon passage of HB 224, was also a partisan bill sponsored by Representative Fielder. Again, trapping wolves is not a scientific way to address a wolf population, thus a season should not be set in the first place. I urge the Commission to err on the side of caution, adding no time to the current season set for trapping in Montana. I would also ask you to insist that trap checking take place every 24 hours with ample staff for monitoring and enforcement, and stiff penalties for those who allow traps to remain unchecked. Senate Bill 314, "Revise Laws Related to Wolf Harvest", was a partisan bill introduced by Senator Bob Brown, also from Thompson Falls, and who has a lifetime rating of 8% by Montana Conservation Voters. This bill is a shocking example of poor sportsmanship. SB 314 allows a hunter and/or trapper to kill an unlimited number of wolves, allows hunting at night on private land, and allows the use of bait to hunt wolves. I would hope that this Commission would find those three conditions as distasteful and embarrassing for our state as ethical hunters would, recognizing there is no semblance to fair chase in any of those conditions. I used to be proud to say I was from Montana. These bills are a national embarrassment. I urge you to base your decisions and actions on science, evidence-based impact on Montana ecosystems and rational restraint.

Linda Healow Billings, MT"

"Dear Montana FWP Commissioners and FWP Director, Make up your own minds using facts and biological data, not emotion and hyperbolic rhetoric spewed by the Animal Rights Fanatics. The Montana FWP Department and Commission needs to listen to their biologists when determining season dates and quotas for wolves, furbearers, and game species. Follow the science and not "public opinion" when carrying out the direction of the people of Montana (i.e. the intent of the Legislature). Sociology is not a biological science or even a "hard" science. Importantly, the out-of-state folks don't have an opinion in this issue. Don't allow the FWP to manage our game and furbearers based on their public opinion. To paint a realistic picture of the people that are against the managing of wolves and furbearers, consider this....I've been involved with a 3-year project that started out as a beaver habitat restoration project and evolved into a riparian habitat restoration project, in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, for the past 3 years, in eastern Montana. I reached out to Footloose Montana, Trap Free Montana, and Wolves of the Rockies for volunteer assistance from their members all 3 years and received absolutely no feedback from any of their members. This tells me that these anti-trap, anti-consumer groups are all about feathering their own nests and not about the welfare and management of wildlife. So, having said that: -Increase the otter quotas in R1 & R2; -Approve and implement the new wolf harvest tools and according to Legislative intent; -Support the FWP Commission's actions implementing the new tools following the will of the people (Legislature). Additionally, what anti-trappers don't tell the public is that in addition to helping manage all wildlife,

trapping currently protects private property, our societal infrastructure, and food supply, while also protecting and recovering endangered species. It would cost taxpayers approximately \$70.5 billion a year nationwide from all forms of health, structural, agricultural, and other forms of wildlife-related damages annually in the absence of current management practices. State wildlife agencies expect wildlife damages would increase on average by 221 percent nationally should hunting and trapping be lost as wildlife management tools. That includes \$3 billion to the agriculture community, and not just livestock and poultry, but mainly \$2.5 billion to field crops, fruits, vegetables and nuts—you know, the mainstay of the vegan and vegetarian diet espoused by animal-rights activists. Beavers, which are primarily managed through regulated trapping, would cost taxpayers more than \$32 million a year to keep just at acceptable population levels. The damage they currently cause to bridges, roads, irrigation systems, and private property would add millions to this tab. Additionally, just controlling rabies among furbearers costs more than \$450 million per year according to the 2005 study, and it's estimated that in the absence of trapping and hunting, that cost would increase to nearly \$1.5 billion annually. If the monetary costs of losing trapping don't undermine the animal-rights movement's argument, consider that biologists use traps on wolves, bears, cougars, and other predators and endangered species when conducting studies and relocating them. That fact, all by itself—the trapping of animals that are released alive and unharmed—completely destroys the argument that trapping is inhumane. Moreover, best management practices for trapping have been developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to help trappers practice safe, practical, and efficient trapping techniques that also ensure the welfare of wildlife. The development of BMPs started in 1997 through scientific evaluation of 600 trap types for 23 different species. Over \$40 million dollars has been spent conducting this research through a collaboration of state and federal wildlife agencies, trapping organizations, veterinarians and university researchers. BMPs provide information about the different types of traps, how they function and the best way to set them to ensure sustainable wildlife populations and to reduce the catch of non-target species. In fact, various traps were set to capture legal furbearers over a quarter of a million times. No threatened or endangered species were caught during this extensive trap testing. No domestic dogs or cats were captured 99.95% of the time; the few dogs that were captured were released unharmed. Regarding proposed trapping setbacks, this is another ill-conceived notion offered by the uninformed public and also the anti-trapping community. This proposal is a solution in search of a problem. The number of incidental/accidental "captures" of dogs, livestock, pets, etc. is statistically insignificant and based only on anecdotal evidence. Trappers need to have the ability to make their trapsets in some of these corridors because these are where the furbearers and predators travel. Again, a solution in search of a problem. Director and FWP Commissioners, do not approve of any trapping setbacks in any FWP Regions. So you folks make up your own minds, but do it using facts and data, not emotion and hyperbolic rhetoric from animal rights fanatics.

J.L. Rader Box 6273, Bozeman, MT"

"Howdy folks - Firstly, I would like to volunteer that I am a life-long hunter, fisherman, and trapper. I also guided hunters and fishermen in Montana for about 20 years, including in the wilderness with pack strings - the very place where one is most likely to encounter wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly bears. And we did - lots of times, and our experience should carry some weight. Before continuing: one thing we can say for sure about allowing public comment - the more emotional and hand-wringing the appeal, the less likely it's science and fact-based. The anti-hunting and trapping gang play to emotions, not facts and experience. I also feel strongly that any comments submitted by out-of-state individuals should be ignored - this is not theirs to weigh in on. The same people that made life difficult for the Idaho and Wyoming game commissions, they apparently have nothing better to do with their time. This crowd claim to have seen eagles and owls missing toes, and also caught in traps. This is very likely a "falsehood". Firstly, in the unlikely event the spotter even had the visual acuity to count toes on a

loose wild animal - how would they know how the digits were lost? Secondly, we as trappers take precautions to avoid this unhappy situation: we are required to keep baits away from immediate trap proximity (meaning birds won't land there), we use traps with a 3/8" offset (meaning the traps do not close entirely shut, thereby missing any theoretical bird toes), and most of us use 10 pounds of pan tension on wolf traps (meaning it take in excess of 10 pounds of pressure to even set one off - I defy anyone to find me a 10 pound owl...). Take anti-trapping ""testimony"" with a grain of salt. I live in wolf Region 3 - and we have plenty. Two seasons ago, in one drainage we located a pack of over 20 individuals. This was a very large group, and excessive - locals managed to remove several (mostly with weapons), and the elk returned to the area. Point being, yes, there are presently too many wolves in Montana and Idaho - far exceeding management goals. By most accounts, about four times the stated target numbers. Trapping is another tool to help keep wolf numbers reasonable. And for those who think this will result in a wholesale wolf slaughter: as trappers, we need to direct a wolf to step into roughly a five inch square to actuate a trap pan and effect a catch. Think about that for a moment. My home county (Beaverhead) is roughly the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined - and we have to make an animal step into a five inch square? That's a skill level that not many folks possess - sort of a self-limiting conservation measure, if you will. Lastly, I need to make it very clear that I personally do not hold any animosity toward wolves. In fact, I very much enjoy seeing and hearing them in wild places. However, we as humans spent the better part of a century extirpating them from the lower 48 states. And then; after building cities and towns, highways and interstates, fences and property lines with lots of domestic animals - thought it a good idea to reintroduce those same wolves. The animals don't know where the lines are, and as a result conflict becomes inevitable. Only holding wolf numbers in check will reduce the wolf-human conflicts, and trapping is just one more tool to help accomplish this end.
B T Horgan Dillon, MT"

"The idea that killing wolves is somehow enjoyable tells us that we have a lot of sick people in our state. It is understandable to react to numbers when we have population problems but, we currently do not and have not since we almost knocked them out entirely. We need scientific data to be understood by our leadership, not uneducated rural decision making for all of us to then endure.
Brian Jenkins Missoula, MT"

"I happen to love wolves. I cannot comprehend the horrors to be inflicted upon wolves under the current American government protocols, which have removed wolves from the Endangered Species Act; wolves must be relisted and duly protected from the exact same shameful bloodlust killing sprees which we warned would be the case if wolves fell under individual states management, disastrous and disgusting plans which we and the world are to be unconscionably witnessing as Montana and environs push for killing more wolves. THAT IS WRONG ON EVERY LEVEL. Wolves MUST be protected. WOLVES ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE WILD, for goodness sake! Wolves are treasures - not trophies. Find some decency please and get the wolves protected. Elk populations are over objective in most areas in Montana. Access to elk is the problem and not wolves killing all the elk. It is unethical to kill a mid-term or later pregnant animal. This is not science-based wildlife management. We are commercializing Montana elk, moose, and deer. Cattle depredation is low and compensated for. Tourism will suffer because of anti-wolf management. Montana wildlife belongs to all Montanans Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks can't manage wolves and grizzly bears
shelley wyndham chambersburg, PA"

"Hello, I strongly oppose your Wolf Hunting and Trapping Regulations Proposal. It proposes actions that don't have any scientific validity and don't serve any scientifically valid purpose. Wolf populations are self regulating, driven almost entirely by elk populations, distributions, and health conditions.

Wolves do not significantly affect any industry, whether it is hunting or animal agriculture, and instead provide millions of dollars in tourist revenue (not counting the additional uncounted millions in ecosystem services). There is no reason to hunt or trap wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem or anywhere in your state. Doing so is actually to your disadvantage both financially and environmentally. Additionally, the proposed hunting methods are not ethical and do not take into account wolf social structure. It is well known killing Alphas and other important pack members drastically increases the probability of wildlife-livestock conflict. The proposed hunting and trapping would have this exact effect. I urge you to stop all hunting and trapping of wolves in Montana. It is in the interest of the people of Montana, the economy, and the environment. Thank you for your time and consideration, Anyll Markevich (17 years old)
Anyll Markevich Nederland, CO”

"We want all harvesting options for wolves in all units and more harvest numbers. Not this new watered down version that wouldn't be effective at reducing numbers at all. Also if this is the best you can do to help reduce wolf numbers I definitely won't be contributing to the wolf mitigation fund in the future.
clifford egypt clinton, MT”

"I agree with Paul Fielder 100%. We voted on all of this and those votes must be the law now until , hopefully never , voted out .
Tim C Ross Billings, MT”

"Totally against these ideas. Snares will kill non-target species including grizzly bears and their cubs, posing an enormous public safety risk. Other threatened and endangered species will die as will pets. You are giving Montana a black eye with these archaic unscientific pogroms. No expansion of wolf seasons, quota numbers or practices such as night-spotting and other unsporting practices.
Mike Bader Missoula, MT”

"Elk populations are over objective in most areas in Montana. Access to elk is the problem and not wolves killing all the elk. It is unethical to kill a mid-term or later pregnant animal. This is not science-based wildlife management. We are commercializing Montana elk, moose, and deer. Cattle depredation is low and compensated for. Tourism will suffer because of anti-wolf management. Montana wildlife belongs to all Montanans Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks can't manage wolves and grizzly bears LEAVE THE WOLVES ALONE. WOLVES SHOULD NEVER BE HUNTED, TRAPPED, SNARED. THEY ARE ESSENTIAL IN THE WILD. WOLVES ARE TREASURES AND REQUIRE RESPECT AND FREEDOM. THIS ENTIRE IDEA FROM YOURSELVES IS AN UTTERLY DISGRACEFUL ONE . AND THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS RIGHT NOW. WOLVES REQUIRE PROTECTION FROM ALL SUCH BRUTALITY. SHAME ON YOU ALL. IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE THIS WAY. And in deed it should not. Please stop this barbaric plan. DO BETTER MONTANA.
shelley wyndham chambersburg, PA”

"Please eliminate all trapping and snaring in Montana. This cruel practice is selfish, inhumane, and unnecessary.
Margaret Kingsland Missoula, MT”

"Please consider and way where the most wolves live and problems are, excluding regions 1 2 and 3 from trapping 12-1 to 12-15 does not solve any of our problems when it comes to the wolf, and remember the legislative intent was to make your jobs easier. This is not a social issue and it is about

management. The groups out of Missoula would chose not to have any hunting or trapping at all, just a natural means of management, that does not work. Please trust what the science is saying and please look at our neighbors to the west. Idaho's panhandle is also their lynx recovery zone also. Not one lynx was trapped. Please is the Max tools possible, but increase the limit to 15 wolves apiece. Please also consider when & how we are counting our wolf populations, please shift those dates forward to when we can count wolf pups, the line on graft will never change unless change those dates, mirror Idaho. Please trust the trappers and houndsmen on the populations, we are the guys out there in the winter seeing where and how many wolves there really are. I will trust you five commissioners will do your best job. We need a helping hand to increase our ungulate populations back to over healthy populations before the wolf populations exploded. Remember even when we had our highest lion populations in the 80's to mid 90's we had healthy elk, deer and moose populations. Number 3 is the only choice and remember that could and can be adjusted in time also. Thank, Terry L. Zink Zink's Big Sky Archery Targets PO Box 1272 Marion, Montana 59925 1-406-253-4670
Terry L. Zink Marion, MT"

"This comment is directed to a couple of issues I have with the proposed items for adoption with regard to the wolf trapping and snaring regulations. As a Montana resident and trapper I am firmly against the proposal for wolf snaring only on private land. This is not the intent of the legislation that was passed by the legislative session or that of what the governor signed. This very necessary tool should not have any restrictions for its placement except those required by the legal use of the device, the restriction on placement and dates are a farce. The use of the expanded dates for the season need to be used in the areas where the wolfs are... not in areas where they are not. This is just ridiculous! You can't harvest a wolf if there are none there. Keep the unlimited number of animals harvested on one license. Please do not allow people who do not live in this state dictate how to manage our wildlife. Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.
Trina Davis Forsyth, MT"

"I support the new regulations and decreasing the number of wolves as much as possible. The decision to introduce wolves in western Montana was forced on us. How we deal with this mistake is our business, not the people that don't live here.
Mike Cook Stevensville, MT"

"Elk populations are over objective in most areas in Montana. Access to elk is the problem and not wolves killing all the elk. It is unethical to kill a mid-term or later pregnant animal. This is not science-based wildlife management. We are commercializing Montana elk, moose, and deer. Cattle depredation is low and compensated for. Tourism will suffer because of anti-wolf management. Montana wildlife belongs to all Montanans Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks can't manage wolves and grizzly bears
Stephen Streed Hopkins, MN"

"I think snaring should be allowed on public land currently there are no restrictions on snaring coyotes and there are virtually no issues with lynx or people's dogs. The early season should be statewide in my opinion I think you would be able to treat them exactly like coyotes and you wouldn't see a drop in their population. Listen to what the biologists say and keep the politics out of this.
Shawn lau Belt , MT"

"I disagree with the newest proposals the MT legislature passed concerning trapping & hunting wolves in this state. Baiting, night hunting, hunting from the air, bounties paid—it's horrifying & an

embarrassment for our state!!! The ranching industry should NOT be in charge of this state. Their propaganda is no longer believable when you look at the data. 30 years of successful work bringing wolves back into the ecosystem & all of the tourist dollars they help bring into our state are irrelevant to Republican lawmakers hellbent on keeping the ranching lobby happy. What a joke! We voters will remember all of this at election time.

Susan Doverspike Stevensville, MT”

"I am opposed to the increase of wolf kills permitted. While you increase the elk season for resident hunters into the winter, you are killing off a natural population control species, the wolf, all at tax payer expense.

Joseph W Kipphut MISSOULA, MT”

"Dear Fish and Wildlife Committee, I am opposed to the proposal for No Setbacks of traps in addition to the following proposals: SB314 HB224 HB225 I am also opposed to hunting wolves at night. Thank you, Helen Hausmann

Helen Hausmann Missoula, MT”

"The wolf season dates need to be the same state wide. It does not make sense to have the eastern part of the state open earlier than the western. Snareing needs to be allowed on all lands not just private. The amount of people out that time of year is so little conflict would be minimal. Idaho has been snareing on public land for years with little to no conflict. The intent of these bills introduced was to help control the overpopulation of the wolves. With the way they read now it would do little to no good.

Richard Fairbank Ckancy, MT”

"These barbaric traps should not be allowed on public lands. They don't discriminate on prey. This is dangerous for all parties using these public access points. Also the numbers you mention are not acceptable. Designating population is not management.

Scott King Glenwood springs, CO”

"As a Montana resident a hunter and an advocate for wildlife conservation, I value the presence of healthy wolf populations in Montana. The proposals before the Commission are not ethical, science-based, sustainable, or needed. I urge the Commission to REJECT proposals to extend wolf hunting seasons or to approve new and deadly wolf killing tactics such as hunting at night or using bait to hunt or trap wolves. Thank you for your time.

Eric Scranton Bozeman, MT”

"I support NO CHANGE. I am certain that the people of Montana, as well as most residents of the United States, value wildlife and wild places, and Montana is home to some of the most amazing wildlife and wild places. These animals and places are crucial to Montana tourism and the economy. Science and empathy should be used to inform wildlife management. Thank you.

Erica Cranden Flemington, NJ

"Ladies & Gentlemen, I fully support the trapping and snaring of wolves throughout Montana as a wildlife management tool. Trapping is part of Montana's cultural heritage and plays a large part in professionally managing fur bearing animals and predators. Thank you for listening. Best Regards,

Curt Reynolds

Curt Reynolds Stevensville, MT”

"Please allow snaring on public land. Please allow the early trapping season dates statewide.
Rick French Whitehall, MT"

"Dear Sir, Please see that the wolf trapping regulations do not hurt the trappers that are only trying to help control the wolf population as needed in Montana. Thank You.
Theodore A. Gernaey Troy, MT"

"MTFWP Commissioners and Director Worsech: I became a hunter in my thirties and my husband had strict ethics as to how to hunt wildlife and how to respect the animal. I felt sick to my stomach as I watched the legislative drama play out this year. The bills centered on hunting wildlife seemed so politicized. It was as if we had not learned any lessons from the harm we caused our wildlife populations into the early 1900s. It really felt like Montana wanted the federal government to step in and intervene as to create intentional tensions with our current administration. The irony is these bills show our own state government is being influenced by interest groups with big money. I truly hope this isn't the case but I feel repulsed all the same. I would like to have my comments recorded: 1. I disagree with increasing the quota to 450 wolves. My taxes have paid for the recovery of the wolf population and it was not so they could be decimated again within one governor's term. 2. I'm against the use of snares for wolf capture and do not think your "requirement" of reporting of non-target captures will be effective. 3. No to snares. We should not even create a situation where a non-target capture of lynx or grizzly bear should occur. 4. No to expanded wolf trapping dates (including snares). 5. No to increasing wolf limits in counties adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. I am hoping the Commission listens to public comment and makes the best decisions for the benefit of wildlife and not for special interest groups. I also hope the Commission has the integrity to stand against political pressures that are not in line with science. Best,
Mary Beth Albrechtsen
Mary Beth Albrechtsen Pinedale, WY"

"Please pass the most aggressive wolf control laws that's possible. This passing will be a positive step for preserving our big game animals.....it's all most too late so please be aggressive with wolf control!!!
James French PARADISE, MT"

"I think snaring should be allowed statewide on all lands, not just private.
David Ellis Bridger, MT"

"Please make no change from the 2020 hunting season regulations. Any future changes should use a science-based wildlife management approach. Montana is a special place to those who live there and those who visit to experience its wild places and wildlife--and healthy wildlife adds significantly to Montana's economy. Thank you!
Curtis Manley Bellevue, WA"

"Take them out! They are Lowering the population of our elk they kill for fun..
Chad Wenz Deer Lodge, MT"

"Please start wolf trapping on Dec 1 and make baiting of wolves legal.
Laurien Riehl Missoula , MT"

"Please start wolf trapping on Dec 1 and make baiting of wolves legal.
Laurien Riehl Missoula , MT"

"The wolves should be treated just like coyotes. Year around season.
Kevin Calloway hardin, MT"

"Stop this now!!! Do not make these amazing animals go into extinction!!!
Michael Croft Bozeman, MT"

"I feel the season should be extended for a longer period than proposed for regions 1 and 2. These areas have reduced elk hunting opportunities on public lands due to the deminished elk and deer populations due to wolf and bear kills. They must be managed differently than the areas east of the mountains. The tree covered public lands also make the wolf harvests in those area much harder to be successful. Increased snare use should also be considered to help the harvest numbers increase on wolves. Thanks,
Rep. Denley Loge St. Regis, Mt 59866, MT"

"Thank you for allowing me to comment on the proposed 2021 Wolf Season Options. While I do not live in Montana, I have spent time in your beautiful state almost every summer, mostly through visits to Glacier National Park and the surrounding area. I live in an urban area but have rural routes, and have deep respect for farmers and ranchers, and no problem with most hunting and fishing. That said, I am strongly opposed to the new hunting and trapping proposals that Montana is considering. Wolves have highly evolved social structures which sport hunting risks destabilizing- running risk of more instead of less depredation risks with an expanded hunt. Snaring has been shown to often cause a slow and painful death to wolves given their strong neck muscles. Night hunting and allowing hunting of animals late in their terms both are not only unethical, in my opinion, but risk further turning non-hunters into anti-hunters. Your state has been part of an amazing effort to re-introduce wolves into the natural landscape. This is something to be proud of. Wolves stir up controversy, to be sure. But I believe the majority of people who live in and visit your beautiful state want truly sound wildlife management, and the proposed increases in your wolf hunt- even the ""limited"" new tools- do not in my opinion solve any real problems, DO potentially create new problems, and risk damaging Montana's tourism industry. I strongly encourage you to rethink increasing any wolf take options *whatsoever* for the upcoming and all future seasons. Thank you for your time and attention.
Christine Oliver Edina, MN"

"I oppose the increase in wolf hunting and the use of snares.
Kris Campau West Olive, MI"

" no more introductions in any areas. the fish and game has messed up the ecosystem with their infinite wisdom. the wolves have decimated entire hunting districts as a result there of . if wolves continue and fish and game continue, wolves and fish and game will be the only predators left as we tax payers will be broke.
chuck stephens Hot Springs, MT"

"In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is of high value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. I oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. I also oppose trapping and the use of snares, and all baiting and night hunting

Mel Lipton Cordillera, CO”

"Grizzly and Lynx are no excuse not to allow sportsmen to manage wolf populations. We should be following Idaho's lead as Idaho has 10 years of data showing their highest wolf trapping harvest unit also housing a Grizzly bear in every 4.5 mile square with zero wolf trapper/Grizzly conflicts. ZERO! Also in that same unit they have 256 Photo trap images of lynx and also ZERO wolf trapper/lynx conflicts... Montana had a January 2021 estimated wolf population of 1,156 wolves, including about 190 packs of wolves. The Montana Wolf Management Plan calls for a minimum of 150 wolves and 15 breeding pairs. Because only about 27% of wolf packs have a breeding pair, the 15 breeding pair requirement of the Montana Wolf Management Plan necessitates a need for approximately 282 wolves. Montana's present wolf population is four times greater than what is required by the management plan. Thus, legislators in western Montana successfully brought legislation to reduce the Montana wolf population so that it will be closer to the requirement of the Montana Wolf Management Plan. During the 2021 legislative session, HB224, HB225, and SB314 were thoroughly vetted during legislative committee hearings and floor sessions. Proponents and opponents to these legislative bills provided hours of testimony for or against these bills and the bills were passed by a majority of the legislators and signed into law the Governor Gianforte. Arguments have already been addressed during the legislative process and proponents and opponents have already "had their day in court". It remains for the FWP Commission to implement the laws that have been passed so that the "legislative intent" of those laws is complied with. I therefor ask the Commission to properly institute wolf harvest laws as intended by the last legislature. It's imperative that wildlife management be conducted on factual data. Not emotion. I also request that trapping seasons and quotas be implemented as proposed by district wildlife biologists. Thank you...

Edward M Hebbe IV Deer Lodge, MT”

"Please do not trap and hunt these beautiful wolves... THIS NEEDS TO STOP NOW!!!!
Frances Rycroft Greenville, SC

"Please do more to utilize the wolf laws that were passed this season this problem will only get worse as we all know so please do more for control.
Denny Bozeman , MT”

"As a hunter, I do not agree with any of the new proposed wolf hunting/trapping regulations or season extension. Baiting, night hunting, and snaring do not adhere to ethical or humane hunting principles. I do not believe they should be allowed for any game animal in MT. I also think all hunters should be required to have one license per any big game animal hunted and harvested.
Emily Sedgwick HELENA, MT”

"As a visitor to our National Forests and National Parks, I would like to advocate for no change from the 2020 hunting season. I value the wildlife, diverse ecosystem, and wild places afforded in Montana. It is uniquely beautiful and one of the most amazing wild places in the country. The diversity in the wildlife populations will continue to bring tourist dollars to Montana which in turn is helpful to the economy. As the commission makes this decision, please also consider the science available to inform wildlife management. Thank you for your time and thought in my support for no change for the wolves from the 2020 season.
Ursula Valgus Chapel Hill, NC”

"I personally don't believe that MT needs wolf hunting. The wildlife taken by wolves is not taking away from hunters being able to bag their game. And there is no reason that ranchers can't be reimbursed for any losses. As they are not that widespread.

Alan Meeds Deer Lodge , MT"

"Dear Ladies & Gentlemen of the F.W.P. Commission I would like to ask you to support the idea to extend wolf season and to allow trappers to snare and hunt at night. This will allow more time to harvest a wolf or two. In Region 3, a pack of wolves have been causing problems, killing sheep, and two dogs. I live in Region 3, and live close to their running trails, and really need this opportunity to catch a few. I have caught a wolf here in Region 3, outside of Boulder last year, and I know there are a lot more of them. My neighbors have seen wolves in the area outside of Boulder. Give us the opportunity to manage wolves and help friends and neighbors. Thank you for your time, Sincerely, Aaron McKenrick
Aaron McKenrick Boulder, MT"

"Dear FWP Commissioners My name is Blake McKenrick, I would like you to extend wolf season & allow trappers to use snares to trap wolves. As a trapper, it would give me more opportunity to harvest wolves. There are a pack of wolves in region 3, they have killed two dogs & a flock of sheep. I live in Boulder MT & a neighbor of mine spotted one wolf near his place, a mile from my house. Please give us opportunity to manage more wolves. Sincerely Blake
Blake McKenrick Boulder, MT"

"Fwp Commissioners Dear FWP Commissioners, My name is Tim McKenrick, I reside in Boulder Mt. with my wife and four sons. My family is part of the trapping community and as such would like to express to you to use the tools that the legislature gave you this last session. Please allow us to have the longer season for wolves and the ability to snare them and hunt them at night. I was at the legislature many days during this past session and fought hard to get these types of laws past along with the mandatory trapper education. One of the things I expressed to the legislators was to give you as the commission the ability to make these decisions. I would encourage you to study the facts, reasons and intent that the legislature had in mind when these laws were past. The legislature gave you the opportunity to help reduce the number of wolves in the areas hardest effected by their presence, this includes all fur districts not just a few. I look forward to working with you in the near future on this and other issues regarding trapping and snaring. Sincerely Tim McKenrick District 3 Director, Montana Trappers Association
Timothy McKenrick Boulder, MT"

"Hello, my name is Jennifer McKenrick. I live in region 3 South of Helena in a family of hunters and trappers. We need the extended wolf season to better be able to manage the pack numbers. The wolves in our area are being spotted more frequently near residential homes. I know of family hunting dogs that were killed at the home 1 mile from my home. Another incident was a herd of sheep killed over night, again 1 mile from my home. Please give the people of Montana the opportunity to manage the wolf population by extending the season, allowing snaring and allowing wolves to be harvested at night when they are active. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Jennifer McKenrick Boulder, MT"

"I propose you support no change. Montana is a precious place for beauty and wildlife. Listen to the scientific community to guide your decisions. The people of Montana value value their wildlife and are county on you you be informed and intentional in doing what is best. No change!

Barbara Ross Chicago, IL”

"Dear Chairperson and people on the FWP commission, My name is Michael McKenrick, I am 16, and I was at the legislature this year to help get these wolf season, wolf snaring, and wolf quota tools through to you. Please allow us, the trappers and hunters, to have a longer season, snaring for wolves, and to harvest more of them. This will help us help you manage wolf, elk, and deer populations. On the topic of the setbacks, please remove the setbacks on the closed roads and trails. Again, it will help us help you. Thank you for your time, and please, allow us to help. Sincerely, Michael
Michael McKenrick Boulder, MT”

"Dear FWP Commissioners, My name is Patrick McKenrick, I reside in Boulder MT. My family is part of the trapping community and as such would like to express to you to use the tools that the legislature gave you as of last session. Please allow the trapping and hunting community the opportunity to trap for a longer season, snare, and hunt wolves at night. I encourage you to study the facts, reasons and intent that the legislature had in mind when previous laws such as mandatory trapper education were passed. The legislature has given you the opportunity to help reduce the number of wolves in the areas affected by their presence, which includes all fur districts and not simply a few. I see the tools that have been given to you as beneficial to the management of wildlife as a whole and hope that you use these tools wisely. Sincerely, Patrick McKenrick
Patrick McKenrick Boulder, MT”

"LEAVE OUR WOLVES AND OTHER ANIMALS ALONE! STOP THE TRAPPING, SNARING, HUNTING, KILLING!!!!
Crystal Cleary Oak Harbor, OH”

"Do not change the legislative intent on HB 224, HB 225, and SB 314. Quit trying to manage wolves with a liberal agenda and stick with the bills the way they were passed.
Mike Freeman Kalispell , MT”

"I support aggressive wolf management as the legislation intended.
Eric Cech Helena, MT”

"please note the following _ I am a photographer and visit MT often 1. Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. 2. Oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. 3. Support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. 4. Oppose trapping and the use of snares. 5. Oppose all baiting and night hunting.
pauline st denis brooklyn, NY”

"Please do not allow the ""Wolf"" hunt. I go to yellowstone and the tetons frequently, and might stop going if the Hunt is allowed. Also, Wolves are vital for the ecosystem of the area. Philip Friedland, CPA
PHILIP HAROLD FRIEDLAND Boca Raton, FL”

"Please leave the wolves alone

Jeremiah Dane Serrano Toronto, CA”

"SCIENCE says that wolves are an integral part of the animal population for a variety of reasons. Herd health being one. Do NOT allow 1 licence for 5 wolves. If nothing else, it decreases the income from licenses. No increase in bag limits. Wolves are necessary for herd health. Do Not increase trapping season. Trapping seasons should be SHORTENED not lengthened. Trapping advantages a very small percentage of Montana's population and makes wilderness less safe for 99% of native Montanans and all of Montana's 42 million dollar tourism industry (who do not come here to trap, and less than 15% come here to hunt) Night hunting is dangerous to people, other animals, tourists, campers. Do not allow night hunting. Do not allow Baits. They kill many non target animals. Quota's should be maintained. It is a small way to control and report the number of animals taken. Speak up for Montana's tourism industry and for native Montanan's and Do NOT increase the trapping, baiting or snaring of wolves and all the other non-target animals that are killed.
Pat Bartholomew Hamilton, MT”

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Sterling Way Victor, MT”

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Scharyn Way Victor, MT”

"I support the increased trapping on private lands in order to increase harvest of wolves. Apex predators need to be managed just as any other animal does. The requirements put in place if accidental capture of lynx/grizzly bear are sufficient given that no such incident has every been reported. I support these new rules and thank you for your time and attention. Evan Allan
Evan Allan Filer, ID”

"Increasing the numbers of wolves that can be legally hunted is not scientifically responsible. Wolves bring thousands of people into the state, all of whom spend money on gas, rentals, and food. Please do not allow more wolves to be hunted or weaken current regulations.

Kate Saunders Neskowin, OR"

"Killing is not the solution, will create more harm than good. Please stop using simple and awful solutions, I believe there are more better ways to solve the problems for good for the farmers and wildlife.

Yulong Wang Milwaukee, WI"

"I oppose increasing the numbers of wolves to be harvested. I oppose trapping, and snaring wolves. I oppose trapping and snaring any animal. I was raised by a father who was an avid hunter and he would be rolling in his grave if he knew trapping and snaring of any animal is allowed. All animals deserve a fair chance if they are to be hunted. Additionally, we humans must understand when we are in the forest we need to respect and give distance to wild life. Reducing wolves in large numbers will also, once again, change the ecosystem of Yellowstone. Please do the right thing here and keep that balance of nature in place. Thank you for your time.

Dawn Bailey Medford, OR"

"Hello my name is Donn Sponholz and I've lived in Helena for nearly 16 years. In that time Montana's wolf population has increased almost exponentially defying many biologists expectations. I live off Lincoln Road and have called in wolves while after coyotes, seen wolves from my yard and seen tracks of packs in the Scratchgravel following deer. I also know dozens of wilderness elk hunts in Idaho and Montana are no longer offered due to nothing to hunt. Thus I believe that it is MT FWP's duty to meet the legislative intent of SB 314 by the following: 1 license to harvest the bag limit, bag limit of ten with not more than five from regions 3-7, a statewide season from Dec 1 to March 15, snaring and night hunting on private land only, and use of baits statewide. We've averaged 1,150 wolves for a decade with increasing harvest. It's time to make these changes. Thank you.

Donn Sponholz Helena, MT"

"I am adamantly opposed to the proposal for no setbacks for traps as well as the following proposals for Wolf trapping. -SB314 trapping over bait and increasing the take for a single license -HB224 Snaring of wolves -HB225 Extending the season Hunting wolves at night. Wolves are a keystone predator and play a crucial role in the health and vitality of our wildlife. Also, I don't want to be fearful of hiking and skiing where my family and dogs could be trapped or snared.

David Scheel Missoula, MT"

"Dear, Commissioners, The proposed new wolf season options that allow more wolves to be killed per license, allow snaring, and extend seasons are out ragedously out of touch with the rest of the country's perception of Montana and with Montana's nonconsumptive users' desires. Montanans might say they don't give damn what the rest of the country thinks or wants regarding Montana wildlife. But federal dollars, i.e., ALL American's' dollars, support wildlife in Montana, and nonMontanans bring many millions of dollars to the state as tourists. Specifically, wolves bring in tourists and those dollars. Living wolves, not dead wolves or wolves with their necks in snares draw tourists. I do think we can expect a nationwide boycott on tourism in Montana if this 19th-century-style war agains wolves continues. The American public will not tolerate another campaign to eliminate wolves from the Western U.S. Mt FWP can stop this hysterical campaign driven by a tiny minority of MONTanans who are wolf haters, or continue to generate negative national and international attention with serious consequences.

Montana's nonconsumptive users are beyond disgusted by these proposed regulations that so obviously cater to a small minority of the state's population. As a nonconsumptive hiker, skier, outdoor educator, I'm begging Commissioners to stand up, not capitulate, again, to the wolf haters in this state. We are the vast majority of Montanas. You represent US too. And we believe wolves belong in Montana. Visit Rick McIntyre in Yellowstone or read his books before you make a final decision on these proposals. Rick has spent more time observing wolves than any person in history. His books are based on over 100,000 pages of field notes and 35 years of personal observation. Be informed, listen to the majority's wishes this time, and extend some long over-due respect toward the wolves themselves. Thank you.
Deborah Slicer, PhD
Deborah Slicer Huson, MT"

"Wild dogs....theres no way to keep them under control short of poison. And we know that isn't an option. The current plan falls way short of what needs to be done to reduce the wolfs population. I personally have seen only one moose in the last 10 years or so. There needs to be more wolves taken.
Dean Erwin
Dean Erwin Thompson Falls, MT"

"Please endorse Option 1. It is the least damaging to our Montana Wolf Population, which so many of Montana voters have supported with their hard won dollars and their eloquent essays, letters and petitions. Our wildlife, especially those now, rare top predators are what make and keep our inheritance of unmatched beauty and wonder what they are. No one comes to see mountains, streams, forests and meadows as just empty spaces. We got something better than a golden goose. We've got what the rest of the lower 48 have lost almost entirely: the full complement of living creatures that inhabited this place since time immemorial. Our endangered wildlife doesn't belong on a wall or a floor. We want them living with us here in the great state of Montana.
Carol Edwards Polebridge, MT"

"I support snaring, the snares are high enough that the lynx will walk right underneath them. The wolves are more in region 1-2-3 not on the eastern part of Montana. Get rid of the set backs as the wolves travel the roads. These bills were passed by legislature and governor, yet you the Fish and Game keep wanting to change everything they have passed. We need 72 hour check time like Idaho has. The anti's do not buy hunting or fishing licenses so please support the ones that do! We will not have moose, elk, deer if this does not get regulated.
Nick D. Grenfell Libby, MT"

"I believe the proposed laws for the 2021 wolf trapping season are flawed. snaring is done already in region two for bobcats, coyotes, and foxes. the proposed restrictions on snaring have no reasoning behind them besides political purposes. if the laws already in place are followed there should be no conflicts to be had with wolf snaring on public lands. the grizzly excuse is a prime example of political motives. the season dates will be during hibernation and the chances of catching a grizzly in a snare are 0. i think snaring should be allowed in all regions public and private lands with the same snare requirements kept in lynx zone. thank you for reading my comment
Austin Ross Missoula, MT"

"Minimum bottom of loop height to ground should be 72 inches.
Greg Houska Missoula, MT"

"I learned that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) commissioners are considering changing wolf-hunting regulations to allow night hunting, baited hunting/trapping, and snare trapping. If these plans go forward my family and friends will never be meeting up in Montana. Wolves are essential to healthy ecosystems, causing a trickle-down effect that increases plant and animal biodiversity. They are also an integral part of Montanas culture. Passing these changes would give the state a huge black eye. Please hold true to Montanas nickname as the Treasure State and prove that FWP treasures wildlife by voting against these proposed hunting regulations.
Harry Thomas Carson City, NV"

"I oppose some of the new wolf season proposals for the 2021 season. Strongest objections are to the increase in harvest to 450 wolves and to the use of snares, even on private land. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
John Preston Bozeman, MT"

"Please consider unlimited quota for hunting and trapping. I believe the trapping license should include a minimum of 10 but really only 1 or 2 people would ever harvest more than that. But, why would we want to limit the few who can actually help control the overpopulation. A minimum of 1 Wolf licenses should be included in the Sportsman License. Very few people would ever have the opportunity to harvest more than one but again, Why would we want to limit someone who could help.
Larry D Rattray Proctor, MT"

"There needs to be hunting and trapping in Montana for wolves. Science shows we need to regulate them and Hunting and trapping is the wisest was to manage them.
Brandon Baker Cody , WY"

"No changes.
Eileen Kohlhepp Northridge , CA"

"I bring students to study wolves and keystone predators. We feel that the harvesting of wolves are detrimental to the future of the terrain and the science supports the necessity to find other ways to deal with concerns of ranching and hunting then killing a large number of wolves. Wolves are important for climate change and for the vast complex ecology that comprises the landscape not just Yellowstone. They have become an important symbol of the wild and increase revenue for tourism that far outweighs in scope then hunting and they keep Elk Herds healthy if they can develop sound and vibrant pack structure. Harvesting a crop is not the same as killing a smart and social animal with a strong family bond that requires care rather than the antiquated notion of kill ends will and breaking the spirit by means that torture animals, create collateral damages and danger for others. We need to move forward not backwards and balance what we are doing with our needs and the needs of nature itself. It is a collaborative relationship and this is becoming a top down situation governed by a few special interest groups. The young people I am around and their families will no longer want to visit these places if these decisions are enacted against wolves.
Nanda Currant WATSONVILLE, CA"

"Please maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. I oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. Please fix the regulations

instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. I oppose trapping and the use of snares. I oppose all baiting and night hunting.

Mary Lundeberg Lundeberg Englewood, FL"

"As the President of the Cooke City Chamber of Commerce, I hear a lot about these proposals lately. It's sad that we weren't consulted. We have a community where wolves are the main driver of our economy. Most people who visit us come to visit the wolves. Like it or not, they're an economic boon to our area. We're having a record year for visitors and income, and most of them report wanting to see wolves and bears. That's why they're here. We need more wolves, not less. WOLVES BELONG!!! Also, these proposals are not only wrong in their goal and nature, the details are abhorrent. These proposals encourage some of the worst hunting. Hunting at night!?!?!? For wolves? In our valleys, filled with dispersed campers and family dogs, that's an insane idea. Baiting for wolves?!? Hunters already bait for wolves here, illegally, and it causes conflicts every year. It brings wolves close to our community, drawn by these bait stations, and they come into conflict with family dogs and locals. We report these bait stations to FWP and nothing is ever done. Allowing it on a wider scale will result in unintended casualties. Please table these terrible regulations. And, next time you want to better understand wolves, come out to Cooke. We can teach you about wolves. We've extended this invite for years and nobody has ever taken us up on it. We hope you do now. Thanks, Lee Johnson

Lee Johnson Cooke City, MT"

"Incidental catch is something that no trapper wants. It takes the trap out of service, so we strive to avoid those by-catches as much as we can. There is some, but it is a very small percentage of trap time. Driving a vehicle and incidentally killing wildlife on highways takes hundreds of thousands more lives, including human, than what trapping does. Incidents with fencing takes more lives every year than trapping. Windmill farms kill millions of birds each year. Feral cats are just as bad. We could list many more examples. Emotional pleas from well-meaning folks sounds sad but does it benefit the whole of the species.

TOM FIEBER Polson, MT"

"A terrible injustice to wolves, conservation equity and nature.

anthony hoag salisbury, CT"

"I would like to support the wolf hunt in Montana ,without it the wolves will kill all game if allowed to go un managed.

Robert and Judy Lenz Fall River, WI"

"No trappings; Wolf is the best part and valuable in the ecosystem of Yellowstone. Visitors and photographers visit brings in financial to the local area.

Atul Joshi Lubbock, TX"

"Please allow a bag limit of 10 wolves per person. Every year wolves are having a lot more pups than are harvested and if we keep the limit at 5 we will never be able to manage the wolves to help the ungulate population grow. Please extend the season in all regions in Montana, with more time in the woods, we will be able to harvest more wolves. In Idaho, they have been trapping and snaring wolves for years and haven't had any issues with incidental catches of lynx and Grizzlies. We need an extended season and a bigger bag limit so we can save the deer and elk that are left out there.,

Tristen Jurek Plains, MT”

"Wolves and other predators control deadly pathogens who could kill us all !! please educate yourself ! To kill and persecute these animals, you have to be sociopaths ! LEAVE NATURE ALONE !! Soon the west will become too hot and will have not enough water for cattles ! LEAVE WOLVES AND BEARS ALONE, THEY CLEAN THE ENVIRONMENT ! Elisabeth schneider
elisabeth schneider Cheyenne, WY”

"We need all the season we can get! Are elk and deer need help!! Please pass this!!
Jacob Denham CLARK FORK , ID”

"Hello - I contribute to Montana's economy because I want to see wolves in the wild. If you pass these wolf-exterminating regulations, I will no longer have a reason to visit Montana and support your hotels, restaurants and local businesses. Also, I will not support a state's economy that enacts wolf regulations based on hatred of wolves instead of science. Thank you.
Philip Tanner Easton, MA”

"I visit Montana to view wolves. I contribute to your economy by staying in your hotels, eating in your restaurants and otherwise supporting your businesses near Yellowstone National Park. The proposed regulations are barbaric. We cannot return to the policies that let to the near extermination of wolves. Wolves play an important role in the ecosystem and in Montana's economy. Please maintain the current quota of 2 wolves in wolf management areas 313 and 2 wolves in area 316 near Yellowstone and the current quotas near Glacier National Park. Allowing 450 wolves to be killed is killing too many wolves. Please prohibit trapping as it harms other animals such as lynx and grizzlies, even family pets. And please prohibit baiting and night hunting. Thank you.
Patricia Hunt Franconia, NH”

"I disagree with wolf hunting and ask you to reconsider increasing the quota
cheryl bryant Inverness, FL”

"The wolf numbers are starting to have a devastating effect on wildlife and livestock. If wildlife is chased off public land and the wolves follow, it will lead to wolves attacking other things and rapidly eroding the support and original intention of the wolf program.
Isaiah Helm Glendive, MT”

"Two: please follow the the guidelines from the legislative branch for longer wolf trapping dates, in all zones trapping wolves is tricky . Follow guidelines for wolf snaring allow on public land. Longer season and more tools are necessary to help manage wolves. Please listen to Montana wolf Trapper's , we are your best management tool. Thanks
Jerry smith Alberton , MT”

"No!
Maryjean Bensalem, PA”

"I'm a 66 year old carpenter, worked as a ranch hand in my younger years, and a hunter. Please rule in favor of the wolves. Montana's Wildlife heritage is one of the great assets of this state, wolves add to that. If hunters want to pursue wolves keep it humane. Make the hunters have to be smarter not dumber. Thanks

Burt Mittelstadt Clancy , MT”

"I support No Change to the Wolf Season options. Wolves are vital to maintaining balance in Montana's ecosystem, and changes could harm this. Wildlife and nature is one amazing draw to Montana for tourists that ultimately affect Montana's economy. Please consider the long-term negative effects that some of these changes could mean for Montana's ecosystem and economy.

Abbigail Silvis, IL”

"I am adamantly opposed to any and all wolf hunting. There has already been proven benefit of wolf introduction to Yellowstone. These are wandering wild animals. I do not believe they should be hunted, trapped and killed. Zero should be allowed. The economic benefit far outweighs what little may be gained from killing them. Maybe some kind of relief to farmers that can PROVE wolves damaged their livestock. Please let's stop the killing of these magnificent wild animals

Eva Ruth Jones Mercerville, NJ

"My wife and I visit Silver Gate every year, primarily to watch wildlife and hike. The new proposed rules on wolf hunting and trapping are very disturbing to us and if adopted would likely impact our continued visitation and willingness to invest in property in that area. Please consider limiting the wolf harvest to the same number as recent years and ban the baiting and use of night enhancement technology in the areas around YNP. Thank you.

Leland Groves Newton, IA”

"I hope the wolf hunt will continue into the future so as to follow the original population number of 150 wolves. Montana has been a state many of my friends and I have hunted game animals many times in the past and we would love to for many years to come. We've noticed game numbers have fallen in areas where wolf tracks are more prevalent. Please continue doing whatever it takes to bring the wolf numbers down to the original intent. Management of all wildlife is critical for stable numbers for any single species.

Nickolas A Ostroski Sterling, MI”

"I oppose all wolf hunting and trapping bills. As well as any and all hunting and trapping of the wolves. Wolves are essential keystone apex predators that regulate their own numbers, keep ecosystems and the environment healthy, along with fellow wildlife. Wolves heal the land and prevent natural disasters. The problem is the livestock on wildlife land, we the people want the welfare ranchers and farmers and their livestock removed from wildlife land once and for all. Coexistence is the only way forward, there are plenty of non-lethal methods to keep wolves at bay. Govern by science and proven facts. Massacring wolves is going to result in a loss of tourists dollars and hurt us in the long run. Stop the wolf hunts now! Stop the war on our wolves! Save our wolves!

Jade Boseman, MT”

"We have been repeat visitors to Yellowstone, Glacier, and surrounding areas, staying weeks at a time and spending considerable amounts of money supporting local businesses that provide lodging, food, and other tourist necessities. WE COME FOR THE WILDLIFE AND WOLVES ARE AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST TO OBSERVE AND PHOTOGRAPH!!! Your decision to slaughter these animals isn't based on facts because studies have shown they are vital to ecosystems including those outside park boundaries. Your backing of this hideous decision is pure and simple; you're catering to your rancher and hunter constituents and donors. As a result, we will no longer bring our money to your communities and we will use all avenues available including social media to tell your communities that they can blame their legislature for driving

away millions of tourist dollars, and we will encourage others to avoid your states. Wolf tourism far surpasses dollars raised for hunting wolves or lost in the minuscule (less than 1%) numbers of cattle from wolf predation on weak cattle. Your continued attacks on these animals is fueling a future nationwide boycott, which seems the only language policy makers understand.
Krista Paulino Camano Island, WA”

"No Change
Kerri San Francisco , CA”

"Please leave the wolf regulations the same as they are in the proposal. Snares are a effective tool for harvesting a wolf. Thank you
Alan Jensen Whitehall , MT”

"Wolves are decimating are Elk, Deer, Moose, and Sheep Population’s... Wake Up, and help them... I Love Wolves, put the reality is they need managed... Stop the idealistic insanity, and help are wildlife!!!
John Lunetta Noxon , MT”

"No wolves should be killed ever. They are too vital to the ecosystem to be slaughtered needlessly. As a state you're embarrassing yourselves, it's shameful what you're doing here. As a biologist I am disgusted with what I see.
Nicholas Larghi Fort Myers, FL”

"The wolf hunt is an egregious act of harm against not only the wolves, but the biotic environment that we all share. Loss of apex predators results in mesopredator releases that ultimately result in trophic cascades, ie collapse. Do your research, follow the science.
Jennifer Walsh Hot Springs , AR”

"STOP THE KILLING! IT IS NOT NECESSARY! YOU HAVE DECLARED A WAR ON WOLVES! WE ALL KNOW THESE ARE JUST FUN KILLS FOR YOU! STOP IT.
Kathy simonik Jessup, PA”

"I run a wildlife tour company based in New York City. My clients spend anywhere from 3,000-7,000 dollars for a one week trip, depending on location. I have anywhere from a dozen to 28 people per trip. I have had multiple requests to run a Yellowstone trip, specifically for wolves. There will be many comments about the environmental impacts wolves play in the local environment and how an aggressive wolf hunting season will detriment the local ecosystem. Those concerns should not be dismissed, but I also want to highlight the economic opportunity of preserving wolves. Eco- tourism is a multi billion dollar industry that is spiking, especially as restrictions ease up. I pray that the commission will reconsider after looking at the potential monetary rewards of wolves for the state rather than their short term extermination. They're worth more alive.
Ryan Hoffman New York, NY”

"While people spend money to kill a wolf, I believe more people spend more money to see live wolves in their natural habitat. Perhaps these proposals cost some economic benefit !
Larry Ludwicki Farmington Hills, MI”

"I am against such a drastic reduction in wolf population. The ranchers crouch into the wilderness, where wolves live. Wolves bring balance to the natural competition for food and resources. By allowing

hunting of 90% wolves the government allows for unknown consequences to the Yellowstone and it's surrounding areas. This is wrong and appalling. Sincerely yours Dan Chen
Dan Chen Fairfield , CT"

"No change.
Stephanie Jenson Trophy Club, TX"

"Please implement stronger Wolf management, our elk need relief from them
Sheldon Wengerd Heron, MT"

"I am in full support of the changes and especially appreciate that snares are not allowed on public land as this conflicts with non hunting uses and poses risk which leg hold traps do not bring to the table. As a hunter who participates in the Montana draw and point system I appreciate the control of wolves through hunting and trapping with sustainable management practices
Michael Arnette Wichita , KS"

"As a wildlife lover who visits Montana often to see the wilderness and the animals, I'm appalled that the regulations are being considered for change that would allow more wolves to be killed and that could result in harm to the ecosystem. Montana is beautiful and the science must prevail regarding what is best for the animals and the ecosystem. Tourists will stay away if we think our tourist dollars support the killing of wolves. There should be no change to the regulations.
Pamela Kramer Libertyville , IL"

"FWP has heard from numerous wildlife biologists, organizations, hunters and citizens regarding these proposed regulations designed to kill wolves by any means. Night hunting? Hounds? More snares? Whatever happened to the concept of fair chase? The majority of Montanans are opposed to these proposals and you have heard from many of them. Have you not heard what happened in Wisconsin? FWP does not have the manpower to make sure that a massacre does not happen. What about all the non-target wildlife and domestic animals and live stock that will also die? Now FWP wants to increase elk shoulder season because of increased numbers, but kill wolves because they have supposedly decimated elk numbers? Does no one see the insanity here? I strongly oppose these proposals. There should be no changes. Period.
Carla Bonetti Missoula, MT"

"I find it disgusting the way MFWP is willing to ignore science to placate a few trappers and hunters as well as our anti science governor. I'm against all trapping and hunting of wolves until this issue can be studied by a non partisan commission that is willing to manage based on science and not cultural hate of wolves,
Jerry Black Missoula, MT"

"I'm in favor of increased wolf hunting season opportunities. I'm also in favor of a one-wolf per year harvest limit. Thank you.
Byron Gibbs NEW CASTLE, PA"

"No wolf hunting or trapping please.
Jamie Nixon Glendale, CA"

"No change

Gail Glenview , IL”

"Please, please, please save these ancient, unique and beautiful families of wolves. They are a special gift to our planet. Thank you, Michael Johnston
Michael Johnston Los Osos , CA”

"1. Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. 2. Oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. 3. Support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. snares. 4. Oppose trapping and the use of snares. 5. Oppose all baiting and night hunting.
Marc Dellorco Sebastopol, CA”

"Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. Oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. Support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. Oppose trapping and the use of snares. Oppose all baiting and night hunting.
Tauni Huddleston Farmington, UT”

"I propose no change. Wolves are a healthy part of the ecosystem.
Janet McDonnell Arlington Heights, IL”

"No changes should be made to the existing regulations
Chester Watson Missoula, MT”

"I enjoy seeing wildlife in the wild, such as the wolves you have in your state. In the past I have enjoyed what your state has to offer, but if you expand the killing of wolves, and using snares, I will boycott all travels to your state. You could easily add a minimum tourist tax and compensate any rancher for the loss of any livestock a wolf may kill. I don't understand why a rational human would want to kill a wolf for sport. I find it very unlikely the hunter will eat the meat. The hunter is not doing the killing of a wolf for nature conservation. Wolves are needed to keep the deer and elk population in check. Please do not increase the killing of wolves.
Laurel Dianne Langmade Phoenix, AZ”

"1. Please maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf population is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. 2. Please oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. 3. Please support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. 4. Please oppose trapping and the use of snares. 5. Please oppose all baiting and night hunting. Thank you so much!

Stephen Carminati Tigard, OR”

"No change. Science should be used to inform wildlife management.
Susan Henning Gurnee , IL”

"Being a hunter. The bag limit increase seems high. Very high. Though wolves pose a threat to livestock, they pose little threat to the public at large. Raising the bag limit poses problems: 1) for the species to recover from such a loss in population 2)increased population of species wolves prey upon. Though wolves may seem to be a nuisance to those in the area, especially those in livestock. They perform a very necessary function for the areas ECO system
Colin Curran Gardner , MA”

"My family, friends and I are outraged and sickened that the state of Montana would even think to expand wolf killing! Montana was one of our favorite travel destinations and we enjoyed weeks on end visiting friends who were former residents of Pennsylvania. Now we no longer travel to your state, how can we? A dark cloud lies over Montana and any enjoyment we would have derived from such a visit, as in the past, would quickly vanish as the thought of the intense suffering and death of wolves would take over our thoughts and put us in depressed states. You can kiss our visits goodbye until Montana evolves into a state that truly cares about its beautiful wildlife! Montana, as beautiful as it is, has become a haven for human barbarians.
Elisabeth Byers West Chester, PA”

"To Montana Fish and Game Commission, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the wolf hunting regulation proposal. As a resident of the state of Montana I was disappointed to see detrimental wildlife management bills pass in the MT legislative session. Montana is widely known for its wildlife, wild places, and brilliant wildlife management state agency personnel. Seeing wildlife management decisions taken out of the hands of these experts, many of them with multiple advanced degrees and decades of experience, is something Montana should be ashamed of. Science should inform wildlife management and the entire state is relying on you to uphold this standard. My career also relies on healthy wildlife populations and should that suffer, my career will be moved to another state. Wildlife are valuable to the Montana economy and the commission can help bring Montana back to one of the best, most-admirable examples of successful wildlife management in the country by rejecting the new proposals. I support NO CHANGE to the wolf hunting regulations in Montana. Thank you for your time and efforts, Kira Cassidy
Kira Cassidy Gardiner, MT”

"As a former Missoula resident, it is seriously disappointing that some Montanans look at killing wolves as sport or alleged conservation. Wolves are still a critical part of our ecosystem and should thrive rather than get killed off in any manner except in cases of rabies and the like.
Cory Sisk Albuquerque, NM”

"No change.
Lesley Burnap Oxford, MA”

"My family and I have visited, and want to visit Montana for its amazing beauty, including its wildlife. Please preserve the wolf populations
Martha Jean Exeter, NH”

"Dear Montana Legislatures, I am writing you today to express my concern about your consideration to allow wolf hunting in Montana outside of Yellowstone Park and in the rest of the state. Personally I come to Bozeman several times a year with the primary purpose of my trip to view Grizzly bears and Wolves in Yellowstone. To me it would be a travesty to allow hunting anywhere near Yellowstone. If new hunting proposals are adopted and it significantly effects the wildlife in Yellowstone, I can assure you that my trips would go from 3-5 a year down to 1 or 2 a year. This may not cause you and concern but I would guess that on average I spend roughly \$5,000 - \$7,000 per trip on food, lodging, car rental recreation etc. My guess is that there are lots of others like me as I meet them on virtually every trip. I don't have a big problem allowing hunting outside of a buffer zone that surrounds Yellowstone and Glacier NP's but would strongly advise caution near the parks. I would not support the legalization of hunting close to either park and would respond by not visiting as much if this is allowed. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information. Best regards, Chris C. Edelen ccedelen@gmail.com
Chris Edelen San Antonio, TX, TX"

"Wolves play an important part in balancing out nature. We hardly ever see any wolf attacks to humans. For too long the ranchers have gotten their way in nature. The status quo should not be interrupted for the one or two that stray outside the park. Animals don't know about fencing or boundaries by roads, they know survival which is becoming harder and harder every day. As a photographer these beautiful creatures bring more economy to the park. We are able to show people their beauty and their struggle to survive. If man keeps going in the current direction there will be no animals left for future families to enjoy, learn about and help in conservation projects. IT HAS TO STOP! Be the guiding force for the future. Kate Sherry
Katherine Sherry West Linn, OR"

"Wolves bring many tourist dollars - lodging, groceries, restaurants, guides which help the local economy, national parks & the states. The joy of seeing the wolves is priceless. Tourism should factor in more than agriculture & hunting. The wolves help balance the eco system. Families, photographers, scientists, seniors & singles bring in much needed revenue. Keep them coming. Please Reduce the kill numbers. Wolf families are very bonded and offer lessons to us humans too.
Mary Ann Neilsen Santa Barbara, CA"

"I don't understand the need for any kind of killing if the majestic wolf population.... they are a special part of our ecosystem and the balance of nature is jeopardized by mans interference..... I am saddened and repulsed by any wolf hunting please come To your senses and leave them be in the world as they were intended
Barbara Wasmer Morriston, FL"

"I live next to Yellowstone and am against changing the current low wolf quotas in Units 313 and 316. Wolf tourism supports many jobs in our area and an increase in the killing of wolves next to the park will harm our economy. I am also against baiting, snaring, and night hunting in those areas as well in the rest of the state.
Rick McIntyre Silver Gate, MT"

"NO CHANGE from 2020 season.
Meghan Francisco Pittsburgh, PA"

"It saddens me that states with wolves are moving backwards as far as this war on wolves goes. Has coexisting ever crossed your mind? Elk populations are very healthy and cattle depredation is low, so there really is no reason for what appears to be a war in wolves. Please realize that disrupting packs causes more harm than good.

Judy McMullen Winchester , VA"

" No! Ecologists worked so hard to bring wolves back to this area, and this rehab effort is internationally known and respected. To do this would be like spitting on their hard work.

Alexandra Byerly Bloomington, IL"

"NO Snaring!!! This will kill and injure black bears and occasionaly even elk and Deer!!!!!! No NO NO Michael Kantor Missoula, MT"

"NO Snaring!!! This will kill and injure black bears and occasionaly even elk and Deer!!!!!! No NO NO Michael Kantor Missoula, MT"

"This is horrible and barbaric. If wolves are actually a problem perhaps you could capture and relocate. 'Harvest' sounds really unnecessary, and one more instance of dollars before nature.

Jeffrey Scherer Schenectady , NY"

"Please consider how much wild wolves bring in tourists and tourism money before you start considering how many wolves to be killed for a quota

Donna Hays College Park, GA"

"Please consider how much wild wolves bring in tourists and tourism money before you start considering how many wolves to be killed for a quota

Donna Hays College Park, GA"

"To the Montana Fish and Game Commission, I feel that there should be no change made from the 2020 hunting season. My hope that no hunting is an option in future years. The decisions should be based on science, not on the wants of small special-interest groups, ie ranchers and hunters. It seems ashamed that a state as beautiful as Montana with so many wild places feels it necessary to hunt with any means the wolves that inhabit those wild places and are a vital part of the ecosystems. The people of Montana and the entire US value wildfire and wild places. Many visit Montana to see the wildlife that call Montana home. A healthy wildlife population means tourists which seems like a vital part to Montana's economy. Therefore I am asking once again that there be no change from the 2020 hunting season. Sincerely, Sue Masden

Sue Masden Manitou Springs , CO"

"NO CHANGE

Dana San Diego , CA"

"No change

Morgana Wallace Seattle, WA"

"Add more permits.....wolf population needs to be thinned down....they kill far to many elk and deer... domestic animals as well....

Nick Stricker Bridger, MT”

"No change.

Patricia Godfrey Honolulu, HI”

"As a wolf trapper in Montana we really need a longer season and snares. Please give us the chance to use these tools to up the wolf harvest and keep these predators at a manageable level. Thank You,
Travis Fetty

Travis Fetty Helena , MT”

"These proposals will help. I am in the mountains most days in the winter and makes me sick to see all the elk, deer, and moose these things kill especially the calves. I do not hate the wolves as they are just doing what wolves do, but they need to be controlled. If you are a wolf lover than you have not seen the damage they wreak. The look of terror in the animals eyes if there is anything left when I find them.

Leon Helstad Trout Creek, MT”

"Director and Commissioners, There is a lot of people spouting about how bad snares are but unfortunately they are only repeating what they have heard. Yes, there can be unintentional catches. But with a little training those can be very limited. The Montana Fur Harvesters are already moving forward with free training by having a trapper with good experience in snaring coming over from Idaho to explain tips and techniques to avoid unwanted catches. One of the biggest issues is the catch of someone’s dog but the fact is that dogs that have been on a leash do not fight the cable and can be released in the morning. I know there is always going to be people who oppose any form of trapping but Idaho has been using snares for about 11 years and have worked out most of the details. We have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes. We need to move forward with allowing snares this year, even if only on private property this year. But we need to announce that it will be available statewide for the next season now to show that we understand the intentions of the Legislature. We need to add the training in the new Trapper Education program and make it available for everyone to understand what they are doing. Idaho has used snares in lots of areas with Grizzlies and Lynx and had NO issues. Let’s not create a problem when there isn’t one. Let’s control our wolf population so we can have a Moose, Elk and Deer Population. Thank you for your time and consideration, Larry Rattray 49168 Lake Mary Ronan Road Proctor, Montana 59929 406-261-7199 rattpak@centurytel.net
Larry D Rattray Proctor, MT”

"Trapping and hunting of wolves and other predators are very important tools to their conservation and management. Ranchers and farmers need to keep wolf populations within reason to help keep their livestock safe

Roger Jetmore Fremont, IN”

"I do not agree with changing the hunting quotas and agree there should be NO CHANGE in the wolf season options. Wildlife management should be focused on the scientific data and facts. Wild animals (wolves included) are important to Montana and the people of the United States. Wolves bring in millions and millions of dollars for ecotourism and help keep our economy running strong. Again, there should be NO change. And this is as a year round resident of Gardiner, Montana. Right outside the North entrance of Yellowstone National park. Wolves are crucial to our ecosystem and keeping our small tourist town up and running. Please hear our voices and do not change the wolf seasons in 2021.

Taylor Bland Gardiner , MT”

"No Change
Anna McClure Arlington , MA"

"I oppose the legislation that was passed by the state in the last legislative session. I enjoy seeing wolves in our ecosystem and many others do to. Wildlife watching is a huge business. I'm not even a guide and I actually am sick of the tourist but this is true and all who live here know that to be true. The new laws will have serious impacts on the viability of the population in Yellowstone National Park. I also love seeing wolves outside the park. It is a rare treat. I believe many of the reasons people have moved to Montana is to see wildlife and the majority (however less vocal) of the population love living in an ecosystem with predators. Please: 1. Maintain the current quotas of 2 wolves in wolf management units 313 and 2 wolves in unit 316 near Yellowstone NP and the current quotas near Glacier. In the Gardiner and Silver Gate gateway communities, a healthy wolf populations is the highest value, economically, for research, and because people want wild wolves in the ecosystem. 2. Oppose the quota of 450 wolves for the hunting season. This is killing too many wolves. This plan would take 50% of the population. 3. Support fixing the regulations instead of setting up a series of emergency meetings. Don't allow any trapping at all in areas where there are lynx and grizzly bears, and restrict all other trapping with snares. 4. Oppose trapping and the use of snares. I worry about my pets. From my experience living near public and private land. Folks have a hard time following the rules and boundaries. This is just one more thing to have someone illegally putting on private property. 5. Oppose all baiting and night hunting. This just seems down right dangerous. Am I correct in assuming one could shoot a gun at night? There are too many people for that to occur. Our first responders are overwhelmed now let alone responding to night hunting injuries. It also means there is a much great risk of other wildlife encounters (bears). Thank you for considering my comments. Sincerely, Heidi Anderson
Heidi Gardiner, MT"

"No Change
Austin Lange Rock Hill, SC

"No change!
April Conway Bowling Green, OH"

"Please HALT all these aggressive killings!! Theres no reason to continue to eradicate these wolves as they are vital to maintaining the ecosystems!! Please stop now!! Not only is it unnecessary, we NEED wolves for tourism to these areas!! Thousands of people visit your State for the Wolf sightings!!
Kathy Macchia Leonardo, NJ

"Please stop 2021 wolf season. They are beautiful animals and please dont thin their population, their contribution towards eco balance is tremendous.
Sunny P Morrisville, NC"

"PLEASE CONSIDER THE TOURIST DOLLARS SPENT COMING TO SEE THESE WOLVES. LODGING, FOOD, ETC. HELPS THE LOCAL ECONOMY. PLEASE HELPO THEM TO STAY AROUND
Norma Z Nelson W. Cape May, NJ

"I strongly oppose the quota of 450 wolves for your 2021-2022 season. This is half of the total number of wolves which is very destructive to the species. I support the current quotas of 2 wolves each in management areas 313 & 316. I oppose any night hunting or baiting. My reasons include the following:

wolves have had a very positive effect on restoring the balance in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Tourism is very important to the Montana gateway communities of Silver Gate, Cooke City and Gardiner. Many visitors come to these towns to see wildlife and especially to see wolves. I came to Silver Gate expressly to see wolves and have spent \$1293. for five nights of lodging and \$600. for wildlife touring services. This excludes any meals & gas I spent in Silver Gate and Cooke City. My point is that tourism is of great economic benefit to these towns and many, many people come especially to see wolves here. If you allow killing of 450 wolves, you will impact the economy of these towns greatly.
Mike Schilling Cody, WY"

"Hi there. I strongly oppose the expanded harvest of wolves, expanded techniques to kill them and allowing for a longer season to hunt/trap them. Wolves are an integral part of the ecosystem in Yellowstone park and beyond. The reasons for expanding the hunting season and opportunities are unjust and unwarranted. The Elk population in Montana has not been adversely affected by the wolves. I know more ranchers have had cattle killed by the wolves, maybe instead of killing more wolves, you could target those specific wolves that are taking livestock or just realize that we are living in a Wild area and that we are not the most important beings on this planet. Also why don't we set up a coffer/program to reimburse ranchers for the livestock killed by wolves. Montana is great and unique because we have wild animals and resources all around us. With the insane growth the state is experiencing and the growing demand on our resources, don't you think we should be conserving what is wild and free, instead allowing more abuse of our amazing ecosystem? Thank you for your time. -Brian
Brian Koenig Bozeman, MT"

"Dear Commission Members, Please vote for ""No change"" in the regulations and do not adopt any new ""tools."" Healthy wildlife populations are vital for Montana's tourism industry, now and in the future. Thank you,
Anne Esquibel Bozeman, MT"

"Please please don't kill
Beatrice Tens Phoenix , AZ"

"The only increase in quotas in 3 specific area's is bullshit it should include all regions. We have to Damn Wolves in our neck of the woods. Alot of your oversight (overreach) is not needed or necessary. Trappers and Hunters have ethics, some of you and your proposals don't. I'm sick and tired of a Montana traditions being walked on by special interests groups. Most of the money they get is from out of state and that being the fact should disqualify them.
Rex Samsel Superior , MT"

"I am not opposed to hunting. In fact hunting in my opinion is an art form. A skill that should be revered and respected. What my worry is that if these rules are implemented Montana is inviting a whole new demographic of so called hunters into the state. Hunters who use easier methods to kill animals such as baiting and Snares. With this demographic I worry about things like Forrest fires from irresponsible "hunters" walking away from fires, litter, people not honoring leave no trace. Hunting is an art. Tracking is an art. Let's keep it as an art and not an invitation to bring in people who don't know what they are doing to litter and destroy Montana.
Matt Lieber Inkom, ID"

"Zero problems with bears and lynx involved in wolf management! Do your fucking job and allow we the people to do what we voted for. You fucked us by reintroducing these culls into our environment now it's our turn to manage them since you fucks can't do anything right.
Logan schweitzer Bozeman, MT"

"Please open more opportunities to hunt wolves.
Nicole kirschten Colstrip, MT"

"I would very much like to see a hunting season on wolves. Any animal without adequate predators will over-populate. Think deer in Maryland suburbs. Humans can act to keep numbers in balance with what the national park can accommodate. Otherwise they will roam off park and cause problems with ranchers, pets, and people. Wolves already have, at best, a dubious reputation, wait until pets go missing off park. The soccer moms will be demanding a hunting season.
John Carter Bismarck, ND"

"These seasons are a great step in the right direction for the management of wolves in Montana. There numerous cases in Idaho of wolf trappers successfully trapping in grizzly and lynx habitat. Please do not allow frivolous litigations foul up sound wildlife management.
Zac LaPierre Cataldo, ID"

"Grizzly and Lynx are no excuse not to allow sportsmen to manage wolf populations. Idaho has 10 years of data showing our highest wolf trapping harvest unit also housing a Grizzly bear in every 4.5 mile square with zero wolf trapper/Grizzly conflicts ... ZERO ... Also in that same unit we have 256 Photo trap images of lynx and also ZERO wolf trapper/lynx conflicts...
DON COLLINGHAM BOISE, ID"

"Not even American, just see this from Scotland where we hunted our wildlife populations to extinction. This might seem small, but every escalation in history seemed small once.
Paul Campbell Edinburgh, AS"

"We need to do everything we can to manage the population of these predators to prevent them from overpopulating and having a negative impact on deer, elk, moose and other game. They are decimating deer and elk populations all over western Montana for years which in turn are causing bear populations to look for food in populated areas and increasing human and bear interactions that place not only humans in danger but the bears too. I support the wolf hunt.
Larry Wright Missoula , MT"

"WE NEED A LONGER WOLF TRAPPING SEASON!
Joe McGillivray Lolo, MT"

"You are insane to allow such a thing to happen. Wolves have been a tourist "treasure" in Wyoming and Montana for many many years. I and many, MANY other people are heartbroken at the news that is what is now happening. To allow for what is basically the mass murder of many to end up being a piece of fashion? FUCK FUR, THE HUNTERS WHO RETRIEVE IT, AND THE PEOPLE WHO ALLOW THE LAWS. Hunting for anything other than food is animal abuse. Just admit it.
Anonymous Anonymous, MT"

"I hope and pray that The Fish Wildlife and Parks follow science and not emotions on the trapping hunting in any other methods used to control the wolf population. I am a fisherman a hunter my entire life for more than 50 years I'm sixty-four the spring and I am all for controlling the wolf population which I believe science would prove it is has a detrimental effect on many other Wildlife species. I understand as well as you probably understand that the environmentalist live in a Utopia dream world many of them have never seen the outside of their home towns cities Etc and have no real vested interest because they live outside of Montana they have no understanding what montanans need and support in regards to our environment. Thank you for taking the time to read this and yes I support all methods of wolf trapping.

Kirk Howes Plentywood, MT"

"Trapping is archaic and heinous and should be totally outlawed. That the commission would arbitrarily choose to extend trapping dates, allow snares, hunting wolves over bait, increase the number of wolves that can be taken, and hunt them at night is inexcusable. Trapping is not fair chase, neither is baiting or night hunting. You are letting politics and commercialism rule over wildlife management principles. Wolves seem to be the scapegoats across the board--supposed lack of elk for humans to ""harvest"" yet there are shoulder seasons? The use of snares and other traps endanger other nontarget species as they are indiscriminate, i.e. pets and endangered species falling prey to traps. And, hey, why don't you at least enforce the 48 hour trap checks you ""suggest."" You are adding layer on layer of ways to kill and torture but don't make the effort to mitigate the pain and suffering, physical and mental these doomed creatures endure. ""It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal.""

AMY GREER CORVALLIS, MT"

"One of the main reasons I visit and spend my money in the area is the experience of seeing the wolves. Take them away and I'm far less likely to visit (and spend my money at local biz)

James Zipp Hamden, CT"

"This is a horrible proposal. Wolves in no way harm or influence humans. In fact, their reintroduction has greatly benefitted Yellowstone National Park. Let's not repeat history and infiltrate nature with our barbaric bloodthirst.

Lana Tannir New York, NY"

"Humans need to stop trying to kill off everything on the planet. Let the wolves be and help keep the environment balanced. The more humans mess with nature the worse things get. They are sentient living beings that live as family units and don't deserve to be slaughtered. Letting them live for all to see rather than a small number of individuals to kill will bring more money to Montana's economy than a few hunting permits. Do the right thing and stop the mass killings before we lose them forever!

Jessica Camano Island, WA"

"I am strongly against the increased and aggressive stance on the hunting and trapping of wolves. Besides this being in humane with certain statistic being ignored it will also drastically decrease tourism profits to national parks and hurt our national /international image. Please consider the scientific facts to get to the solution, increased killing to the wolves is not the answer

Alex Minneapolis, MN"

"I do not come from a long line of Montana residents so I have the opportunity to say I chose to live here in this great state of Montana due to college. I am a wildlife biology student at the University of Montana and I hope to study wolves for Montana FWP or the National Park Service. Something different

from the NPS that I support is wolf hunting as long as it is regulated to benefit the ecosystem and give the animals we're pursuing a fair chase. One can not make the argument that the use of night vision as well as an increase in bag limits, snaring, baiting for hunting/trapping, as well as extending the trapping season gives the wolves a fair chase as well as scientifically benefitting the ecosystem. I think the best way to benefit the ecosystem of Montana is to have no changes from the 2020 wolf hunting season. It is proven wolves benefit ecosystems and economies alike. Montana is one of the few remaining states in the lower 48 with an abundance of wildlife which draws people from around the world to come and enjoy this beautiful state. Implementing some of these new changes like an extended bag limit or requiring one license for the bag limit would take away the work that has been done to restore gray wolves to the Montana ecosystem. The wolves are not causing dramatic results to the elk population throughout the state with many regions at or above the objective level for elk and wolves do take livestock every once in a while but it is not a serious enough threat to the industry as a whole to kill more wolves to try and satisfy USDA wildlife services. I hope you keep this testimony in mind with your final decision, Montana's wildlife is doing great right now, and jeopardizing it could prove fatal to a state that depends so much on wildlife like Montana. Thank you.

Race Eiland Missoula, MT"

"Very upset that limits have been upped for wolves considering many of these animals have migrated from Yellowstone and have learnt to trust humans. They then move from their safety zone but have not developed fear of man. This seems out of order to me. I would like to visit Yellowstone one day but it saddens me that this area is surrounded by hunting grounds. The poor animals do not know these boundaries but are raised within a safe zone where they trust people.

Deborah Turska Anchorage, AK"

"Hi, my name is Jayce Dorman. I'm a born and raised Montanan and love hunting and wildlife in this great state! I'm happy that wolves are hunted, but I also believe that they deserve to have the same "fair chase" type of hunting for them just like the rest of the wildlife in Montana. Baiting I think is a terrible idea, I think it for bears, I think it for wolves. That's not fair chase hunting. I don't want the snaring either, although with it just on private land I don't see a huge problem with it. Lastly on quota zones near Yellowstone. I'm not going to lie, I love watching wolves in and around Yellowstone park. I've hunted and recreating in Paradise Valley/Gardiner area all my life, and the wildness of the area always draws me back. What I would love to see is not a "no quota" area by the park due to the fact that those wolves would probably get taken out fast and furious, but I also think a one wild quota is an absolute joke. Can we get a compromise and put politics aside and get a science based quota system? You only give out a certain amount of elk tags to areas based on science, lion quotas: based on science. Bear quotas: based on science. Wolf quotas: based on politics. I believe a number somewhere between 5-10 may be more reasonable, but would like to see the science and population of wolves north of the park back it up. More than 1, but not enough to wipe out a pack. Thanks for your time and for reading my comment! -Jayce

Jayce Dorman Billings , MT"

"I think it's high time wolves and grizzlies are hunted and managed like any other big game animals. Any open season is welcomed at this point. Isn't it obvious in places where they've been reintroduced they've obliterated elk,deer,and moose herds to historic lows. In my state of Colorado they've voted to reintroduce wolves. On a public ballot !! Most folks voting are absolutely clueless. Leave those decisions to biologists,hunters,ranchers and people who are actively involved. The stupidity overwhelms me. Wes Rye, CO"

"This is a huge mistake! Please explore other options.
Bob Essner Joplin, MO"

"We should protect the wolf.
Sun Lin Yu Tapei, AK"

"If we don't control wolf populations, there will be no wildlife to manage. I think that is the drones objective.
Ronald G. Marks Rigby, ID"

"I am writing to urge there be "No change" from the 2020 hunting season. Though I am a resident of Illinois, I am in awe of Montana's natural beauty and amazing wildlife and I come back to visit MT whenever possible. I believe in listening to all sides, but I feel that the use of science and scientists should be essential in any and all instances of wildlife management. I have many friends in Montana and throughout the US who value wildlife and wild places, who I know feel the same as me. Montana is one of the most exceptional wild places in the country. I firmly believe and urge you to consider that healthy wildlife populations give way to tourism and income that is vital to the state's economy. Thank you for your attention, and I hope you will listen to the voices of the many who advocate for wildlife in this matter.
Matthew Cordell Gurnee, IL"

"If we don't control wolf populations, there will be no wildlife to manage. I think that is the drones objective.
Ron Marks Salmon, ID"

"The quotas are too high and the season is too long. Trapping is barbaric and shouldn't be done at all. If you want to have a hunt, have one. At least make hunters go out and find a wolf. This is a political stunt more than anything and FWP should be embarrassed to be part of it. You guys should be better than this. You'll never be successful anyway. Yellowstone will always be there to restock the State.
Pete Bengeyfield Dillon, MT"

"I am 11 years old. My family and I come to Montana almost every month to watch wolves. I love wolves. My state (Utah) has hunted wolves and many other apex predators to the point of extinction. Please don't do the same in Montana. Montana is too cool to let this happen. Thank you.
Taylar Lieber Farmington, UT"

"I spend a lot of money supporting a lot of local businesses to go wolf watching in Montana. The amount of profit from tourism is so valuable to local communities. Myself alone last year spent over \$50,000. That's just one person. Be smart about how you manage these animals. Please don't just go off of outdated mindsets of big bad wolves to make your decision.
Kady Lieber Farmington, UT"

"I do not understand why you would permit wolf hunting. This is trophy hunting at its worst. All the science on the presence of wolves indicates they are a key species for a healthy ecosystem. They rarely attack livestock, despite the misrepresentation, and prefer not to be around people. Why should you care what some woman in Washington state thinks? I visit your state regularly to photograph wildlife, including wolves. I am not alone. There are many people who contribute to your state economy hoping

they might get to see a wolf. I would venture to guess you earn far more from wolf tourism than wolf hunting.

Nancy Crowell La Conner, WA”

"Wolf hunting should be reduced. Wolves bring a significant money through tourism to the economy. I travel to Montana/Wyoming just to see wolves. Wolves also help thin out the herds of diseased elk. By reducing the elk population, they have allowed for more trees and more biodiversity. I will never forget 3 years ago when a wolf was killed right outside Yellowstone park (I was there). The “hunter” was called to the area after another individual spotted the wolf. In addition some dead bison were deliberately left outside the park to attract wolves.

Janis blanton Bartlesville , OK”

"Opposed to everything in this proposal.

Kasey Mueller Jackson Hole, WY”

"Please do not allow the new hunting regulations, where proposed to use wolves face snares, night hunts and bait stations. The existing wolf population in Montana and Rocky Mountains are already below the reasonable minimum. It is already the loss of genetic diversity due to the small, isolated population. It is already a problem with ecosystem balance. It is time to take in consideration the Tribes opinion. Millions of people come to Yellowstone to look at the wolves, also to the other wildlife. You should be reasonable.

Anna Thomas Hanover, NJ

"I object to the proposed 2021 Wolf Season options. I object to the harvesting of wolves, but if it must be done, lower the limit to less than 100.

Susan Manley Maywood, CA”

"Snaring Education was a concern for the majority of trappers that voted at the FWP meetings in Regions One and Two to delay snaring for one year to allow for training. I am not sure that additional certification would be necessary, not sure how to handle that. I do think that education is key to avoid incidents that will be negative. We are having a Barbecue this Sunday at the Pine Grove Fishing Access that starts at 3:00 pm. We will have a trapper from Idaho give a seminar on snaring and how to avoid by-catches. Love to have you there and talk if you would like.

TOM FIEBER Polson, MT”

"The 24 hour check time has always been a main push for them. We now have a 48 hour time for wolves. Even that is difficult to keep with major weather events. For our trap lines, a 24 hour mandatory check time would take me and a lot of other wolf trappers out. That again is their objective. No matter what, we can't lose this. Idaho has a 72 hour check time and has served them well.

TOM FIEBER Polson, MT”

"My comment is on setbacks by all means do not change set backs let education work!!!

Bruce Hover Clinton, MT”

"I'm sorry but grizzlies and large animals do not know boundary lines so anything could be trapped. I'm very disappointed in these states taking these measures.

Kristy Mcgough 35062, AL”

"I'm strongly in favor of new proposal's for trapping and snaring of wolves. They have become a serious problem for the Hunting industry and livestock losses !!!

Mike weston Helena, MT"

"I don't believe it is wise to allow more than one wolf to be taken per license, nor should snaring, trapping or baiting be allowed anywhere in Montana. Wolves are an important wildlife management tool and it has been noted in the proposal that wolf populations have already been relatively static, so adding these unsportsmanlike measures will only further reduce the wolf population that is helping us by weeding out sick prey. Additionally, snares and traps are indiscriminate and will also hurt a percentage of other species which is not necessary given the fact that wolf numbers have not been rising. Nighttime hunts should also be forbidden; anyone who has completed hunter's safety education knows that you have to be able to see past the area where you are shooting towards, and that's simply not possible at night, even with night-vision scopes and/or artificial illumination. Montana's wardens don't need the added burden of snares/nighttime hunts/bait to be added to the already difficult job of enforcing regulations. Thanks for your time.

Sean Austin Bozeman, MT"

"As a native Montanan and growing up in a hunting family, I am disgusted with the current governor and legislature. They have caved to the outfitters and wealthy landowners. The current laws they have passed to basically annihilate wolves are despicable. Based solely on one political party's determination to eliminate wolves. To allow snares, traps, night hunting, bait, etc. is mind-boggling! Whatever happened to science? What about a balanced ecosystem? What about FAIR CHASE????? NO to all of it!!

Theresa Helus Billings, MT"

"Please make the wolf season as liberal as possible to help the ungulate population through the year!
Thank you for your consideration !

Robert Wigton Clancy, MT"

"I do not approve of the proposed 2021-2022 wolf harvest quotas. The number of harvested wolves (450) is not sustainable, it will wipe out approximately 50% of the wild population. This proposal does not consider the quality of habitat available at the hunting location. Research suggests that when harvest occurs in lower quality habitat areas, wolf populations are less likely to rebound (Bassing et al. 2018). The areas around Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks offer premier habitat. Harvest quotas in those areas should be significantly limited to 1/4 of the proposed amount. There is an additional concern that sensitive species such as the grizzly bear and Canada lynx will be caught in snares and traps set for wolves. Due to this limitation, I oppose the suggestion of using snares or traps to harvest wolves. Emergency meetings are not going to be successful and are useless after the death of a sensitive species. The use of baits will only intensify this experience, since more animals will be captured with the use of bait. Additionally, I oppose night hunting, this method is not only stressful to the wolves, but it also increase safety issues for other wildlife and the hunter. Hunters using bright lights at night have an advantage that helps them be more successful at killing more wolves, which in turn, is not an equal chance of survival for the wolf. Lastly, an argument that killing more wolves will help the elk population is archaic. This is simply not true. Wolves have improved the health of elk populations, by killing out diseased animals, and reducing browse pressure that destroys riparian habitat. Thank you for your time, I strongly suggest that you do not incorporate the proposed methods in the 2021-2022 wolf harvest season.

Amy Hammesfahr Buffalo, WY”

"Please vote tease on the improved wolf season dates and rules and regulations. Montana trappers need a hand in better wolf management. Thank you
Andy Weiser Denio, NV”

"I support all means of trapping wolves
Keven Heinle Fairfield , MT”

"Why are we encouraging hunting when animals are going extinct due to habitat loss?! This is very destructive
Shree Padmini Kokali San Jose , CA”

"As a former Montana FWP employee who worked 3 seasons at a CWD and game check station, the claim of wolves killing elk and deer populations is not new to me. Often I would ask hunters, “Have there been changes to the area you are hunting that would make the animals move to a different area?” Sometimes, the hunters would admit there had been. According to Montana FWP Elk Distribution and Population Estimates (<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/species/elk/population-and-distribution>), the elk population increased by 36,701 individuals between 2006 and 2016. These are the sorts of long-term trends that the FWP Commissioners should consider in the decision-making process, rather than influence of anecdotal opinions from those who benefit from the extreme reduction of an apex predator population. Good ecosystem sciences demonstrate that populations are not as simple as between that of one species and another. What other factors have been addressed in the apparent shift of game distributions? Are elk and other prey animals shifting toward better feeding grounds or away from habitat that is no longer suitable? How are these ecosystems benefiting from the mobility of herbivorous wildlife? What questions have been addressed before coming to the conclusion that wolf populations are negatively impacting hunting opportunities? Approximately 75% of my household’s meat consumption consists of fish and game. Majority of the hunters I know are conscientious of population dynamics and shifts over time. They make wonderful conservationists for our state because they know first-hand the importance of climate and ecosystem balances that lead to healthy habitat and healthy populations. Healthy does not equal high numbers. I do not oppose science-based hunting practices on predators like grizzly bears, mountain lion, and wolves. I do oppose promoting hunting techniques and regulations that take Montana back 100 years before we understood the value predators have on the landscape. Targeted dramatic reduction of wolf populations is not wildlife management, it’s slaughter. As I am with spring black bear hunting, I oppose extending hunting seasons into periods when animals are vulnerable because they are caring for their young, and where young of the year die as a result to their mother’s death. As leaders, please promote mitigation strategies that many Montana ranchers are implementing to alleviate interactions with predators. Find ways to incentivize these programs so that less wolves are attracted to easy livestock prey. As hunters, extend your passion for wildlife to include compassion for even those species who compete with us on the landscape. Do not allow, or minimize as much as possible, the use of hunting devices and strategies that do not target specific species and attract non-target game. Wolves have thicker neck musculature and reinforced trachea. In neck snares, wolves generally take longer to die than other animals caught in these traps and studies show that they die after hours of excruciating suffering. Sometimes, these traps lead to “jelly head” where blood continues to flow to the brain and ruptures. Additionally, other animals get caught in the snares or ensnared around other parts of the body. If used, and then only should it be on private lands, the state should mandate and enforce 24- hour check times so that animals are not left suffering. Rather than falling prey to the dramatization of evil that pop culture portrays, please try to

look for the benefits of wolves in ecosystems. They are allies in the control of coyote populations. Where culling coyotes leads to population bursts, the presence of wolves naturally and more stably lower them (<https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms15469>). I am sure you all have heard other classic examples from other concerned residents. Sincerely, Courtney Long Longcm89@gmail.com Belfry, MT 59008 Resident of Montana FWP Region 5 Courtney Long Belfry, MT”

"I am opposed to snaring and the use of traps that could potentially harm domestic pets hiking in these areas.

Bonnie Wolff Gallatin Gateway , MT”

"I am commenting today to urge the Commission to use your discretion and authority to restore the public's trust in Montana's wildlife management. The 2021 legislation passed regarding the trapping of wolves, establishing increased harvest numbers and longer hunting seasons were a sad departure from the historic science based and ecologically sound approach to wildlife management Montana was known for. In other words it sullied Montana's reputation for forward looking, science and ecologically based approaches to conservation and management of wildlife populations and their habitat. The suite bills targeting wolves and other species represent a repudiation of decade's long advances in wildlife conservation and management and the almost 30 years of successful wolf management in Montana to practices reminiscent of an 1800s frontier mentality. As you consider regulations implementing the ill-conceived legislation, the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission has an opportunity and responsibility to restore and continue a science-based approach to wolf management. Management strategies that will maintain wolves as an important ecosystem component and not result in returning wolves to listing under ESA. Grey Wolves are a native keystone species; they play an important ecological role in balancing natural systems and reducing the spread of fatal wildlife diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease by culling sick animals from herds. As an apex predator wolves are a necessary component of sustaining healthy ecosystems, regulating prey populations, limiting the spread of other diseases and reducing impacts of overgrazing and over browsing by ungulates. There is little scientific evidence that wolf predation has led to alleged declines in deer and elk populations. Additionally wolves in the Northern Rockies are key to re-establishing wolf populations in the Pacific Northwest. Millions of people come every year to the Rockies for the chance to see a wolf in the wild. In other words, opportunities to see wolves in the wild are an important element contributing to Montana's \$70 Billion outdoor and tourism economy, especially Montana communities within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The bills and the proposed regulations implementing the legislation destroy the public's trust in Montana's ability to manage wolves and other wildlife following ethical fair-chase hunting principles. I urge you to not increase the wolf quotas in hunting districts adjacent to Montana's National Parks. I would actually like to see additional restrictions to wolf hunting in districts adjacent to Montana's National Parks, such as a buffer establishing no hunting or trapping zones within an appropriate distance to park boundaries. Past wolf hunting has proven to have negative implications to populations and long term wolf research within the parks due killing several wolves that happened to step across a park boundary. Several of these individuals had been the subject of long term research and monitored over a number of years. Lastly, as FWP has reported, there has already been a 15-20% decline in the wolf population as a result of increased wolf mortality in last year's hunting and trapping season. I urge you not to enact measures to further reduce the wolf population. To help restore public trust (including Montana's within state and national reputation for sensible science-based wildlife management), all incidental capture of wildlife must be reported immediately and that information made available to the public on an annual basis, and the trigger for rapid consideration of in-season adjustments of the wolf hunting regulations should be based on a much more cautious approach to wolf mortality than what FWP has recommended.

Specifically, I urge you to severely limit snaring, which threatens not only wolves but also threatened grizzly bears and Canada lynx and other wildlife on both public and private lands, as well as pets. I urge you to heed the cautions expressed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) wildlife professionals in regard to incidental capture of grizzly bears in snares and human safety threats, and urge you to not extend the hunting and trapping season in either the fall or spring. In short, though I disapprove of all proposed tools as outlined, I reluctantly ask you establish regulations consistent with the limited new set of tools as outlined in the proposed regulations. Use of baits and night hunting should not be allowed. Traps and snares should be inspected every 24 hours and severe penalties enacted for violating inspection rules. Please do not allow unethical measures including baiting and spotlighting of wolves, or the killing of an unlimited number of wolves by a single license holder.
Jeff DiBenedetto Red Lodge, MT”

"I have been in Montana since 1961 and grew up in a hunting family. I think the proposed approaches to wolf hunting are unethical. Too much pain and suffering allowed with the trapping methods and nothing about killing multiple wolves with one tag can be construed as fair chase hunting. One aspect of the North American model is ""no frivolous take."" I am assuming those killing wolves are not going to eat them, so how is killing up to ten wolves not frivolous take? Situational ethics? Sure seems like it. I hear a lot of complaining about ""too many elk."" Then why eliminate more wolves? Wolves are a natural part of the eco-system. Let them be. Treat them like a black bear. One per person per season and no trapping.
Sean Gerrity Bozeman, MT”

"Night hunting and baiting flies in the face of the ""fair chase"" ethical hunting standards all hunters should live by. These proposed new regulations are the sort of activities that give fair chase hunting a bad reputation. I have purchase a wolf tag on a number of occasions over the past several years (never successful), but believe these new proposals will portray all Montana outdoorsmen as just wanting to kill for the sake of killing. There is nothing ethical about ""jacklighting"" an animal at night or shooting one over a bait. Don't let Montana turn into Texas.
Rick Hartz Dillon, MT”

"Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Wolf Commission, Wolf conservation is critical to healthy ecosystem function and aligns with the wishes of most of Montanas residents. This plan to reduce our wolf population is not founded in scientific understanding or benefit to the natural world rather it is a decision supported by a small partisan group. As a part of a state governmental agency your commission ought to be beholden to the wishes of Montanas residents and to scientific understanding of complex environmental issues. This legislation is not in line with either of those things and therefore, should not be supported. Sincerely, Katya Koepsel
Katya Koepsel Bozeman, MT”

"Love it, but would prefer a greater increase in harvest quota.
Kaine Zetterberg Valier, MT”

"I am against the proposed new hunting/trapping proposals concerning wolves for a number of reasons. I believe that healthy wolf populations are beneficial to all wild species in the long run. To me, a ""healthy"" balance should not be based on maintaining a ""minimum"" breeding population, but on a healthy, strong breeding population. I think the new proposals heavily favor hunters, trappers and ranchers. I think a fund should be created to help reimburse ranchers for livestock losses, but their economic interests should not be given preference over the many other economic benefits (tourism,

hospitality, etc) that wolf interest and wolf watching provides. I also think that the harm to pets and other wild species from snaring is a real concern. I also think that giving control over wild game to legislators rather than scientists is an ill-fated strategy, too open to partisanship and private special interests.

David Cleveland Bozeman, MT”

"I live in Wisconsin and hunt in Wisconsin and ever since they introduced wolves to the state the whitetail population has been diminishing to the point of serious concern. The wolves absolutely destroyed are whitetail hunting!!

Greg Dekalb Franklin, WI”

"Please do not allow ""harvesting "" of wolves, by trap, snare or hunting. Wolves are an integral part of the wildlife balance. FWP should not be forced by trappers, hunters, outfitters rich out of state hunters or politicians to allow such desecration of a beautiful and vital part of the Montana ecological system. Let the SCIENTISTS at FWP make the decision on what if anything should happen to the wolves. Snaring and traps will lead to the death of other wild creatures and domesticated pets. What a horrible solution to a ""problem"" that does not even exist.

charlotte cleveland bozeman, MT”

"Please consider capping the kill rate to lower than new regulations. Some data suggests 300 would be more appropriate, rather than your 450. I would prefer none. Although I am not against hunting or hunters by any means, I oppose wolf hunting and think the new limits are way too high.

Casey Gourlay Driggs , ID”

"If the opposition to these destructive and indiscriminate wolf bills moves as quickly as the MT Legislature moved to introduce them, I would be more confident that ALL voices are being heard. But that remains to be seen when certain voices are heard above all others. Grazing fees are low, as ranchers take advantage of continuous handouts from the federal and state government. Wolves and other carnivores are abused on this very same landscape. It's time to adjust our ways, and achieve a balance. Non-target captures will continue to go unreported unless you put stiffer penalties in place. How does unlimited bag limits on licenses achieve anything more than the slaughter of a newborn litter and the associated pack? That is not sport or hunting, it is indiscriminate culling of valuable wildlife. Hunting over bait is like fishing in a barrel - un-sportsman like. With local hunting licenses relatively cheap, the use of these tactics is pathetic. Hunters do early season scouting, glass over the best habitat, and work for their harvest. Snares, bait, night hunting and the use of motorized vehicles to run down wolves is an embarrassment. Listen to those who truly appreciate wildlife and wild places, not just spoon-fed ranchers and lazy gun owners who cannot be considered real hunters. Earn your elk and tend to your cattle - a balanced ecosystem is what the West is about.

David Erbland Harrison, ID”

"The wolf population in all the states where they were reintroduced has far exceeded the original quota. They are dramatically impacting the wild game and domestic livestock. Something!! has to be done to control the wolf numbers. I really don't understand how the environmentalists have so much control over fish & wildlife experts. Thank you!!

John A. Webber Oroville, CA”

"I oppose all of

Kara Schlabach Cooke City, MT”

”aaa

Camila Teste New York, NY”

”With the ballot biology initiative passed in CO we will see similar issues MT has with wolves and maybe on a larger scale due to a higher population. MT has the ability to be the leader in effectively managing wolf populations through hunting and trapping, guiding other states on proper management by similar means. Without your leadership and reducing the pack size significantly there is potential for significant growth. Given the challenges of hunting wolves and the few people that actually do it increasing the bag limit above 10 may be necessary. 1 license is more affordable and incentivizes more people to participate to achieve quotas. I look forward to your leadership in managing these packs through hunting and trapping.

Steve Gaal Castle Rock, CO”

”Reduce the number of harvested wolves to 250. Dont hunt grizzlies or lynx. Thank you

Maria Venegas Miami,, FL”

”Wolves need to be managed. As an avid hunter and fisherman from the state of Wisconsin I understand the impact of an unchecked wolf population to livestock,pets, and other wildlife. Each individual State needs to make there own decisions on wildlife management. I hope you, Montana fish and game make the right decision and keep wolves incheck.

BROCK PAULSON Spooner, WI”

”Please maintain current quotas of 350 wolves per year statewide

Sean Murphy Athens, GA”

”I support wolf management for the benefit of the ecosystem. Reducing wolf numbers will benefit the state with increased revenue and better management of wildlife, reducing the impact of over population of wolves. Currently wolf populations are exceeding the carrying capacity of the habitat.

Nathan Shepard Sterling , AK”

”I'm in favor of the proposed wolf regulations. Just as long as we don't harvest too many and risk wolves going back on the ESA.

Kyle Reedy Great Falls, MT”

”I acknowledge that wolf predation is a very significant problem for livestock owners. I also believe that wolves perform an important and essential function in the ecosystem. The Lamar Valley is an example of how nature finds its balance when a native species such as the wolf is reintroduced to its proper place in the ecosystem. I believe livestock growers with the assistance of the state have found ways to mitigate predation including a means to compensate for losses. I am confident that wolf harvesting is a partial solution but doesn't have to be the only solution. If I have to support an option then I support the limited option. Julie Holzer

Julie Holzer Red Lodge, MT”

”I support the 1 license/5 wolves proposal.

Sam Redfern Missoula, MT”

"It will be a great revenue generator for the State if you open more availability to out of state hunters.
Johnathan Jackson Crestview, FL"

"Expanded season dates should include Region 1 where the most wolves are. Idaho has allowed snaring for several years with no issues for either Grizzly or Lynx, with similar habitat and populations.
Rick Hawk Kalispell, MT"

"Ranchers, Farmers and Hunters are United across America to reduce the wolf population. Why, because repopulation of the wolves has been overly successful. Babbitt my former Governor unleashed these predators who destroy farm animals, deer, elk and moose. I am happy the wolves are thriving but it has caused a great natural imbalance and must be controlled. Wolves don't just kill to survive they love to kill. And they are great at it. I don't care what is used to eliminate the wolf population but they have no mercy on their pray. Get it done.
Terry Rondberg San Tan Valley, AZ"

"Strongly consider increasing the harvest limit on the Grey Wolf to keep this predator under control. Wolves have a strong impact on native game populations and with out control wolves have a negative impact on game species. Farming and Ranching also suffers with out management keeping the wolf at very low manageable numbers.
Dale Heeringa Waupun, WI"

"If the wolf's aren't keep in check, then the outfitters will go out of business people pets will come up missing, the wild life will suffer tremendously. Everybody will suffer.
mark e rodgers CROSSVILLE, TN"

"I am completely against this proposal. I have had the opportunity to travel to the greater Yellowstone region and have seen wildlife that has endured so much tragedy at the hands of humans. If this is passed, you will continue the mistakes of the past and rob future generations of the chamber to see these majestic animals in the wild. I kindly ask you to reconsider this proposal and find an alternative and more humane solution. Sincerely, Patricia Salajka
Patricia Salajka Huntington Station, NY"

"DISGUSTING. Wolves are highly social and family-oriented—they pair for life and raise their pups using extended family groups! This should be outlawed.
A B Kalispell, MT"

"Please keep the number of wolves harvested near YNP low. You can't possibly ignore the kind of revenue they bring to the local economies. Be mindful of the tourists' rights to enjoy them. Thanks!
Don Meyer Wheeler, IL"

"Can these iconic mammals of North america be left alone? There is no reason to use the term 'harvest' because we do not eat bears, wolves or lynx. The furs are trophies for chauvinistic neonazis who perpetuate genocide by eliminating the animals endemic to indigenous peoples' rightful land. The term 'harvest' in this context disgusts me. Ban all trapping now! Ban all hunting of these peaceful creatures. Respect all life forms. The forests are drying up, there are no more lodgepole pineseeds to feed the bears, they come to the inevitable sheep pasture for nourishment because white man has and continues to, destroy the indigenous way of life in pursuit of monetary gain, disillusioned by slavery and capitalistic

christianity. You cannot drink oil. We need drastic consequences for these old white men; the time has come.

Monica gray Bozeman, MT”

"I strongly support all the proposed 2021-2022 Wolf Hunting & Trapping proposals. Wolf numbers need to be managed because wolves are decimating our mule deer and moose populations and doing the same to elk numbers in some areas. The wolves are driving elk onto private property making them more scarce on public lands, making the hunting on public land more difficult.

Paul Ellis Bozeman, MT”

"This is a blatant attack on all wolves. 1 license allows hunters to kill 5 wolves? Night hunting is OK? NO ... our ecosystem needs wolves. I am against any expanded laws that kill more wolves. I do understand the need to manage them, and support hunting seasons for wolves - but not this proposal to exterminate them.

Joan Hoedel Missoula, MT”

"Allow 15 tags per person Extend season through march 15 Loosen restrictions on snaring, the set height for a wolf snair is above the set height for catching bobcat, and lynx.

Derrick Bruner Marion, MT”

"Wolves have decimated wildlife & livestock around the nation since being released. Please keep these seasons intact to manage the wolf population.

David C. Matthias Readlyn, IA”

"I am heartbroken that more of our mammal relatives will suffer torture from traps. Wolves are essential to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Fish Wildlife and Parks needs to follow the science and keep our public lands safe for all of us, humans, our pets, and our wild predators. Please please please do everything you can to keep our wild places safe for all of creation. Just because our governor likes to trap and kill our precious wildlife, tax supported departments should do what is best for life in Montana. Do not open our lands to the senseless suffering and murder of our predators.

Ann Wilsnack Helena, MT”

"Disgusting misuse of our beautiful, natural state. This only brings in out of state folk who want to kill our critter to bolster their own fragile egos. We should be preserving and celebrating our natural heritage. Not murdering our critters in some feeble attempt at having power over nature. I'm sad we don't have decent, nature loving folks in charge. There's no need to murder more innocent wolves. Leave it at the lower number if you must justify it with ""keeping the numbers down."" There's NO NEED to increase it. Just stop ruining Montana for Montanans.

Tessa Thompson Billings, MT”

"I am opposed to any increase in the harvesting of wolves in our state. The elimination or increase in quotas for wolf kills, baiting, snaring and night hunting will put humans and wildlife at risk. Many untargeted animals will be killed and humans will be at risk if these proposals are adopted. Predators are essential in the fight to end chronic wasting disease. Please listen to the science and research on this topic and do not allow our governor to continue to privatize wildlife and make public lands unsafe for the public

Jane Yungmeyer Missoula, MT”

"For proposed hunting regulation, and conservation agenda 21/22 approved by the commission.
Kelly Koch Bozeman, MT"

"Reduction or elimination of trap set backs on public lands is dangerous, foolhardy, and senseless. There is plenty of work in Montana so if trappers need work they can find it without the outdoor public, including children & pets. Thank you. Kathy van Hook
Kathy A. van Hook Helena, MT"

"Dear Commissioners and Director, The Montana FWP Department needs to listen to their biologists when determining season dates and quotas for wolves, furbearers, and game species. Follow the science and not "public opinion" when carrying out the direction of the people of Montana (i.e. the intent of the Legislature). Sociology is not a biological science or even a "hard" science. Importantly, the out-of-state folks don't have a dog in this fight. Don't allow the FWP to manage our game and furbearers based on public opinion. Finally, to paint a realistic picture of the people that are against the managing of wolves and furbearers, and interestingly enough, I've been involved with a 3-year project that started out as a beaver habitat restoration project and evolved into a riparian habitat restoration project, in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, for the past 3 years. I reached out to Footloose Montana, Trap Free Montana, and Wolves of the Rockies for volunteer assistance from their members all 3 years and received absolutely no feedback from any of their members. This tells me that these anti-trap, anti-consumer groups are all about feathering their own nests and not about the welfare and management of wildlife. So, having said that: -Increase the otter quotas in R1 & R2; - Approve and implement the new wolf harvest tools and according to Legislative intent; -Support the FWP Commission's actions implementing the new tools following the will of the people (Legislature). You make up your own minds! Jeff Rader, Livingston, Montana
Jeff Rader Livingston, MT, USA, MT"

"This is one of the most ill advised and awful things the legislature has passed in regard to FWP regulations. Snaring is a heinous form of taking wildlife and should be outlawed in it's entirety, other than by FWP officials for specific purposes. I live not far from representative Fielder and can assure you I see plenty of elk and only rarely wolf sign. Perhaps he doesn't get out much relative to his second career as a rabble rouser. So, specific comments: ONE LICENSE FOR EACH WOLF, BAG OF ONE NO EXTENDED SEASON SNARING ONLY ON PRIVATE LAND-if person setting snares does not own the land, landowner agreement must be written and PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NO NIGHT HUNTING-what do these dolts not get about fair chase? NO BAITING-see above NO INCREASED QUOTAS The same luncheads who are for this pathetic piece of legislation would gladly rape and pillage every possible piece of wildlife habitat for financial gain, and then whine back to FWP about low elk numbers. Pathetic. These regulations must be MINIMIZED until reasonable people within this awesome state work together to pull back this awful legislation.
Sally Baskett Dixon, MT"

"Hey Greg? You reading these regs? Might want to if you are scared of the Big Bad Woof! He'll blow yer mansion down. Boo! Scary animals. Kill kill kill. Take us back to 1790. Wrestle a bear with your bare hands. Only good animal is a dead animal. Fucking cowards. Too lazy for hunting. Sportsmen my ass. Backwards ass deep rooted sociopathic cash rich bored white people. You all look like the crazy Qanon shaman with your ""Trophies""
eric missoula, MT"

"First off by allowing snaring you open up wolf trapping to all those trappers that can not afford to pay \$85 or more for a wolf trap, so far wolf trapping has been only for those with a high dollar income while keeping the low income trapper from trapping wolves. Secondly snaring should be allowed on public and private lands as the law was originally wrote to include public lands. The trapper is restricted and limited to the amount of time he can trap while the pet owner has free reign of all public lands year round, it is time that pet owners that let their dogs run at large to get caught in traps should be restricted from public lands with their dog during trapping season. Really, look at how many dog running at large complaints that you get each year and it just keeps growing so start getting serious and write some citations or restrict times that pets can be in trapping areas, or the pet owners can take full responsibility for their pet during trapping season just quit blaming the trapper and hold the pet owner accountable. People with hunting dogs would be the exception. So yes to snaring wolves, yes to a longer season , and yes to more wolves being taken.

Ron Smith STEVENSVILLE, MT"

"Open it up! Wide open! No season! No quota! Even that won't solve the problem. There was a reason they were exterminated in the 1800's.

Logan Bozeman, MT"

"Set-backs along the logging roads make it hard to trap wolves. As the road is their travel way. 150 ft is hard to pull them in. Every time you walk in to check the traps makes them shy away. About the only people in most of these areas are hound hunters, I also run hounds. No ""set-backs"" period!!! Need a 72 hour check like Idaho has. Footloose wants to close more areas to trapping. How many problems in the past have been reported. These anti groups don't buy hunting or fishing licenses, and no support money towards our wildlife. Snaring of wolves won't affect lynx as the snares are set higher. Wolves are spreading CWD prions through their scat. It is not the wolf's fault it is miss management!! We need to bring their numbers in line. The directors and commissioners: You need to support the house bills passed as written and not make changes to Fish and Game rewrites. Thank you! Gary W. Grenfell
Gary W Grenfell Libby, MT"

"We want statewide use of baits for trapping and hunting. More than anything we need to open the season for wolf trapping on Dec 1.

Laurien Riehl Missoula, MT"

"I am for wolf snaring on private AND public land. Lets face it. Then wolves have extremely high numbers and will never be brought to extinct unless poison is used and that will never happen. So I do believe in giving Trappers in Wolf Hunters more rights for harvesting wolves and if that means by using snares then so be it.

Mike Price Whitehall , MT"

"I am highly in favor of using snaring as a tool for wolf management!

Zane Petrich Livingston , MT"

"There should be NO nite hunting, NO baiting, or any other activity ON private land that is not also permitted on Public Land. Nite hunting is an accident waiting to happen. UNLESS the commission whats to make the penalty for making an error egregious i.e. loosing hunting privileges for 20 years. The temptation will be to great to harvest other animals. Baiting, just like snares and traps does not discriminate. Bears and other omnivores & carnivores will be attracted to the wolf bait. ""A black bear can smell the scent of a human in a footprint, ripe berries in the air, and a steak grilling a mile away. A

bear can smell seven times better than a bloodhound, known for tracking lost people. Its big nose has an area inside (called the nasal mucosa) that is 100 times larger than ours. An amazing amount of olfactory information swirls in from the outside world." <https://bearwise.org/all-about-black-bears/> NO nite hunting and NO baiting of wolves, anywhere...
Randall Knowles great falls, MT"

"On the snaring breakaway, the proposal called for a 1000 lb or less. The strongest breakaway I could buy was around 700 lbs. Conventional wisdom list a minimum of 550 lbs to hold a wolf. Anything else would not meet Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States. If we said 200 they would want 100.
TOM FIEBER Polson, MT"

"Thanks for all you do!!! I think a trapping season from Dec 1 through March 15 would be awesome. I have tried to trap wolves the last two years (with no success but lots of good times) and it is hard for those working full time that have to travel a little. So more time would help. The earlier in December the better to get stuff set before there is too much snow. I watched some of the commission meeting and my eyes were opened to all of the negative feedback and comments you get on the wolf topic. So I just want to say thank you for the opportunity to pursue wolves and thank you for putting up with all of the negative feedback!!!! Keep up the good work! Boyd B
Boyd Burnett Ramsay , MT"

"Hunting over bait: Most states do allow hunting over baits, along with night hunting. It is actually safer night hunting over bait because sites can be selected ahead of time for safe shots. No need to place many regulations on these issues, history is on the safe side.
TOM FIEBER Polson, MT"

"I am very disheartened by the 2021 proposed 2021 wolf season options. They are not based on science, rather on politics. Wolves (and predators in general) are an important part of the ecosystem. Management of the species is a good thing, but wanton destruction is not. Montana receives billions of tourism dollars based on having a balanced ecosystem consisting of both predators and prey. The proposed measures for this season do not reflect that balance. Thanks for your time.
Melanie Condon Gardiner, MT"

"SNARING: Please note the use of snares for wolves has been used in Idaho since wolf trapping was allowed there. There were some issues with by-catches at the start but experience and education has had a positive effect. They are safer for people and most all domestic dogs will not fight a snare. People that are not using snares are the ones that claim the danger is high are not experienced. Strick regulations and education will prevent issues.
TOM FIEBER Polson, MT"

"I support FWP's efforts to manage the wolf populations in Montana. Keeping the population in check is important to maintain the attractiveness of the state to out of state hunters.
STEPHEN BOZICK Preston, WA"

"We need to have a big season on wolves to keep the population to a minimum nobody who is any body doesn't want them at all but we are stuck with them and need to control them heavily
Chris Pond Poplar , MT"

"I am all for reducing the wolf population in mt . They have been greatly reducing the number of deer and elk in the state . We already had established wolf packs in this state without introducing wolves from Canada. There might be individuals or groups that think this state needs all these wolf packs without any management , I'd say let's trap them and they can take some home with them and they can let them go in their state.

Shawn Plevna, MT"

"Please do not allow this horrible killing of wolves proposal to pass. Our family and friends have been coming to the North Fork of the Flathead for over 20 year, primarily because it's wild and beautiful. How awful to take the wild off this glorious earth.

Carol Vuchetich Coldspring, TX"

"I oppose night hunting and baiting, an extended wolf trapping season, and an increased limit on how many wolves can be killed by an individual.

Emily Rahn Livingston, MT"

"Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and FWP COMMISSIONERS Concerning SB 314, HB 224, HB 225, which were thoroughly debated by both OPPONENTS AND SUPPORTERS, went through 2 House Floors, with Majority Legislative Members SUPPORTING these BILLS and were sent to Governor Gianforte signing them into LAW. So the FWP's wolf trapping proposal on June 24th is basically NO CHANGE of Regulations in the Western 1/3 of Montana where 90 % of wolves are located. This IS where the New Laws are needed most. WHAT'S UP!!!!? FWP COMMISSIONERS NEED TO IMPLEMENT these LAWS that have been passed so that the LEGISLATIVE INTENT of those laws are compliant. Please support the increase in otter quotas in R1 and R2.

Thank You

David

Campbell

David Campbell Superior , MT"

"After reading what FWP has proposed & KNOWING what our legislature passed & the governor signed into law. I can only hope that our Commissioners are a lot more intelligent than FWP seems to think they are. WOLVES are a major problem here in Regions 1, 2. & 3. NOT on the North & South Dakota state line. To almost totally ignore the intent of the tools given our commissioner to deal with this problem, sounds about as intelligent as going to a proctologist for a second opinion for open heart surgery. I am no fan of ballot box game management, but if the FWP proposal is all that is going to be considered by our Commissioners, I will do everything it takes to get a bill before the next Legislature to eliminate our present board of Commissioners. Region 1 has about 45% of all the wolves in Montana. Region 1 also has the reputation of FWP having a love affair with all predator's, EXCEPT the non-feathered, 2 legged variety, & these are the ones that pay their wages. Wolf season needs to be extended on both ends, Snares need to be legal on all areas open to trapping. limiting them to private land is not going to help solve the problem. Individual wolf limits need to be eliminated. Wolf trapping is very expensive & labor intensive. There are only a very few trappers that catch a limit of wolves. These few should be able to keep going as long as their will & finances hold out. Road killed animals should be allowed for bait stations for hunting & trapping wolves. Jerry C. Shively

Jerry C. Shively Thompson Falls, MT"

"Need to get rid of as many wolves as possible. Free tags, year around seasons, no limit per person and no restrictions on trapping!

Bob pearson Missoula , MT"

"I have read Mr Paul Felders comments about the proposed changes in wolf season and I totally agree with Mr Felders comments, it seems to me that FWP is maybe trying to circumvent the legislation that was passed, I believe that you just need to abide by the way this legislation was written. Thank you for your consideration Rick Johnson
Richard Johnson Brockway , MT"

"I have read Mr Paul Felders comments about the proposed changes in wolf season and I totally agree with Mr Felders comments, it seems to me that FWP is maybe trying to circumvent the legislation that was passed, I believe that you just need to abide by the way this legislation was written. Thank you for your consideration Rick Johnson
Richard Johnson Brockway , MT"

"I do not support the hunting of keystone species. This is not a sensible way to manage wildlife.
Patrick Colbert Missoula, MT"

"I am commenting on the proposed rules for managing wolves under the recently passed 2021 legislature. Four generations of my family were born and raised in eastern Mt. Everyone in my family hunted and fished, including my mother and my aunts. We always adhered to ""fair chase"" hunting ethics. I am appalled by the extreme legislation passed and signed by the governor. It is not in keeping with Montana values and ethics. The legislation only benefits a few trappers and hunters and they are the extreme minority in this State. 400 wolves were killed last year, 300 by hunting and trapping....that is enough. We do not need extended hunting/trapping seasons or opportunities. Please do not allow snares on public lands where they can harm recreationists and other animals. I am gravely concerned for other wildlife. Snares are cheap and there is no way to regulate their use...many can be set and never checked or recovered after season. Endangered grizzly bears could be snared, injured or result in cubs being killed. This would push back grizzly recovery. Baiting and night hunting should not be allowed....these laws are crude, barbaric and not in keeping with our Montana values and ethics. Also, we have CWD, which will only worsen if wolves do not maintain the deer population. I believe you, the Commissioners, understand these issues; please be courageous and do the right thing for our wildlife and our State.Thank you.
Patricia Ames Missoula, MT"

"I dont think there is an option. The deer are gone in the Swan Valley. Now that the deer are gone ,the wolves have to eat something. They have started on the beaver population. I think the otter are next! They have to be controlled.
Terry F Halvonik Bigfork, MT"

"Dear Commissioners, I am very concerned about the proposed changes to Wolf season, including increase numbers and additional trapping options. Wolves are very important in controlling ungulate numbers, harvesting primarily the weak and diseased animals. The elk populations, as you all know, are above the FWP calculated healthy numbers, plenty available for wolf and human harvesting. The wolf is also a predictor of the health of our natural world, and a very important to maintaining it. Predation of stock animals is minimal, and much lower than attributable to wild, feral dogs! Keep our present regulations, they are working.
Roy O'Connor Missoula, MT"

"This proposal for hunting and trapping of wolves destroys my belief that Montana is a state that has respect for its land. If the wolf population is culled in such a vile manner it indicates that Montana has

lost it future as one of the pristine places left on the earth. If this proposal is adopted I will not be visiting your state in the future. Please go back to the drawing board on this problem you believe you can eradicate with a fast change in the law. You will bring upon yourselves more problems that you cannot change so fast in the future.
Sandra Theodore Queen Creek, AZ"

"Looks good to me
Rodney Schulte Libby, MT"

"To Whom it May Concern, I wish to express my vehement objection to the proposed new wolf trapping regulations proposed by the 2021 Montana legislature. Truly what's been offered is unsporting and barbaric. A terrible way to manage a keystone species which balances and enhances our wilderness areas. Please don't go against the good science that has been established over the course of 20 years.
Thank you, Sheila Leduc
sheila leduc kalispell, MT"

"Please support the legislative intent on HB 224 HB 225 SB 314
Bruce Hover Clinton, MT"

"I think reasonable management of the Wolf population must be kept in place and controlled to reduce harm to property owners and live stock. Environmental activists would allow wolves to cause numerous problems with uncontrolled growth in their population leading to citizens suffering damage to live stock. Please do not allow the Environmental activist groups to sway doing what needs to be done to help all parties involved.
Bill Hightower Billings, WA"

"We need to maintain a sound science based management plan for wolves to keep the delicate balance of our ecosystem. Do not listen to emotional pleas of those with no sound logic.
Mark Gebhardt Cedar Springs, MI"

"Hunting over bait: Most states do allow hunting over baits, along with night hunting. It is actually safer night hunting over bait because sites can be selected ahead of time for safe shots. No need to place many regulations on these issues, history is on the safe side.
Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT"

"Night Hunting: It has never been illegal to hunt at night in Montana that I am aware of. I have personally night hunted for coyotes for years and never had anything go wrong. Lots of people used to shoot rabbits at night. Very few if any accidents are reported. It sure has been safer than dog bites in the US. We don't need more restrictions.
Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT"

"Director and Commissioners, * The anti's point out that wolves only, "take the weak and sick", we know that is not true. They think that wolves will control CWD, just the opposite, they pass prions through scat to ungulates many miles away to other herds. They claim Trappers are responsible for exterminating wildlife, not true, wolves have exterminated woodland caribou from Northern Idaho and of the last five caribou documented in Montana, three were killed by wolves. No furbearers or predators have been exterminated by trappers. They claim that tourists come to Montana only to see wolves not deer and elk. I support the house bills but not all of the FWP proposals.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"As a hunter for many years, I am not in favor of the new FWP proposals for wolf hunting and trapping. The proposals of trapping and snaring wolves would be detrimental to multiple species across the landscape. Current Montana law allows for an abundance of wolf-hunting opportunities. Hunting methods like night hunting and baiting has been illegal in Montana for a good reason - because it's unethical.

Steve Lamar Condon, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* I agree that the number of wolves in Northwest Montana needs to be reduced to get in line with the ungulate herds and needs a more aggressive management plan. I also see that each region or wolf management area needs to be managed separately. I support the house bills intent.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* The two bills that allows for night hunting and hunting over bait again is not in line with the legislative intent. I support the house bill not the FWP proposal.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* The comments that were stated during the June Meeting, in opposition, that claimed that support for trapping was a small number. Nothing is farther from the truth, look back to the 2016 ballot issue that was supporting trapping at 63%. I support the house bill not the FWP proposal. I support the house bill not the FWP proposal.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* The use of snares during trapping season was not intended for private land only. Both trapping organizations did request a delay the first year to get information out to trappers on avoiding incidental catches. No one asked that snaring not be allowed on public land. We want to make sure that public land snaring would go into effect next year at the least. I support the house bill HB224, not the FWP proposal.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* The legislative intent of SB314, was that a single wolf hunting license or trapping license called for unlimited number of wolves. There was no intent to do anything less. I support the house bill not the FWP proposal.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Director and Commissioners,* The Anti's have no reason to be attacking you. They had their chance throughout the legislative session. People elected political figures to state positions to represent the majority. These members passed bills that were meant to reduce wolf numbers in Western Montana. Throughout the process, special interest groups tried to stop each one. They were defeated by majority each time. All you need to do is follow the legislative intent. I support the house bills but not all of the FWP proposals.

Ryan Shima Kalispell, MT”

"Teste

Camila Teste New York, NY”

"Hello, we have close friends that live have lived in Montana their entire lives. They have been telling us since the wolves were 'Re-introduced'", the Elk have changed their habits during the rut. They are no longer bugling because it brings the wolves. Having a season on the wolves is a good thing, especially since the wrong wolf was introduced into Montana. The wolves are decimating the elk population. This isn't what mother nature intended.

Kelvin Dudenhoeffer Rolla, MO"

"a

Camila Teste New York, NY"

"I support the F W P plans to implement Montana's new wolf hunting and trapping laws.

Kristina Martinell Dell, MT"

"All I would suggest is to not get caught up in the politics of the day when making this decision. Practice sound conservation with Wolves just like any other animal. They are a resource just like any other animal and if they are hurting the populations of elk and deer and other Critters out there they must be managed accordingly

Dave Migliorisi boyers, PA"

"Please stop this senseless massacre of our necessary wolves..We need them to balance out nature...don't do this just to satisfy the cattleman....

Margaret thompson Chicago, IL"

"Looks good to me I have never hunted wolves but I wouldn't listen to an anti hunter and I don't think they should even have any say because that is like having a plumber trying to fix a spaceship. They don't have a clue what there even talking about

brad burkes Mechanicsburg, OH"

"I think a bag limit of 5 wolves is outrageous. Wolves provide a purpose in the ecological environment. Ranchers need to be less adverse in co-existing with these animals.

Barbara Smiglewski Lakewood, CO"

"Thank you for working on finding options for helping us to expand wolf harvesting options. As a landowner, livestock producer, big game Hunter and guide I would appreciate a wider wolf hunting plan.

Josh Rigler Livingston, MT"

"I support the longer wolf hunting season and the use of snares and hunting wolves over bait. There has never been a grizzly caught in a snare. There are far to many wolves in western Montana and the numbers need to be reduced. The elk count for Hunting district 202 was real low as usual and part of that is cause of the number of wolves. There is basically no bugle season for archery any more cause of the wolves. I also support trapping the wolves ...You could hunt the wolf 7 days a week and 24hrs a day and still not kill or trap half of them. There are to many wolves. Trapping and hunting and snaring and hunting them over bait are some good tools to help reduce the number of wolves.

MICHAEL GULLETTE Superior, MT"

"We have way to many wolves and I support the trapping and hunting and snaring of wolves

Debbie Hill Hamilton, MT"

"We have way to many wolves and I support the trapping and hunting and snaring of wolves
Debbie Hill Hamilton, MT"

"Sound science and reviewing what is happening in the habitat are the best ways combined with hunting to insure species remain in balance for total conservation. I support hunting wolves with decisions made based on sound science and with the input from the department of natural resources or Conservation, Fish, Game and Wildlife. Together we can succeed in conserving our environment including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and our natural resources.
Richard Fitzpatrick Jr Livonia, MI"

"As a Montana resident and an advocate for wildlife, I value the presence of healthy wolf populations in Montana. The proposals before the Commission are not ethical, science-based, sustainable, or needed. I urge the Commission to reject proposals to extend wolf hunting seasons or to approve new and deadly wolf killing tactics such as hunting at night or using bait to hunt or trap wolves." These new proposed regulations are nothing more than an outright slaughter!!! Snaring, the unintentional killing of nontargeted wildlife, plus the inhumanity of it. What is wrong with these people??? Poachers in Africa use snares. A few angry hunters in Northwest Montana should not determine the fate of wolves. No, they are not entitled to get game every time they go out hunting. The majority of Montanan's want wolves on the landscape!!! And they belong on the landscape!!! This is nothing more than slob hunting, and it sets dangerous precedence for using the same methods for other species these select individuals don't like!!!
Millie Carson Bozeman, MT"

"I fully approve the new expanded wolf hunting and trapping regulations. Since the reintroduction of the wolves not a single part of the program has been delivered as promised. It's about time that the state of Montana manages wolves based on their research and science.
Bill Swenson Allentown , PA"

"Open season year round no tags necessary
Doug Hunt Kalispell, MT"

"Very limited tools if any. I love the wolves in our state. They don't bother me or my animals. Listen to the majority of Montana's people. We don't want our wolves slaughtered.
Rob Ketchum, ID"

"These proposed expansions in wolf hunting and trapping very likely could result in an up to 85% reduction in the overall population of wolves in Montana. Following the Legislature's intent to have this occur (even though that is not your agency's purpose) would almost certainly be arbitrary and capricious in Montana courts. It would not be helpful to your agency by following this Legislature's intent and exposing yourselves to much litigation. Please do not manage wolf populations on state lands arbitrarily and capriciously. To do so would be against the purpose of your agency.
Dan Eakin Sidney, MT"

"I support the hunting and snaring of wolves with extended seasons
Doug Hyatt Stevensville , MT"

"I think the increased bag limit will definitely help, there is just a few people catch and killing these wolf so to up the number to 10 will help them few people get our wolf numbers down

Levi M Carlberg Libby, MT”

"I believe that the wolf population in Montana should be managed according to the above recommendations. The Fish and Wildlife Commission are best equipped to make these decisions for the benefit of all.

Brandi Mellott Mcconnellsburg, PA”

"I have been fortunate enough to come to your beautiful state and was lucky enough to harvest a giant mule deer and hopefully look forward to hunting this fall here in VA the coyote population has gotten out of control despite what we the hunters have been told . I personally feel that you should take all necessary measure to get and keep a suitable population of these predators so that hunters like myself can come and experience the joy and excitement that I had and look forward to doing in the future . Keep up the good work I think the State Of Montana is a first class state that I would be proud to be a resident and I know you will make the right decisions necessary to keep all populations in check.

Ray Shipman Raphine, Va

Ray Shipman Raphine, VA”

"The extended wolf season was voted in because of the wolf problem in region 1,2,and3, we need the extend season in 1 ,2 , and 3 , please fwp work with your sportsman and extend the season for the whole state, idaho has Grizzlies and it seems to be fine there

Levi M Carlberg Libby, MT”

"Hello, I know I don't live in your great state; but I have family that does and I am very familiar with the wolf situation. I feel that we all need to work together to make this work. If we don't regulate the wolf situation, things will get out of hand and all other wildlife will suffer. Please, do your best to make the right decision! Thank you for your time.

Mark Cahill Escondido , CA”

"There shouldn't be a limit or a season on these wolves. MT doesn't need them!

Carol Grewell Helena , MT”

"No more wolves please TINK NATHAN

Tink Nathan Center Point TX, TX”

"I would love to inject my hard-earned income into your state for the opportunity to hunt wolves. Fuel, meals, lodging, guide services, licenses, etc. would boost your economy while helping manage your numbers in a realistic, economical manner.

Ken Buck Bernville, PA”

""As a Montana resident and an advocate for wildlife, I value the presence of healthy wolf populations in Montana. The proposals before the Commission are not ethical, science-based, sustainable, or needed. I urge the Commission to reject proposals to extend wolf hunting seasons or to approve new and deadly wolf killing tactics such as hunting at night or using bait to hunt or trap wolves.”

Elizabeth Severn-Eriksson Big sky, MT”

"Please keep the regulations aimed at reducing the number of wolves in Montana, every outing wolf signs are always sighted, from scat and tracks in the roads to carcass remains by the trails. Wolves

themselves are spotted or heard most every outing to the forests in western Montana, and fewer other wildlife. Wolves need to be controlled.

Dale Hanson Kalispell , MT"

"test

Mr. Rodgers neighborhood, AL"

"We need to allow snaring wolves, this is the best way to trap them. I have taken the trapping course, but am waiting for snaring to be legal. I trap the high country for marten, but the conditions to trap wolf are too difficult to have working sets in snow/ freezing rain to be effective. I support the breakaway locks for wolf trapping. Thanks Kip

Kip Lolo, MT"

"There needs to be hunting regulations to control the wolf population. Just like other wildlife, they need to be monitored and controlled.

John O'Day WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI"

"This is a much needed management strategy for wolves in Montana. Spending time there with family and having family livestock as well as historical hunting spots devastated by the unsustainable (current wolf population) has been a real tragedy, and I look forward to being able to help out managing some wolves in the state to reduce the population and help bring back family hunting time for the big game species we enjoyed before the increased wolf population.

Elise Bishop Pueblo West , CO"

"How can anyone say that predators do not need to be managed? Common sense will tell you that they absolutely do and I won't insult your intelligence by explaining why. Thank you

Kirk Bonds Saginaw, TX"

"I believe the population of Wolves should be lower than what it is, knowing that game animal populations are decreasing. Thank You

Troy Reisdorf Webster city, IA"

"No trapping methods please.

Gena Martin Tulsa, OK"

"It's ALWAYS the environmental zealots that oppose practical solutions to problems that their policies have brought about in the first place. Not one single one of these people opposing these trapping/snaring regulations has ever lived out in the area where these wolves have devastated wildlife populations, but they attempt to put a stop to those who do know first hand, what is actually happening in Montana's forests. PLEASE do not give ANY credence to the environmentalists protests, they are not basing their arguments on facts, but rather speculation, and unproven theory.

Buddy Donaldson Gila, NM"

"My hunts ended when several wolves responded to cow calls, more than once. This was near Heron. I appreciate the effort to reduce the current population and will again hunt Montana, in the future, thank you.

Eric Hagen Inverness, FL”

“You have to do what you have to do, and that is Wildlife Management. I don't hunt or trap, but the folks that do are CRITICAL to proper wildlife management in this country. Any other stance or opinion, takes a VERY distant back seat in importance to the responsible actions proposed here.

Mark Farwell McKinney, TX”

“This will help keep the population in check and instill a respect for humans as a deterrent that will help keep them distant from farms

Larry Bennett Kingston, WA”