

2023

BLACK BEAR

MONTANA FWP | Hunting Regulations



Black Bear *Ursus americanus* | Photo by Donald M. Jones

TURN IN POACHERS: CALL 1-800-TIP-MONT

fwp.mt.gov

See page 2 for highlights and reminders



Highlights/Reminders

- **48 hour reporting requirement for all black bear harvests.**
- Mandatory inspection of black bear harvests in Region 1 changed in 2022. See page 10 for more information.
- It is lawful to use hounds to train and/or hunt for spring black bears in some areas. See page 4 for more information.
- Hunting and fishing licenses are now accessible through a secure and convenient mobile app. The Montana MyFWP app provides a digital wallet to store and display licenses and digital carcass tags, known as E-Tags, that can validate your harvest in the field. See fwp.mt.gov/myfwppapp for more information.

Regulations Adopted by F&W Commission

Regulations for season dates, structures, and restrictions were adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission on Feb. 4, 2022, under the authority granted in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2023, through Feb. 28, 2024. The F&W Commission reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits, and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. Statutes and other information, including other agencies' restrictions, are provided as a courtesy and do not fall under commission authority. Henry "Hank" Worschech, Director.

Discrimination Prohibited – State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any FWP program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20240. Any changes made to this printed publication can be found on the MTFWP website or by inquiring at any local FWP office.

Definitions

GAME ANIMAL: deer, elk, moose, antelope, caribou, mountain sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, black bear, and wild bison.

HUNT: to pursue, shoot, wound, take, harvest, kill, chase, lure, possess, or capture, or the act of a person possessing a weapon, as defined in MCA 45-2-101, or using a dog or a bird of prey for the purpose of shooting, wounding, taking, harvesting, killing, possessing, or capturing wildlife protected by the laws of this state in any location that wildlife may inhabit, whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently taken. The term includes an attempt to take or harvest by any means, including but not limited to pursuing, shooting, wounding, killing, chasing, luring, possessing, or capturing.

License Chart

License	Cost		Stipulations
	Resident	Non-resident	
Base Hunting	\$10	\$15	Prerequisite for hunting.
Conservation 12-17 and 62+ years	\$4	\$10	Prerequisite.
Conservation 18-61 years	\$8	\$10	Prerequisite.
Black Bear	\$19	\$350	
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	\$10	\$10	A Bow and Arrow License, plus the proper hunting license is required during black bear Archery-only Season or to archery hunt black bear in an Arch-Equip only area or HD.
Resident Hound Training License	\$5	-	Available to resident Conservation License holders 12 years of age or older or who will turn 12 years old before or during the season for which the license is issued. See Youth Hunting Opportunities.
NR Hound License Spring Bear	-	\$250	Required to use dogs to pursue or harvest black bears. Application deadline: March 23.

Obtain a License

- A hunter may purchase only one Black Bear License per year. A free Black Bear Identification Test Certificate is required to obtain a license. A hunter must take and pass a "Black Bear Identification test" before purchasing a Black Bear Hunting license. A hunter must present a certificate of completion issued by FWP at the time of purchase. The test is available online at: fwp.mt.gov/hunt/education/bear-identification
- A Black Bear License is valid for an either-sex black bear in all BMUs. See page 4 regarding sows with cubs.
- The licenses listed in the license chart are available at FWP offices, the FWP website at ols.fwp.mt.gov, and FWP license providers.
- Replacements of lost, stolen, or destroyed licenses may be purchased at FWP offices and FWP license providers. A second duplicate license for the same species within a two-year period may only be purchased at an FWP office. A fee of \$5 per license will be charged for each duplicate license.
- Resident Hound Training License (RHTL) (MCA 87-2-521): Available to resident Conservation License holders. Entitles the license holder to use a dog or dogs to aid in chasing/pursuing spring black bears per commission rule.
- For nonresidents to use dogs for hunting black bears they must be on an outfitted trip with a licensed Montana outfitter/guide or have a Nonresident Black Bear Hound License in addition to a Black Bear License. To apply for a Nonresident Black Bear Hound License, the nonresident must already hold a Black Bear License. You must hold a Black Bear License valid in at least a portion of the hound area for which you are applying. If unsuccessful in the hound drawing, the department will refund the Nonresident Hound License-Spring Black Bear fee of \$250. The hunter can choose to return their Black Bear License for a refund if they are unsuccessful in the drawing for the Nonresident Hound License. Spring Black Bear licenses must be returned by April 14 without exception.
- Applications for the Nonresident Black Bear Hound License will be available starting March 1. The deadline to apply for it will be March 23, and the drawing will be the week of March 27. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must have purchased a Black Bear License.
- To be eligible to apply for the Nonresident Black Bear Hound License to hunt black bears, the applicant must be 18 or turn 18 by June 15, 2023. (MCA 87-2-519).
- A nonresident is not required to have a Nonresident Hound License to use a dog or dogs to aid in the pursuit or harvest of mountain lions or black bears when the nonresident is a nonresident landowner who owns 640 or more contiguous acres. Nonpaying guests of the nonresident landowner may also hunt and pursue mountain lions or black bears on the landowner's property and any adjacent public land within 2 miles of the landowner's property without a Nonresident Hound License (MCA 87-2-519).

Residency

It is unlawful to swear to or to affirm a false statement in order to obtain an original or duplicate resident hunting and/or fishing license OR to assist an unqualified applicant in obtaining a resident license (MCA 87-6-302).

Resident (MCA 87-2-102)

- To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping license you must:
 - have been physically living in Montana for at least 180 consecutive days immediately prior to purchasing a resident license;
 - register your vehicle(s) in Montana;
 - be registered to vote in Montana if you're registered to vote at all;
 - not possess current (or have applied for any) resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state or country;
 - file Montana state income tax returns as a resident, if you are required to file.
- To purchase an annual resident Conservation License you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver's License (MDL), a valid Montana Identification Card (MIC) or a valid Tribal Identification Card.
- If your MDL or MIC has been issued for less than six months, you may be required to show additional proof of residency. An out-of-state driver's license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.
- Once you have established your residency, you must continue to meet all these requirements and physically reside in Montana as your principal or primary place of abode for not less than 120 days

per year (days need not be consecutive).

- A person is NOT considered a resident for the purposes of this section if the person:
 - claims residence in any other state or country for any purpose; or
 - is an absentee property owner paying property tax on property in Montana.

Nonresident Minors

- Nonresident unmarried minors are considered a resident for purpose of obtaining hunting and fishing licenses if the minor's parents, legal guardian, or parent with joint custody, sole custody, or visitation rights is a legal resident of Montana.

Armed Forces

A member of the regular armed forces of the United States, a member's spouse or dependent as defined in 15-30-2115, who resides in the member's household, or a member of the armed forces of a foreign government attached to the regular armed forces of the United States is considered a resident for Montana hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses if:

- the member is a Montana resident as listed above and continues to meet the residency criteria of income tax filing and voter registration, the member is not required to meet the other residency criteria in MCA 87-2-102 and may hold resident licenses in another state or country; or,
- the member is currently stationed in and assigned to active duty in Montana, has resided in Montana for at least 30 days, and presents official assignment orders and a certificate verifying successful completion of an approved hunter safety course from any state or province.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education for Firearm and Archery (MCA 87-2-105)

- If you were born after Jan. 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course (or an approved hunter education course from any other state or province) prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.
- Montana law requires members of the armed forces and their dependents stationed in Montana to present a Montana hunter education certificate or similar certificate from any state or province when purchasing any Montana hunting license.
- Duplicates – Montana certificates of completion for the Montana hunter education and/or bowhunter education courses may be obtained from FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov/education/hunter.

Bowhunter Education Requirements (MCA 87-2-105)

- To purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow License, a hunter must:
 - provide a certificate of completing the National Bowhunter Education Foundation course, or
 - provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province.

Youth Hunter:

- A resident or nonresident **youth 12 years of age or older** may hunt any game species for which their license is valid. Those who will reach 12 years of age by Jan. 16, 2024, may hunt any game species for which their license is valid after Aug. 15 of the 2023 license year. Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of purchase.
- In order to carry or use a firearm for any reason, a youth under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a person having charge or custody of the youth, or be under the supervision of a qualified firearms safety instructor or an adult 18 years of age or older who has been authorized by the youth's parent or guardian, MCA 45-8-344.

Hunter with a Disability

If you or someone you know has a disability and/or is aging, and is in need of assistive technology (AT) or adaptive equipment to help you participate in outdoor recreation, please contact:

MonTech at the University of Montana Rural Institute
29 McGill Hall, U of M | Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-5751 | montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/

Laws and Rules

- Statute denoted by MCA.
- Commission Rule denoted by CR.
- Administrative rule denoted by ARM.

Aircraft- Unlawful use (MCA 87-6-208)

- It is unlawful for a person to shoot a game animal from an aircraft.
- It is unlawful for a person to use an aircraft for the purpose of concentrating, pursuing, driving, rallying, or stirring up any game animal.
- Aircraft may not be used to locate game animals for the purpose of:
 - hunting those animals during the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; or
 - providing information for another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne.

Archery Equipment (MCA 87-6-401, CR)

- It is unlawful to use any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of game animals.
- The following criteria define archery equipment. It is unlawful to use, while hunting game during any archery-only season and in archery equipment only areas, archery equipment that does not meet the following criteria:

Hunting Bow: A hunting bow for game animals shall be a longbow, flatbow, recurve bow, compound bow, or any combination of these designs.

- The bow must be a device for launching an arrow, which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs (includes bows with split limbs).
- The bow must be hand drawn by a single and direct uninterrupted pulling action of the shooter. The bowstring must be moved from brace height to the full draw position by the muscle power of the shooter's body. The energy used to propel the arrow shall not be derived from any other source such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, or similar devices. These limitations shall not exclude the mechanical leverage advantage provided by eccentric wheels or cams, so long as the available energy stored in the bent limbs of the bow is the sole result of a single, continuous, and direct pulling effort by the shooter.
- The bow must be hand-held. One hand shall hold the bow and the other hand draw the bowstring. The bowstring must be moved and/or held at all points in the draw cycle entirely by muscle power of the shooter until release. The bowstring must be released as a direct and conscious action of the shooter, either relaxing the tension of the fingers or triggering the release action of a hand-held release aid.
 - **Exception:** Physically disabled bowhunters certified by FWP with the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE) are exempted from the requirement of holding or shooting the bow with their hands.
- A bow is considered legal if it is at least 28 inches in total length.
- The nominal percent of let-off for hunting bows shall be a maximum of 80 percent as advertised by the manufacturer.

Arrow: An arrow is a projectile at least 20 inches in overall length. The length of the arrow is measured from the rearward point of the nock to the tip of the broadhead.

- A broadhead is mounted on the fore end.
- The arrow shall weigh no less than 300 grains with the broadhead attached.
- Arrows must have broadheads with at least two cutting edges and be at least 7/8 inches at the widest point. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are at least 7/8 inches at the widest point, and weigh no less than 70 grains.

The following are not considered a hunting bow or legal archery equipment during the archery-only season or in an archery equipment only area or hunting district:

- crossbow
- any device with a gun-type stock or incorporating any device or mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power
- any bow for which a portion of the bow's riser (handle) or any track, trough, channel, or other device that attaches directly to the bow's riser contacts, supports, and/or guides the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height. This is not intended to restrict the use of standard overdraw systems.

- electronic or battery-powered devices attached to a hunting bow or arrow that aides in the taking or locating of any game animal or game bird. **Exception:** camera devices attached to bows for the sole purpose of filming are allowed.
- a bow sight or arrow which uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics. **Exception:** an arrow may have a lighted nock.

Artificial Light (MCA 87-6-401)

It is unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any game animal or game bird with the aid of projected artificial light. Use of rifle scopes that project an artificial light to illuminate the target or project infra-red light visible only with specialized optics to illuminate the target are unlawful for the taking of game animals.

Baiting (MCA 87-6-401, CR)

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird by the aid of or with the use of any bait, salt lick, trap, snare, or set gun.
- Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of food sources or salt so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

Black Bear Specific Regulations (CR)

- It is unlawful to harvest/take black bear cubs. Cubs are defined as bears less than one year old.
- It is unlawful to harvest/take a female black bear with cubs.

Check Stations (MCA 87-6-218)

All hunters are required by law to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting areas, even if they have no game to be checked.

Dogs (MCA 87-6-404)

It is unlawful for a person to use dogs to chase game animals. Exception: dogs may be used to hunt mountain lions and spring black bears, see appropriate regulations for rules. Dogs may be utilized to recover or locate wounded game animals, but handlers shall maintain physical control of the dog at all times by means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached to the dog's collar or harness.

Evidence of Sex (MCA 87-6-406)

A person who kills a game animal in this state shall retain evidence of sex of the animal with the carcass until it is processed. The provisions of this section do not apply to a game animal harvested using a license with which either sex of the animal may be taken. Evidence of sex does not need to be naturally attached. A person who kills a game animal in a hunting district where the harvest is limited by the animal's antler point or horn size shall retain the antlers or horns until the carcass is processed.

Firearms

- Firearms, including rifles, handguns, shotguns with 0, 00, or slugs, and muzzleloaders; archery equipment; and crossbows are lawful for taking game animals. All other methods of take are prohibited.
- There is no rifle or handgun caliber limitation or magazine/round capacity restrictions for the taking of game animals.
- Rifle scopes with illuminated reticles, built-in range-finding capabilities, and "red dot" scopes are lawful for the taking of game animals.

Glandular Scents ((ARM 12.6.1016, 12.6.1017)(MCA 87-6-101))

- Natural or artificial glandular scents may not be used to hunt black bears.

Hound Hunting

- A resident hunter with a valid Black Bear License may lawfully chase black bears with hounds during the spring hound season in any valid hunting district or management unit during the period that unit is open to hound hunting or chasing.
- Hound hunting and training is prohibited in occupied grizzly bear habitat in BMUs 100, 101, 103, 104, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 130, 140, 141, 150, 170, that portion of 200 that includes the Ninemile watershed north of I-90, 216 east of the Granite/Ravalli county line, 280, 290, 300 west of I-15, 301 west of I-15 and HWY 69, 309, 317, 341, 400 north and west of I-15/Hwy 87 between Helena and Fort Benton, west of Hwy 223 between Fort Benton and Hwy 2 at Chester, south of Hwy 2 between Chester and I-15 at Shelby, and west of I-15 between Shelby and the Canadian border, 510 West of Hwy 310, 520.
- A resident who possesses a Resident Hound Training License may pursue black bears with a dog or dogs during a training season

from the end of the spring season for black bear through June 15 of that year as authorized by the commission (MCA 87-6-404(4)).

- Authorized black bear hunting and training hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or black bear hunter to release dogs on a black bear, or allow dogs to chase a black bear, or hold a black bear at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing black bears. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Persons using hounds to hunt are required to have a valid Resident Black Bear License if hunting or chasing during the black bear hunting season, or a valid Class D-3 Resident Hound Training License during a training season from the end of the spring season for black bear through June 15 of that year as authorized by the commission. Nonresidents must also have a Nonresident Hound License during the hunting or training season if they are using dogs.
- The holder of a Nonresident Class D-4 Black Bear Hound License may not assist another person in the pursuit of a black bear for harvest. Any area restrictions on the Black Bear License and the Nonresident Black Bear Hound License both apply as well as quota restrictions in quota areas.
- While hunting with or training hounds, the dogs must wear tracking collars with the ability to send GPS location information and receive transmissions from hound handler so that the dogs may be electronically recalled and the hound handler's receiver will be able to receive GPS location data from the collars.

Hunter Harassment (MCA 87-6-215)

It is unlawful to:

- intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of a wild animal.
- disturb an individual engaged in the lawful taking of a wild animal with intent to prevent the taking of the animal.

Hunting Hours (CR)

Authorized hunting hours for the taking of game animals begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See the official Sunrise-Sunset Tables listed on page 15.

Hunter Orange Requirement (MCA 87-6-414)

A person may not hunt any game animals in this state or accompany any hunter as an outfitter or guide under any of the provisions of the laws of this state without wearing as exterior garments, above the waist, a total of not less than 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material visible at all times while hunting.

This section does not apply to a person hunting with a bow and arrow during the special archery season; or hunting wolves outside the general deer and elk season as authorized by commission rules. However, bowhunters hunting wolf during any portion of the general (firearm) seasons for deer, elk, antelope, moose, bison, sheep, mountain goat, black bear, or mountain lion must meet the hunter orange requirement while hunting.

Incidental Harvest Resulting in an Unlawfully Taken Animal

If you or a member of your hunting party shoots an animal that results in an unlawfully taken animal, you should notify a FWP game warden or 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately and follow their instructions.

> Hunters should field dress the animal, but **DO NOT** transport the animal until you've received instructions.

Indian Reservations (MCA 87-6-204, CR)

- The F&W Commission has by rule, closed all lands within the exterior boundaries of Montana's Indian Reservations to the hunting of game animals with the use of state licenses unless provided for in a cooperative agreement between the Tribal Government and the State of Montana.
- Currently there are no cooperative agreements between FWP and any of the Tribal Governments in Montana and as such the season for the hunting of game animals, by nonmembers, with a state license is closed. Please contact FWP for further questions or information.

Inspection by Warden (MCA 87-1-502, 87-6-218)

Game animals, game and nongame birds, fish, and furbearers taken must be shown to FWP Enforcement personnel for inspection when requested.

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC)

Montana is a member of the IWVC. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges. It is unlawful for a violator whose privilege to hunt, fish, or trap is suspended to obtain or attempt to obtain a license, tag, or permit in a member state. For more information, call 406-444-2452.

Kill Site Verification (ARM 12.6.1005)

At the request of a FWP game warden, it is required to return to the kill site of any game animal, game bird, wolf, or furbearer that has been hunted or trapped.

Landowner Permission (MCA 87-6-415)

A person may not hunt or attempt to hunt furbearers, game animals, migratory game birds, nongame wildlife, predatory animals, upland game birds, or wolves while hunting on private property without first obtaining permission of the landowner, the lessee, or their agents. Regardless of whether the land is posted or not, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property.

For the purposes of this section, the term "hunt" has the same meaning as provided in **87-6-101** and includes entering private land to: (a) retrieve wildlife; or (b) access public land to hunt.

License and Permit Possession/Use

(MCA 87-6-304, MCA 87-6-305)

- A person may not apply for, purchase, or possess more than one license, permit, or tag of any one class or more than one special license for any one species. This provision does not apply to more than one license, permit, or tag authorized by the commission.
- A person may not hunt in this state unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time.
- A person may not refuse to exhibit a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a warden or other officer requesting to see it.
- A person may not at any time alter or change a license in any material manner or loan or transfer any license to another person.
- A person other than the person to whom a license is issued may not use the license.
- A person may not attach the person's license to a game animal killed by another person.
- A person commits the offense of unlawful possession of a hunting license or permit if the person knowingly carries or has physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location that the species to be hunted may inhabit.
- This does not apply: to a person who is carrying or has physical control over a license or permit issued to that person's spouse or to any minor when the spouse or minor is hunting with that person; and when a properly obtained and validated license or permit is attached to a lawfully killed game animal.

License Validation and Tagging (MCA 87-6-411)

- When a person kills a game animal, the person shall, before the carcass is removed from or the person leaves the site of the kill, take physical possession of the game animal by:
 - electronically validating the license or tag or
 - cutting out from the license or tag the date the animal was killed and attaching the license or tag to the animal.
- A license or tag that is not electronically validated must be kept attached to the carcass as long as any considerable portion of the carcass remains unconsumed.
- A person may not fail to keep the license or tag attached to the game animal or portion of the game animal while the animal is possessed by the person unless the license or tag was electronically validated.
- A person may not tag a game animal with or electronically validate a license or tag that is restricted to a hunting district other than the hunting district where the game animal was killed.

Littering (MCA 75-10-212, 87-6-920)

It is unlawful to dump or leave any garbage, dead animal, or other debris or refuse:

- in or upon any highway, road, street, or alley of this state;
- in or upon any public property, highway, street, or alley under the control of the state;
- within 200 yards of a public highway, road, street, or alley or public property;
- on privately owned property where hunting, fishing, or other recreation is permitted.

A holder of a Montana resident or nonresident fishing or hunting license or camping permit convicted of littering campgrounds, public or private lands, streams, or lakes while hunting, fishing, or camping shall forfeit any current hunting, fishing, or trapping license issued by this state and the privilege to hunt, fish, camp, or trap in this state for a period of one year from the date of conviction.

Marked or Radio-Collared Animals (CR)

It is lawful to shoot game animals that have radio collars, neck bands, ear tags, and/or other markers, but markers and radio collars must be returned to FWP. Please report the killing of a marked animal to the local FWP Office.

Motion-tracking Devices (MCA 87-6-401)

It is unlawful for a person, while hunting, to use any electronic motion-tracking device or mechanism that is designed to track the motion of a game animal and relay information on the animal's movement to the hunter. Motion-tracking devices are defined by F&W Commission as remote operated camera or video devices capable of transmitting real time information, pictures or videos; seismic devices; thermal imaging devices; and satellite and radio telemetry devices. A radio-tracking collar attached to a dog that is used by a hunter engaged in lawful hunting activities is not considered an unlawful motion-tracking device.

Motorized Vehicles (MCA 87-6-405)

It is unlawful for anyone to:

- Hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal from any self-propelled (motorized) or drawn vehicle. To be lawful, a hunter must have two feet on the ground and his/her body outside of the vehicle. Holders of the Permit To Hunt From A Vehicle are the exception to this.
- Use a motorized vehicle to concentrate, drive, rally, stir up, corral, or harass game animals.
- While hunting a person may not use a motor driven vehicle off-road on state land.
- Use a motor-driven vehicle on a road or trail on state land if that road or trail is posted as closed by the land management agency. This restriction applies only to state land and not to federal land. For more information related to state school trust lands, see page 6.
- Use a motor-driven vehicle other than on a road or trail designated for travel by a landowner unless permission has been given by that landowner.

Off Road - Federal Lands (CR)

- A person may not operate, on federal public lands, a motorized wheeled vehicle off legal routes (including game retrieval). All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana have been adopted by the F&W Commission. Contact the appropriate land management agencies for travel plan information.

Boats (MCA 87-6-207)

- A person may not use a motorboat or a sailboat as defined in 23-2-502 for the purpose of killing, capturing, taking, pursuing, concentrating, driving, or stirring up any upland game bird, migratory bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal until the motor is shut off or the sails are furled and the progress of the vessel has ceased.

Off-Highway Vehicles (including ATV, UTV, and dirt bikes)

Residents (MCA 23-2-804, 23-2-111) – OHVs must be registered with the county treasurer and display a current off-highway permanent registration decal to be used for off-road recreation on public lands (trails, frozen lakes, reservoirs). To be used on roads (county, Forest Service, etc.), an OHV must be registered with the county treasurer and display a license plate and street-legal modifications. Resident hunters utilizing "summer motorized recreation trails" must also purchase a summer motorized recreation trail pass (decal) at a cost of \$20, valid for two years and expires on Dec. 31 of the second calendar year. All decals must be affixed in a conspicuous place on the OHV.

Nonresidents (MCA 23-2-814) – OHVs that are owned by a nonresident may not be operated by a person anywhere in Montana unless a nonresident temporary-use permit is obtained. Permits are good for one calendar year, cost \$35, and can be purchased from local vendors (stateparks.mt.gov/recreation/ohvProgram.html, OHV Permits and Laws), at FWP offices, or online at app.mt.gov/als. Contact Montana State Parks OHV Program at 406-444-3750.

Outfitters and Guides (MCA 37-47-301)

A person may not act as an outfitter or guide or advertise or otherwise represent to the public that the person is an outfitter or guide without first securing a license.

- It is unlawful to engage in outfitting/guiding while not licensed.
- It is unlawful to hire an outfitter or guide not licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry. For information, call 406-841-2300.

Possession of Wildlife Parts (MCA 87-6-202)

A person may not possess, ship, or transport all or part of any game fish, bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal that was unlawfully killed, captured, or taken, whether killed, captured, or taken in Montana or outside of Montana. This section does not prohibit the possession, shipping, or transportation of:

- hides, heads, or mounts of lawfully killed, captured, or taken game fish, birds, game animals, or fur-bearing animals, except that the sale or purchase of a hide, head, or mount of a grizzly bear is prohibited, except as provided by federal law;
- naturally shed antlers or the antlers with a skull or portion of a skull attached from a game animal that has died from natural causes and that has not been unlawfully killed, captured, or taken or accidentally killed;
- the bones of an elk, antelope, moose, or deer that has died from natural causes and that has not been unlawfully killed, captured, or taken or accidentally killed;

Vehicle Killed Wildlife Salvage Permit (MCA 87-3-145) (ARM 12.3.186) Carcasses and parts of elk, deer, antelope and moose killed in vehicular collisions may be taken and possessed but only with a Vehicle-Killed Wildlife Salvage Permit. No other game animals may be salvaged by this permit.

Recovery and possession of horns and skulls from mountain sheep that died of natural causes (MCA 87-3-315)

A person may recover and possess the horn or horns and attached skull, or portion thereof, of a mountain sheep that died of natural causes and was not purposefully or accidentally killed, captured, or taken, including due to being struck by a vehicle. Horns and skulls recovered pursuant to this section must be reported to the department within 48 hours and presented to the department for inspection and placement of a permanent pin in a horn within 10 days. The fee for the pin is \$25.

This section does not allow the recovery or possession of horns and skulls found in state parks.

Predatory Animals and Nongame Hunting

Predatory animals and nongame species can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. A conservation license or a State School Trust lands recreational use license is required to hunt predatory animals and nongame species on State School Trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt predatory animals and nongame species on private land.

- **Predatory Animals** are classified as coyote, weasel, (striped) skunk, and civet cat (spotted skunk).
- **Nongame species** are defined as any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples include badger, raccoon, red fox, hares, rabbits, ground squirrels, marmots, tree squirrels, porcupines, and prairie dog.

Public Roadways (MCA 87-6-403)

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal: on, from, or across any public highway, or the shoulder, berm, barrow pit, or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way) when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

Recorded Animal Sounds (MCA 87-6-401)

It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls or sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing, or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals, wolves, and those birds not protected by state or federal law.

Simulated Wildlife (MCA 87-6-217)

It is unlawful to discharge a firearm or other hunting implement at a simulated wildlife decoy in violation of any state statute, ARM, or F&W Commission rule regulating the hunting of the wildlife being simulated.

Transport of Wildlife

- An individual other than the license holder may transport lawfully taken, properly tagged game animals that comply with the "Evidence of Sex Requirements."
- It is unlawful to ship, possess, transport, or take out of state unlawfully killed game animals.
- It is a violation of the Federal Lacey Act to transport an unlawfully taken game animal across state boundaries.

- If you are transporting lawfully taken wildlife (including parts and/or products of live or dead animals) between the United States and any foreign country, you must complete a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service declaration form. For further information, contact the USFWS wildlife inspector at 406-335-4350 or www.fws.gov.
- Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP Enforcement at 406-444-2452 or to your home state's wildlife division.

Traps (MCA 87-6-601)

It is unlawful to destroy, disturb, or remove any trap or snare belonging to another person or remove wildlife from a trap or snare belonging to another person without permission of the owner of the trap or snare.

Two-way Communication (ARM 12.6.1010)

The use of two-way electronic communication is prohibited:

- while in the act of hunting game animals or wolves to aid in the taking or locating of live animals;
- while in the act of hunting mountain lion or bobcats with dogs, beginning when the dogs are placed or physically released on tracks or a scent trail;
- to avoid game check stations or FWP enforcement personnel;
- to facilitate unlawful hunting activity.

The use of two-way electronic communication for the use of safety or other legitimate purposes is exempt.

Two-way electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, the following: radios (walkie-talkies/CB), cell phones, text messages, and the use of social media or other electronic platforms, applications, or programs.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles UAV (CR)

A UAV/drone may not be used to locate game animals for the purposes of: hunting those animals during the same hunting day after a UAV/drone has been airborne, or providing information for another person for the purposes of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after the UAV/drone has been airborne.

Waste of Game (MCA 87-6-205)

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

Hunter Access

Hunters, it is your responsibility to know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply. Check FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov/hunt/access for information on FWP's Block Management Program.

Fishing Access Sites

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

Federal Land Access

- National Parks Service: National parks are closed to hunting. For other lands administered by the National Park Service, please contact the specific site managers for additional information.
- National Wildlife Refuges - More restrictive regulations, including species-specific restrictions and closures, may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. Contact the specific refuge and/or visit fws.gov/refuges for additional information.
- U.S. Forest Service: Area-specific closures or restrictions may apply. Inquire at the appropriate regional Forest Service office.
- Bureau of Land Management: Area-specific closures or restrictions may apply. Inquire at the appropriate BLM field office.
- Other federal lands: Area-specific closures or restrictions may apply. Inquire at the local federal land management agency office.

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

Indian Reservation Trust Lands

Some reservations may offer hunting opportunities with the use

of tribal licenses to non-members. Please contact the appropriate tribal government. See "Contacts Outside FWP" on page 16 for contact information.

Montana State Parks

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

Private Lands - See landowner permission.

Railroad Access

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

State Game Preserves - See Restricted Area Descriptions.

State School Trust Lands

Additional information, including closures and restrictions, is available from the DNRC at 406-444-2074

- A Conservation License provides hunters, anglers and trappers access to lawfully accessible State School Trust lands for related activities during applicable seasons. Additional permitting is required through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for trapping on trust lands.
- Overnight use must not exceed the following limits: two consecutive days on leased land or 16 consecutive days within designated campgrounds or on unleased land.
- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on roads designated as open. This restriction applies to all activity including game retrieval.
- Firearms may not be discharged upon trust lands within one-quarter mile of inhabited dwellings or outbuildings on state trust lands without permission of the inhabitant.
- Open fires are prohibited outside of fire pits within designated campgrounds.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

FWP's WMAs are generally open to hunting during the game animal hunting season. WMAs with big game winter range are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or Dec. 1, whichever is later, to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

Exception: There are several exceptions to these guidelines. For WMA-specific information, please call the regional office (see page 16 for contact numbers) or visit the FWP website at:

fwp.mt.gov/conservation/wildlife-management-areas

Stream Access Law

The Stream Access Law does not allow for the hunting of game animals between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers without landowner permission.

Trichinella in Black Bears

Trichinella is a parasite of mammals and some birds. Immature parasites develop cysts in the muscle of the host animal and are transmitted to a new host when infected meat is eaten raw or undercooked. Wild animals rarely show signs of infection. Humans and domestic dogs or cats can become infected with Trichinella by consuming raw or undercooked meat from an infected animal. Symptoms of infection vary and may be severe. All bear and mountain lion meat should be treated as if it were infected. Freezing will not kill the organism; however, cooking at temperatures above 165 degrees Fahrenheit will kill the parasite. Many processing techniques (jerky and smoked meats) may not reach the proper temperature. FWP recommends that all mountain lion and bear meat be well cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees before consumption by humans or pets. FWP does not offer Trichinella testing. For further information, call the FWP lab at 406-577-7882.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements

All successful black bear hunters must personally report their black bear harvest within 48 hours.

Successful hunters are required to provide FWP personnel with hunter's name, telephone number, ALS number, bear management unit (BMU), county, sex, and the township, range, and section (TRS) of the harvest.

Harvest Reporting 1-877-FWPWILD or 1-877-397-9453 or 406-444-0356 or through the MyFWP portal at fwp.mt.gov
Quota Status/Closures..... 800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989
OR on the FWP website..... fwp.mt.gov

The toll-free line and FWP website are updated daily by 1 p.m. MST.

When reporting a black bear harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false. Successful hunters in backcountry areas will be allowed to report a black bear harvest within 48 hours of reaching a trailhead.

NOTE: In BMUs 510, 520, 600, and 700 when the quota is reached or approached in each of these districts, the black bear season in that district will close. For quota status, call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.

Inspection Requirements Region 1 Only:

For black bears harvested within Region 1, physical inspection of a harvested black bear is not required. Successful Region 1 hunters must submit a premolar tooth from harvested black bears and deliver them to an FWP office within 10 days, either in person or by mail (postmarked within 10 days). See page 10 for more information.

Inspection Requirements Regions 2-7:

Within 10 days of harvesting a black bear, the successful hunter must present to a Montana FWP official the complete bear hide and skull for the purpose of inspection, tagging, and possible removal of a tooth (for aging). The hide and skull must be presented in a condition that allows full inspection and tooth collection (i.e., unfrozen). Any hide or skull not presented or registered to FWP personnel within 10 days of harvest is subject to confiscation.

A person licensed to hunt and authorized to possess a carcass of a black bear that requires mandatory department biological inspection may, after validating the license or tag in accordance with MCA 87-6-411, transfer possession of all or part of that black bear to any person at any time after leaving the site of the kill, provided a statement of possession has been completed. The statement of possession must be on a form prescribed by the department and signed by the licensed person and the person or persons receiving possession, and must accompany the carcass or portion of carcass presented for inspection.

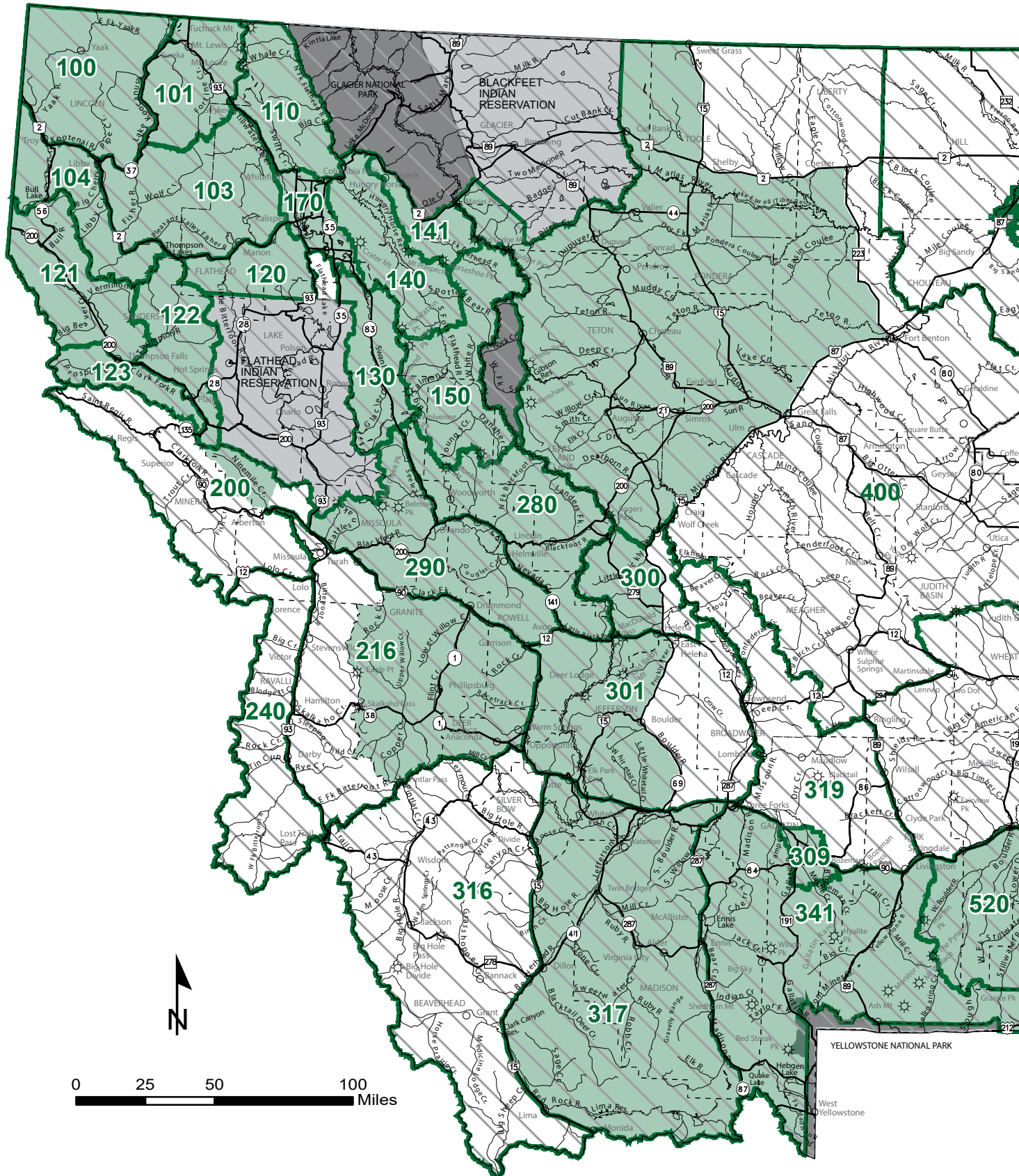
The statement of possession form can be found at: fwp.mt.gov/binaries/content/assets/fwp/hunt/forms/transfer-of-game-animal-or-wolf.pdf

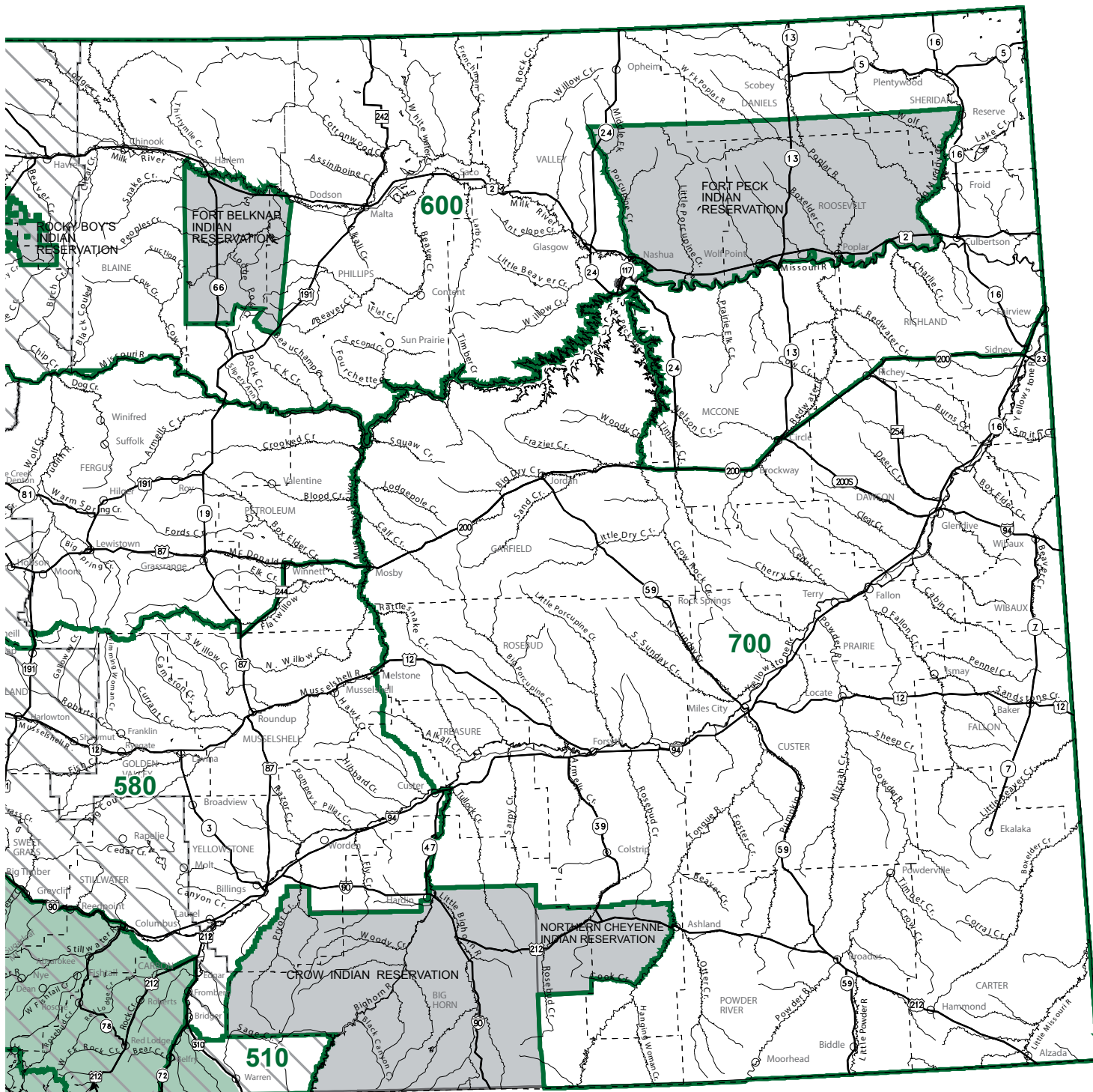
REMINDER: The hunter must still personally report their harvest by phone or through MyFWP as required even if a transfer form is completed.

- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell, or purchase any black bear harvested in Montana, or part thereof, unless the animal has been tagged as prescribed.

Black Bear Management Units

This map is only intended as a guide. Please refer to the legal descriptions in this document for actual boundaries.





- Black Bear Management Unit (BMU)

Portion of the state where a grizzly bear may be encountered. Grizzly bears may be encountered even beyond those areas shown on the map
- BMU or BMU portion where hound hunting and training is prohibited

Closed to hunting
- Closed to hunting for game animals

Black Bear Management Unit Regulations

BMU	Spring Quota	Fall Quotas	Max No. NR Hound Training Licenses	NR Hound License	Hound Hunting Season	Hound Training Season	Spring Season	Archery-only Season	General Season	Opportunity specific details and/or restrictions
REGION 1										
100	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
103	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Libby Big Game Archery-only Hunting Area.
104	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
110	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
120	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
121	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
122	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
123	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
130	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
140	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
141	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): BNSF right-of-way from Marias Pass to the Java Creek Bridge is closed.
150	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
170	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Bad Rock Canyon WMA; Kuhns WMA map available from FWP Region 1, Kallispeil office 406-752-5501.

Region 1 Specific Inspection Requirements

All successful black bear hunters must personally report their black bear harvest within 48 hours.

Physical inspection of a black bear harvested in Region 1 is no longer required. However, mandatory 48 hour reporting of any successful black bear harvest is required. In addition, successful hunters are required to submit one premolar tooth from any black bear harvested in Region 1 within 10 days of harvest. Teeth can be submitted in person or by mail (post-marked within 10 days).

Please include the following information with the tooth: Hunter name, reference number received from the Harvest Reporting line or MyFWP portal, date of harvest, BMU, and sex of bear. Wrap the tooth in a paper towel and place inside a plastic bag. Place plastic bag containing the tooth and data sheet in an envelope and include your return address.

Mail teeth to: FWP R1 Headquarters,
490 North Meridian, Kallispeil, MT, 59901

Or drop off at any FWP regional office or the Thompson Falls and Libby area offices.

Please contact your local biologist or call 406-752-5501 if you have questions.

The graphic below depicts which tooth to remove. You must carefully extract a tooth in its entirety as the root is needed to accurately determine age. Extracted teeth should look like the tooth circled in the illustration below. Age information will be posted online and available at MyFWP. Lab results for aging teeth typically takes eight months or more.



1st PREMOLAR

(PULL THIS TOOTH WITH ROOT)

A tooth submission form and additional information on how to pull and submit teeth can be found on the fwp.mt.gov website under hunting, hunt by species, black bear, regulations, and maps.

Instructions and data forms can also be obtained at the FWP offices in Kallispeil, Libby, and Thompson Falls.

BMU	Spring Quota	Fall Quotas	Max No. NR Hound Training Licenses	NR Hound License	Hound Hunting Season	Hound Training Season	Spring Season	Archery-only Season	General Season	Opportunity specific details and/or restrictions
REGION 2										
200	-	-	2	200-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Not valid in the Ninemile watershed portion north of I-90.
216	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Grant Kohrs Ranch near Deer Lodge is closed to all hunting; Lee Metcalf Refuge Legal description, map, and regulations available from the Lee Metcalf Refuge, 406-777-5552.
240	-	-	2	216-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	-	-	-	Only valid in the portion west of the Granite/Ravalli county line.
280	-	-	3	240-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	-
290	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Seeley Lake Game Preserve is closed to all hunting; East Ovando Archery-only Area.
REGION 3										
300	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Helena Valley Weapons Restriction Area; Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve.
301	-	-	1	300-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	-	-	-	Only valid in the portion east of I-15.
309	-	-	2	301-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Townsend Weapons Restriction Area; Muskrat Valley Weapons Restricted Area.
316	-	-	3	316-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Only valid in the portion east of I-15 and HWY 69. Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Townsend Weapons Restriction Area; Muskrat Valley Weapons Restricted Area.
317	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Black bear hunting is restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader, or crossbow only, EXCEPT on some private lands, which are excluded from the weapons restrictions. Map available from FWP Region 3, Bozeman office 406-577-7900, or on the web at: fwp.mt.gov/gis/maps/huntPlanner/.
319	-	-	3	319-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Poindexter Slough FAS south of Dillon, restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader, or crossbow only.
341	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Poindexter Slough FAS south of Dillon, restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader, or crossbow only.
341	-	-	3	319-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve; Townsend Weapons Restriction Area.
341	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-Jun. 15	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Gardiner CLOSED to hunting of all game animals. Gallatin Special Management Area closed to bear hunting.

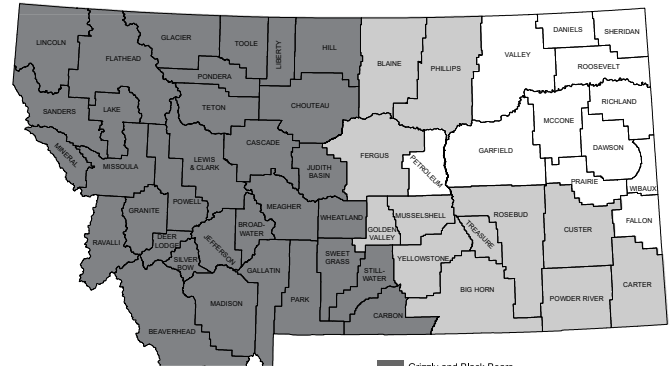
BMU	Spring Quota	Fall Quotas	Max No. NR Hound Training Licenses	NR Hound License	Hound Hunting Season	Hound Training Season	Spring Season	Archery-only Season	General Season	Opportunity specific details and/or restrictions
REGION 4										
400	-	-	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Check Restricted Area Descriptions (p 13): Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve; Brinkman Game Preserve; Sun River Game Preserve; are all closed to bear hunting. Only valid in the portion of BMU 400 northeast of Shelby (east of I-15 and north of Hwy 2), east of Hwy 223 from Chester to Hwy 87 near Fort Benton, south of Hwy 87 near Fort Benton to Great Falls, and east of I-15 from Great Falls to Wolf Creek.
REGION 5										
510	Total harvest quota = 5 Female subquota = 2	Female quota = 2	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this BMU will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
520	Female quota = 12	Female quota = 10	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this BMU will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
580	-	-	4	580-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Only valid in portion of BMU 510 east of HWY 310.
REGION 6										
600	Harvest quota = 4	Harvest quota = 4	4	600-00	Apr. 15-May 25	May 26-Jun. 15	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.
REGION 7										
700	Harvest quota = 4 Hound harvest quota = 2	Harvest quota = 12	-	-	-	-	Apr. 15-May 31	Sep. 02-Sep. 14	Sep. 15-Nov. 26	Archery-only quota not more than 20% of fall harvest subquota. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989. When the quota is reached or approached, the black bear season in this district will close upon 48 hours notice. For quota status call 1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989.

Carry Bear Spray and Know How To Use It!

- Hunting puts you at risk of encountering a bear. Calling game and using scents may attract bears.
- If you hunt alone, let someone know about your plans. If you feel uneasy hunting alone, hunt with a partner.
- Bears are opportunists and change their behavior to take advantage of new food sources. Always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins, and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.
- Mentally rehearse a worst-case scenario with encountering a bear. "If the mind has never been there before, the body does not know how to respond."
- To minimize the likelihood of attack or chances of human injury, make certain you have bear spray at the ready and know how to use it. In sudden grizzly encounters, bear spray has proven effective. Bears sprayed in the face at close range often stop attacking. Always maintain a safe distance from bears.
- Report encounters with grizzly bears to FWP at 1-800-TIP-MONT, U.S. Forest Service, or one of the nearest FWP bear management specialists listed below:

- Justine Vallieres, Kalispell, MT 406-250-1265
- Erin Wenum, Kalispell, MT 406-250-0062
- Kim Annis, Libby, MT 406-293-4161 x207
- James Jonkel, Missoula, MT 406-542-5508 or 406-544-1447
- Eli Hampson, Missoula, MT 406-210-3213
- Brad Balis, Anaconda, MT 406-465-9343
- Bruce Montgomery, Bitterroot, MT
- Jeremiah Smith, Bozeman, MT 406-577-7877
- Wesley Sarmiento, Conrad, MT 406-450-1097
- Chad White, Choteau, MT 406-466-5100
- Vacant, Red Lodge, MT 406-850-1131

General Bear Distribution in Montana



**In an actual emergency,
phone 9-1-1.**

Seeing a grizzly is not necessarily a reportable encounter or an emergency. Report encounters where the bear displayed aggressive or defensive behavior toward people, livestock or pets.

Weapons Restriction Areas

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

The following equipment restrictions apply to weapons restriction areas:

Archery

See legal archery equipment in the "Laws and Rules" section on page 3.

Crossbows

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

Muzzleloader

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

Traditional Handguns

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

Shotgun

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

Restricted Area Descriptions

Restricted area descriptions include closed and/or weapons restricted areas. It is your responsibility to know that you are in a legal hunting area.

Bad Rock Canyon WMA: Closed to spring black bear hunting.

BMU 309 Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area: Black bear hunting is restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader, or crossbow only, EXCEPT the Sourdough Exclusion Zone of BMU 309 which is excluded from these weapons restrictions. See BMU Legal description on page 10. Map available from FWP Region 3, Bozeman Office 406-577-7900, or on the web at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/default.html.

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

Brinkman Game Preserve: Closed to bear hunting.

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

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

point of beginning.

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

Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area, Teton County: As posted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helena Valley Weapons Restriction Area: That portion of Deer/Elk HD 388 west of the following boundary: From the intersection of US Highway 12-287 and Lake Helena Drive, then north on said drive to the south shore of the Causeway Arm, then north and east on said shore to Hauser Lake.

Kuhns Wildlife Management Area: Map available from FWP Region 1, Kalispell office 406-752-5501.

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

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

the point of beginning.

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

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

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

Prison Ranch Archery-only Area: The following MCE Ranch lands are open to hunting of big game only with Lawful Archery Equipment as outlined in the hunting regulations provided by Montana FWP: Beginning at the junction of the Old Stage Road (county road) and Elk Ridge Road (Forest Service Road 5149) in Section 22, T8N, R10W and proceeding west along the Elk Ridge Road to the power line road (prison fence line) in the southeast 1/4 of Section 22, T8N, R10W, then south along the power line road (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of the prison fence in Section 28, T7N, R10 W, then east along the south boundary Section 28, T7N, R10W (prison fence line) to the southwest corner of Section 27, T7N, R10W, then south to the southwest corner of Section 34, T7N, R10W, then east to the southeast corner of Section 34, T7N R10W, then south to the southwest corner of Section 2, T6N, R10W, then east along the prison fence line to the Dempsey Lake Road (county road), then northeasterly along Dempsey Lake Road (prison fence line) to the southeast corner of Section 36 T7N R10W, then north along the prison fence line on east edge of Section 36 and 25, T7N, R10W to corner of the prison fence line in Section 25, T7N, R10W, then east along prison fence line in N2 Section 30, T7N, R9W to the corner of the prison fence line at Lake Hill Road (county road); then north approx. 1/2 mile along the east side of Sections 30 and 19, T7N, R9W to the corner of prison fence line on the eastern edge of Section 19, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence west and northerly in Sections 19 and 18 T7N R9W to the northeast corner of Section 18, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence east approx. 1/2 mile along the southern boundary of Section 8, T7N, R9W, then follow the prison fence north approx. 1/2 mile to the junction of the airport fence, then proceeding northwesterly, follow the fence bordering the airport, golf course and National Guard Armory through sections 8, 5 and 6, T7N, R9W to the Old Stage Road (county road), then follow the Old Stage Road northwest through Sections 36, 26, and 22, T8N, R10W to the junction of the Elk Ridge Road (USFS Road 5149), the point of beginning.

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

then west on Riverview Drive to Snowmass Drive in Section 9, T16N, R15W, then north on Snowmass Drive to section line between Sections 4 and 5, T16N, R15W, then north on said section line to Clearwater River, then north along west shore of Clearwater River to Boy Scout Road in Section 33, T17N, R15W, then west and north on said road to where USFS land and private land meet next to Boy Scout Road in Section 20, T17N, R15W, the point of beginning.

Sun River Game Preserve: Closed to all hunting. Beginning at a point on the crest of the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, due south of the head or source of the South Fork of the Sun River, in what will be, when surveyed, Section 8, T18N of R10W, Montana meridian, then due north from the crest of the Continental Divide to the head of the south fork of the Sun River, then northerly along the east bank of the South Fork of the Sun River (the eastern boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to its confluence with the North Fork of the Sun River, then northerly along the east bank of the North Fork of the Sun River (the eastern boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to its head or source, then due north to the crest of the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains, then along said crest southwesterly and southerly (the western boundary of the Sun River Game Preserve) to the place of beginning. Intending hereby to include in said game preserve all that territory lying between the South Fork of the Sun River and the North Fork of the Sun River on the east and the Continental Divide of the Rocky Mountains on the west.

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

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

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

Be Bear Aware!

Black bear hunters must be able to tell the difference between a grizzly and a black bear because grizzly bears cannot be legally hunted in Montana.

- Learn how to identify bears.
- Be absolutely sure of your target.

If in doubt, don't shoot.

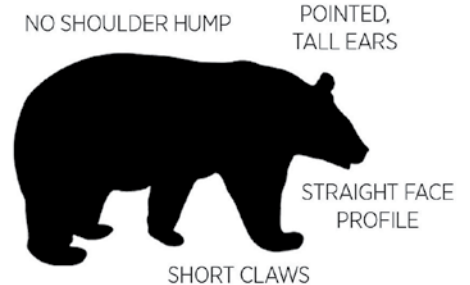
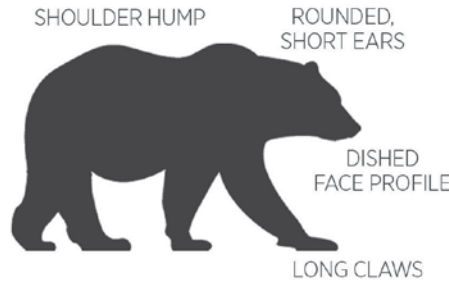
Bear Hunters: Know How to Release Your Dogs from Snares and Traps

For more information, go to the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov/hunt/trapping and click on the links under "Helpful Information."

GRIZZLY BEAR

VS

BLACK BEAR



LOOK FOR A COMBINATION OF CHARACTERISTICS
COLOR AND SIZE CAN BE MISLEADING
MONTANA FWP

Contacts

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.....	406-444-2535
Harvest Reporting	1-877-FWP-WILD or 1-877-397-9453 or 406-444-0356 or the MyFWP portal at fwp.mt.gov
Quota Status	1-800-385-7826 or 406-444-1989
Hunter Education.....	406-444-9948
Wildlife.....	406-444-2612
Enforcement.....	406-444-2452
Montana State Parks.....	406-444-3750
Special drawings.....	406-444-2950
Resident and nonresident licensing.....	406-444-2535
Hearing Impaired (use Montana Relay)	7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091

Contacts Outside Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies

Agriculture.....	406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters.....	406-841-2300
Livestock.....	406-444-7323
State Lands (DNRC)	406-444-2074
Tourism.....	406-841-2870

Federal Agencies

US Department of Interior (USDI).....	202-208-3100
USDI Fish & Wildlife Service.....	406-449-5225
USDA Forest Service.....	406-329-3511
USDI Bureau of Land Management.....	406-896-5000
National Weather Service.....	406-329-4840 (Missoula)

Tribal Governments

Blackfeet Reservation.....	406-338-7276
Crow Reservation.....	406-638-2179
Flathead Reservation.....	406-883-2888 ext 7200
Fort Belknap.....	406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation.....	406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne Reservation.....	406-477-6284
Rocky Boy Reservation.....	406-395-4207

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

REGION 1
 490 N Meridian Rd
 Kalispell, MT 59901
 406-752-5501

REGION 2
 3201 Spurgin Rd
 Missoula, MT 59804
 406-542-5500

REGION 3
 1400 South 19th Ave
 Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
 406-577-7900

HELENA Area Res Office (HARO)
 930 Custer Ave W
 Helena, MT 59620
 406-495-3260

BUTTE Area Res Office (BARO)
 1820 Meadowlark Ln
 Butte, MT 59701
 406-494-1953

REGION 4
 4600 Giant Springs Rd
 Great Falls, MT 59405
 406-454-5840

LEWISTOWN Area Res Office (LARO)
 333 Airport Road, Ste. 1
 Lewistown, MT 59457
 406-538-4658

REGION 5
 2300 Lake Elmo Dr
 Billings, MT 59105
 406-247-2940

REGION 6
 1 Airport Rd,
 Glasgow, MT 59230
 406-228-3700

HAVRE Area Res Office (HVARO)
 2165 Hwy 2 East
 Havre, MT 59501
 406-265-6177

REGION 7
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 PO Box 1630
 Miles City, MT 59301
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