

**2024**

# **WOLF | FURBEARER | TRAPPING**

**MONTANA FWP** | **Trapping and Hunting Regulations**



Fisher | *Martes pennanti*

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

**[fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)**



## Highlights & Reminders

- Wolf trapping seasons and dates will be addressed at October 2024 meeting.
- Wolverines are protected by Federal law under the Endangered Species Act
- Snare are included in the definition of Trap (MCA 87-6-101)
- Grizzly bears distribution and numbers are generally increasing in Montana. Bears may be present anywhere in the western half of the state. For tips on avoiding a surprise encounter or conflict with bears go to [fwp.mt.gov/bear-aware](http://fwp.mt.gov/bear-aware). FWP recommends that hunters carry and know how to use bear spray when hunting and trapping in potential grizzly bear country. When possible, trappers should set traps so they can be checked from a distance.
- Information on wolf trapping dates, affected areas, and quotas, can be found on the wolf species hunt guide web page Find the link at [fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf).
- Marten trapping closure now includes that portion of Montana north of I-90 and east of I-15.
- Non-resident trapping licenses now apply to furbearers and are available for purchase at regional FWP offices, see page 3.
- Trapper education is required for any resident trapper who has not purchased a trapping license for three years in their lifetime (does not need to be consecutive). This does not apply to those trapping for the purposes of livestock or property protection.
- Special trapping regulations in **Lynx Protection Zones** see page 13.
- The capture of any animal that cannot be lawfully trapped, including domestic animals, must be reported to FWP within 24 hours.
- E-tags available for wolf licenses.

## Regulations Adopted by Fish & Wildlife Commission

Regulations for season dates, structures, and restrictions were adopted by the F&W Commission on Aug. 17, 2024, under the authority granted in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid from the date of adoption, through June 30, 2025. 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. Dustin Temple, Director.

**Discrimination Prohibited** – State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any FWP program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Human Resources, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20250. Any changes made to this printed publication can be found on the FWP website or by inquiring at any local FWP office.

## Definitions

**Bait (CR)** - Bait is defined as the meat or viscera of a mammal, bird or fish, or any part thereof more than one pound in weight. Bleached bones are excluded.

**Center Swivel (CR)** – A swivel located on the underside of the trap as near the center of the base plate as reasonably possible. The swivel can be attached directly to the base plate at the center, attached to a D-ring centered on the base plate, or can be included in the chain at a point no more than 5 normal chain links from a centered D-ring or base plate attachment point at the center.

**Excess Take (CR)** - The take of a legally harvestable species after the season is closed or an individual's possession limit has been met.

**Fur Dealer (MCA 87-4-301)** – Any person or persons, firm, company, or corporation engaging in or conducting wholly or in part the business of buying or selling, trading or dealing within the state of Montana, in the skins or pelts of any animal or animals, designated by the laws of Montana as furbearing or predatory animals. If such fur dealer resides in or the principal place of business is within the state of Montana, that dealer shall be deemed a resident fur dealer. All other fur dealers should be deemed nonresident fur dealers.

**Furbearers (MCA 87-6-101)** – Furbearing animals are legally defined as beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverine, bobcat, swift fox, and lynx. There is currently no season for lynx or for wolverine. Bobcats are the only furbearer that may be hunted in Montana.

**Ground Set (CR)** – Any trap or snare originally set in or on the land

(soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated less than 48 inches above the natural ground or current snow level. Two swivels, including a center swivel on the base of the trap, are required for all ground set foothold traps. The swivel can be attached directly to the base plate at the center, attached to a D-ring centered on the base plate, or can be included in the chain at the point to more than five normal chain links from the centered D-ring or base plate attachment point at the center.

**Hunt (MCA 87-6-101)** : 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.

**Legal Wolf** – Any male or female wolf, including young-of-the-year.

**Nongame Wildlife (MCA 87-6-101)** – Any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other animal not otherwise legally classified by Montana statute or regulation. Examples of nongame wildlife are badger, raccoon, and red fox. There is no resident license required to trap nongame wildlife. Nonresidents must purchase a license in order to trap nongame wildlife.

**Non-target Capture (CR)**– Capture of any animal that cannot be lawfully trapped, including domestic animals.

**Predatory Animals (MCA 87-6-101)** – Coyote, weasel, skunk, and civet cat. There is no resident license required to trap predators. Nonresidents must purchase a license in order to trap predators.

**Relaxing Snare** – A relaxing snare has a snare lock that allows the snare loop to release constriction pressure on the captured animal when the cable is not taut (e.g., when the animal stops pulling, it will loosen). This means that the locking device on the snare cable operates both ways allowing the snare cable to move back and forth to some degree. Locks that only close or that use springs or other powering devices to hold them closed are not considered relaxing snares. See page 25 for examples of relaxing snares.

**Trap (MCA 87-6-101)** – To take or harvest or participate in the taking or harvesting of any wildlife protected by the laws of the state by setting or placing any mechanical device, snare, deadfall, pit, or device intended to take wildlife or to remove wildlife from any of these devices.

**Region**– See region legal descriptions on page 20.

**Water Set (CR)** – Any trap originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides. This shall not apply to temporarily standing water resulting from any cause, such as rainfall, snow, runoff, or flooding.

**Wolf Management Unit (WMU 313)** – See legal description on page 21.

## Furbearer Season Dates by Region

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Beaver	Nov. 1 - April 15			Sept. 1 - May 31			
Otter	Nov. 1 - April 15						
Muskrat							
Mink							
Bobcat	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15			Dec. 1 - Mar. 1			
Marten	Dec. 1 - Feb. 15					Closed Season	
Fisher		Dec. 1 - Feb. 15	Closed Season				
Wolverine	Closed Season						
Swift Fox	Closed Season					Nov. 1 - Jan. 15	Closed Season
Lynx	Closed Season						

## Wolf Season Dates

Archery Season	General Season	Trapping Season
Sept. 2 - Sept. 14	Sept. 15 - Mar. 15	See wolf on page 15

License Chart		
LICENSE	REQUIREMENTS	COST
Base Hunting License	Annual fee charged at the time the hunter purchases their first hunting license.	\$10 Resident
		\$15 Nonresident
Conservation License	Prerequisite at the time the hunter purchases their first hunting or fishing license. The Conservation License allows hunters, anglers, and trappers access to all legally accessible state school trust lands. Contact a DNRC office for regulations.	\$4 Resident 6-17, 62+
		\$8 Resident 18-62
		\$10 Nonresident
Wolf License without a Sportsmans or Combination License	Must be purchased by Feb. 28, 2025. Maximum of 10 per person.	\$12 Resident
		\$50 Nonresident
Wolf License with a Sportsmans or Combination License	Only valid for the first wolf license purchased after purchasing a sportsmans or combination license. Must select "discounted" wolf license.	\$10 Resident
		\$25 Nonresident
Bobcat Hunting License Resident	License must be purchased by Nov. 30, 2024. Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older.	\$ 20 Resident
Resident General Trapping License	<p>Purchase by Feb. 28, 2025. Available to resident Conservation License holders 12 years of age or older. Allows license holder to trap wolves. Also allows license holders to trap furbearers, hunt or chase bobcat. License must be purchased by Nov. 30, 2024 to be valid for bobcat.</p> <p>Trapper education is required for any resident that has not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons. Residents who have a certification to trap wolves, but have not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons, must take trapper education to purchase a trapping license. Residents who have purchased a trapper's license in three previous seasons, but have not completed the wolf trapper certification course, must do so prior to setting traps for wolves. Residents who have not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons, but wish to only trap wolves, must take the trapper education course. Non-residents who wish to trap wolves in Montana must have the wolf trapper education certification.</p>	\$20
Landowner Trapping License Resident	Purchase by Feb. 28, 2025. Applicant must give legal description of owned or leased land, name, address, and resident ALS number. Allows license holder to hunt and trap wolves and furbearers. License holder restricted to trapping and hunting only on their owned property and leased lands. Completion of either the Idaho or Montana wolf trapping certification class is mandatory. Issued only through FWP offices. License must be purchased by Nov. 30, 2024 to be valid for bobcat.	\$1
Nonresident Trapping License	Purchase by Feb. 28, 2025. Available only to nonresident Conservation License holders 12 years of age or older, whose state of residence has nonresident trapper licenses available to Montana trappers. Completion of either the Idaho or Montana wolf-trapping certification class is mandatory to trap wolves. Issued only through FWP offices. Valid only for predatory animals, nongame wildlife, wolves, and furbearers (exceptions apply). License must be purchased by Nov. 30, 2024 to be valid for bobcat. Season Dates: Oct. 16-April 15.	\$250
Youth Trapper, Resident	Purchase by Feb. 28, 2025. Available to resident conservation license holders 6 through 11 years of age. Valid only for two furbearers – mink and muskrat.	Free
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	A Bow and Arrow License plus the proper hunting license are required during wolf Archery Only Season.	\$10 Resident
		\$10 Nonresident
Resident Hound Training (RHTL)	Purchase by Feb. 28, 2025. Available to resident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older.	\$5
Special DNRC Recreational Use License	Apply by Sept. 30 annually. Required to trap on state school trust lands. Contact Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to apply for this license (406-444-2074).	Free
Fur Dealer	First-time purchase any time but renewal must be by May 1. Issued only through FWP Helena Headquarters, Law Enforcement Division.	\$10 Resident \$10 Agent * Nonresident
*Montana nonresident fur dealer license cost is the same cost as a nonresident fur dealer license in the home state of the applicant.		

## License Information

The following licenses, with the exceptions noted under "Requirements," are available at Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and most FWP license providers throughout the state. Mail-in applications are available online at the FWP website [ols.fwp.mt.gov](https://ols.fwp.mt.gov). The current year's trapper license is valid July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

**Resident Hound Training License (RHTL)** – Entitles license holder to use a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats during the hound training season from Dec. 2 - April 14 of the following year per MCA 87-2-521. A person may not kill a mountain lion or bobcat with a RHTL.

## Obtain a License

Trapper education is required for any resident that has not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons. Residents who have a certification to trap wolves, but have not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons, must take trapper education to purchase a trapping license. Residents who have purchased a trapper's license in three previous seasons, but have not completed the wolf trapper certification course, must do so prior to setting traps for wolves. Residents who have not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons, but wish to only trap wolves, must take the trapper education course. Nonresidents who wish to trap wolves in Montana must have the wolf trapper education certification. Trapper education is required for non-resident trappers targeting furbearers.

Licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers, and online at [ols.fwp.mt.gov](https://ols.fwp.mt.gov).

## Licensing – Youth Hunting Opportunities

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, 2025, may hunt any game species, for which their license is valid, after Aug. 15 of the 2024 license year. Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of purchase.

- Apprentice Hunters - are not eligible to hunt wolves. Visit [fwp.mt.gov](https://fwp.mt.gov) for details.
- 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.

## 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.

### Resident

- To be a legal Montana resident and eligible to purchase any Montana resident fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses, as per MCA 87-2-102, you must:
  - Claim Montana as your principal or primary home or place of abode
  - 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
  - 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
- 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).
- To purchase an annual resident Conservation License, you will be required to show a valid Montana Driver 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 license is NOT an acceptable form of ID for resident license purchases. Contact your local FWP office for specifics.
- 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.

## Hunter/Trapper Education Requirements

### Hunter Education for Firearm and Archery

- If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana Hunter Safety and Education Course (or an approved Hunter Safety Course from any other state or province) prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.
- Bowhunter requirements - in order to purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow license, a hunter must provide a certificate of completion of a National Bowhunter Education Course or provide any prior year's archery license from any state or province.
- 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.

**Trapper Education Requirement (MCA 87-2-127)** - A trapping license may not be issued to a resident unless the license agent processing the application determines proof of:

- The applicant's purchase of a trapping license in three prior trapping seasons; or
- Completion of a trapper education course established pursuant to this section or otherwise approved by the trapper education committee.
- Neither the department nor a license agent is required to provide records of past Montana trapper's license purchases prior to 1990 or for trapping licenses purchased in another state.
- A resident is not required to complete a trapper education course if the resident:
  - Is trapping for the purposes of livestock or property protection; or
  - Completes the advanced level of the youth trapper camp offered by the Montana Trappers Association.

Trapper education is required for any resident that has not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons. Residents who have a certification to trap wolves, but have not purchased a trapping license in three prior trapping seasons, must take trapper education to purchase a trapping license. Residents who have purchased a trapper's license in three previous seasons, but have not completed the wolf trapper certification course, must do so prior to setting traps for wolves. Residents who have not purchased a trapper's license in three prior trapping seasons, but wish to only trap wolves, must take the trapper education course. Non-residents who wish to trap wolves in Montana must have the wolf trapper education certification. Trapper education is required for non-resident trappers targeting furbearers.

## Laws and Rules

These laws and rules apply to trapping and hunting of **furbearers, predatory animals, and nongame wildlife**. They do not apply to trapping that is regulated by Title 81 (Livestock), Montana Code Annotated. Wolves are a nongame species designated by FWP as a species in need of management. Wolves may only be taken by hunting or trapping during the designated seasons. Taking of furbearers during the open season by any means other than trapping or snaring is unlawful, unless otherwise stated.

- Statute denoted by MCA.
- Commission Rule denoted by CR.
- Arm Rule denoted by ARM.

### Airborne Hunting (16 USC 742j-1)

Any person who: While airborne in an aircraft shoots or attempts to shoot for the purpose of capturing or killing any bird, fish, or



other animal; or

(2) Uses an aircraft to harass any bird, fish, or other animal; or

(3) Knowingly participates in using an aircraft for any purpose referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) Exception; report of State to Secretary

(1) This section shall not apply to any person if such person is employed by, is an authorized agent of, or is operating under a license or permit of, any State or the United States to administer or protect or aid in the administration or protection of land, water, wildlife, livestock, domesticated animals, human life, or crops and each such person so operating under a license or permit shall report to the applicable issuing authority each calendar quarter the number and type of animals taken.

#### **Archery Equipment (CR)**

- It is unlawful to use any chemical or explosive device attached to an arrow to aid in the taking of wolves.
- 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 wolves 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 inch at the widest point. Expandable broadheads are legal as long as when expanded they are at least 7/8 inch at the widest point and weigh no less than 70 grains.
- Arrows equipped with lighted nocks are allowed.

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. Exception: Camera devices attached to bows for

the sole purpose of filming is allowed.

- A bow sight or arrow that uses artificial light, luminous chemicals such as tritium, or electronics. Exception: an arrow may have a lighted nock.

**Capture of Domestic Dogs (CR)** – To improve the understanding of accidental dog captures in traps, trappers must report such captures, excluding a trapper's dog, to a FWP regional office within 24 hours of identifying the capture.

#### **Checking and Placing Wolf Traps (CR)**

- Wolf traps shall be visually checked at least once every 48 hours.
- Wolf traps must be removed within 24 hours of capturing an individual trapper's last legally harvested wolf.
- Failure to pick up traps at the end of the trapping season or attending them in a manner that wastes animals constitutes a misdemeanor per Montana law.
- A trapper must immediately dispatch any uncollared wolf captured that may be legally possessed.
- A trapper with an unfilled bag limit may release an uninjured collared wolf.

**Closures (CR)** – see page 11 for details.

**Exposed Carcass or Baiting (CR)** – No trap or snare may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait that is visible from above. Additional restrictions apply within Lynx Protection Zones, see page 13. Baiting is allowed for the hunting of wolves.

**Excess Take Resulting in an Unlawfully Harvested Animal (CR)** - Excess take is defined as the take of a legally harvestable species after the season is closed or an individual's possession limit has been met.

- Hunters: If you or a member of your hunting party shoots a wolf that results in an unlawfully taken animal, you should notify an FWP game warden or 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately and follow their instructions. DO NOT transport the animal until you've received instructions.
- Trappers: If a wolf trapper catches a wolf beyond the legal limit, the wolf must be released. FWP requests to be contacted to assess the potential to fit the wolf with a radio collar for management purposes.

#### **Firearms (CR)**

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

#### **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.

**Harvest Data Reporting (CR)** – Trappers and hunters are required to personally provide harvest registration data for bobcat, otter, marten, fisher, and swift fox at the time the pelt is presented to a designated FWP employee for tagging.

#### **Hunting Hours (CR)**

**Bobcat** - Authorized hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season.

**Wolves** - Authorized hunting hours for the taking of wolves on public lands begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season.

**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, sheep, mountain goat, black bear, and mountain lion must meet the hunter orange requirement while hunting.

## **Indian Reservations (MCA 87-6-602, CR)**

**Furbearer** - The F&W Commission has, by rule, closed all Trust lands to the hunting and trapping of all furbearers with the use of state licenses. FWP will not provide Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or state pelt tags for furbearers taken from all Trust lands. Furbearers lawfully taken under state regulations with a Montana trapping license, during an open season, from deeded "fee" lands within the exterior boundary of a reservation may be tagged by a designated FWP employee. The bobcat season on all lands within the Flathead Indian Reservation are closed by FWP Commission Rule.

**Wolves** - The F&W Commission has by rule, closed all lands within the exterior boundaries of Montana's Indian Reservations to the hunting of wolves 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 wolves, by nonmembers, with a state license is closed. Please contact FWP for further information.

**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.

**Inspection by Warden (MCA 87-1-502)** - Wildlife taken must be shown to FWP enforcement personnel for inspection when requested.

**Kill Site Verification (ARM 12.6.1005)** - At the request of a department 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, 305)**

**It is unlawful to:**

- Hunt or trap or attempt to hunt or trap for any furbearing animal or wolf unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time.
- Refuse to produce a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a game warden.
- Alter or change a license in any material manner.
- Loan or transfer any license to another person.
- Use a license issued to another person.
- Have 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 prohibition 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.

**Live Furbearers** - Wild furbearers captured alive must be killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport wild furbearers alive. Live furbearing animals may not be possessed or transported except under the provisions of the fur farm or roadside zoo permits. It is unlawful to capture wild furbearers for fur farm stock.

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

- A hunter must electronically validate the license or cut out the proper month and day of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the animal, before the carcass/hide is removed from the site of the kill or before the hunter leaves the site of the kill.
- To properly validate a license (sometimes referred to as a tag) the triangles denoting the month and day the animal was killed must be completely cut out and removed.

**Littering (MCA 75-10-212, MCA 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.

**Lynx Season Closed (MCA 87-6-602, CR)** - Trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to a FWP warden or biologist within 24 hours of release. If a lynx is injured, trappers must immediately notify a warden, biologist, or an FWP regional office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal.

**Marked or Radio-Collared Animals (CR)** - It is lawful to harvest furbearers and wolves 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 (CR)** - A person may not, while hunting, use any electronic motion-tracking device or mechanism, as defined by commission rule, that is designed to track the motions of a wolf and relay information on the animal's movement to the hunter. A radio collar attached to a dog that is used by a hunter engaged in lawful hunting activities is not considered a motion-tracking device or mechanism for the purposes of this commission regulation.

## **Motorized Vehicles (MCA 87-6-405)**

It is unlawful for anyone to:

- 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 18.
- 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)**

- 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.

**Non-target Capture Requirement (CR)** - The capture of any animal that cannot be lawfully trapped or snared, including domestic animals, must be reported to FWP within 24 hours. Any such animal that is uninjured must be released prior to the trapper leaving the trap site. If unable to safely release the animal, call FWP. Exception: Any such animal that is injured or dead must promptly (with little or no delay) be reported to FWP to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Animals that may be lawfully trapped or snared are furbearers or wolves for which the season is open and an individual possession limit has not been reached, nongame wildlife and predators. A trapper may NOT trap any game animal, game bird or migratory bird. The department shall notify the commission upon the reported non-target capture of any lynx, wolverine, or grizzly bear.

## **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.

**Occupied Dwellings (CR)** - All neck snares and body gripping ground sets set for animals larger than ground squirrels are unlawful within 1,000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification to the inhabitant.

**Pelt Possession (CR)** - It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur

dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged bobcat, otter, fisher, marten, or wolverine, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana that are accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition.

**Pelt Tags (CR)** – The pelt tag is required to remain attached to the pelt until tanned or after being exported.

**Predators and Nongame Hunting** - Predators and nongame species are unprotected by federal and/or state law or regulation and can be hunted in Montana year-round without a license by both resident and nonresident hunters. The State Lands Recreational License is included in the Conservation License for the purpose of hunting, fishing, and trapping and is required to hunt predators and nongame species on state school trust lands. Permission must be obtained to hunt predators and nongame species on private land.

- **Predators** 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.

#### **Quotas and Season Closures (CR)**

**Furbearers** - Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota or subquota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. The F&W Commission has authorized the department to initiate a closure prior to reaching a quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 48-hour closure notice period.

**Wolves** - When a quota is reached, the hunting and trapping season for the state, the region and/or WMU will close upon a 24-hour notice, but no later than Mar. 15, 2025.

**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.

**Setbacks (CR)** - see page 10 for details.

#### **Snares (CR)**

**Furbearers** - All snares are required to be equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied. Breakaway snares must be fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground. The use of drags is unlawful on snares. All snares in Lynx Protection Zones must be equipped with a relaxing device. All bobcat snares in regions 1, 2, and portions of 3, 4, and 5 (see map on page 9) must be equipped with a relaxing device. Appropriate breakaway snares and relaxing devices for snares are listed on page 25.

**Wolves** - Snares are a lawful method of trapping during the wolf trapping season. Snaring is permitted on public and private lands consistent with trapping season dates, **EXCEPTION:** Snaring is not allowed on public lands within the Lynx Protection Zones (LPZs). Snares must be equipped with a loop stop that will close to a loop no smaller than 2.5 inches in diameter (stop placed at no less than 8 inches from end of loop). Snares must have a breakaway device rated at 1,000 lbs. or less installed on the loop end. Snares must be placed such that the bottom of the snare loop is at least 18 inches above the surface. Power-assisted (e.g., spring-loaded) snare locks are prohibited on wolf snares on public lands.

#### **Transport of Wildlife**

- An individual other than the license holder may transport lawfully taken, properly tagged wolves.
- It is unlawful to ship, possess, transport, or take out of state unlawfully killed wolves.
- 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 and Wildlife Service declaration form. For further information contact the USFWS wildlife inspector at 406-335-4350 or fws.gov.
- Questions concerning carcass transport may be directed to FWP enforcement at 406-444-2452 or to your home state's wildlife division.

**Trapped Wolves (CR)** – Trappers must immediately dispatch wolves via gunshot. Trappers will be allowed to dispatch trapped wolves

during all hours, including night time. You cannot “high-grade” your take by releasing a wolf that you do not want. If the wolf is radio-collared, see the section “Marked or Radio-Collared Animals”.

**Wolf Traps (CR)** - Ground set foothold traps and snares are lawful methods during the wolf trapping season. The inside jaw spread of foothold traps must not exceed 9 inches. Wolf foothold pan tension must be a minimum of 10 pounds in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Conibears may not be used to take wolves.

#### **Trapping and snaring offenses (MCA 87-6-601)**

- A person may not use a trap or snare for the purpose of trapping or snaring a fur-bearing animal, a predatory animal, or a nongame species unless:
  - the trap or snare is tagged with a metal tag bearing an individual identifying number issued by the department or the owner's name and address unless the person is trapping or snaring on the person's land or an irrigation ditch right-of-way contiguous to the person's land; and
  - the trap or snare is set in a manner and at a time so that it will not unduly endanger livestock. A person who injures livestock in a trap or snare is liable for damages to the owner of the livestock.
- A person may not use a trap or snare for the purpose of trapping or snaring a fur-bearing animal, a predatory animal, or a nongame species on private property without obtaining permission from the landowner, the lessee, or their agents.
- A person may not at any time willfully destroy, open or leave open, or partially destroy a house of any muskrat or beaver, except that trapping in the house of muskrats is not prohibited when authorized by the commission.
- A person may not 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, except that from March 1 to Oct. 1 of each year a person may remove any snare from land owned or leased by the person if the snare would endanger livestock. This does not apply to a law enforcement officer acting within the scope of the officer's duty. **NOTE:** Domestic animals are not wildlife and can be removed from any 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 (CR)** - The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for the purposes of hunting wolves is prohibited.

**Waste of Furbearers (MCA 87-6-603)** - A person may not waste a furbearing animal by purposely or knowingly:

- Failing to pick up traps or snares at the end of the trapping season so that the pelt of a fur-bearing animal is wasted;
- Attending traps or snares so that the furbearing animals are wasted; or
- Wasting the pelt of any furbearing animal.

**Waste of Game** - Wolves are excluded from being considered as “suitable for food”. The wolf carcass may be taken in possession or be left in the field (with pelt) as per Montana law.

### **Private Lands – Night Hunting**

- Wolves may be hunted on private lands at all hours of the day or night.
- For night hunting on private lands, the use of artificial light and night vision scopes are allowed. Infrared and thermal imaging technology are prohibited.



## Procedures to Follow After Harvest

### Wolf

### Furbearer

#### Reporting Requirements (CR)

- All successful wolf hunters and trappers must personally report their wolf kill within 24 hours regardless of their intent to retain possession of the hide and skull by calling the wolf reporting number at **1 877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453)** or **406-444-0356** so that FWP can monitor harvest. Hunters and trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, WMU/region, specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a wolf harvest. Hunters could also report their harvest online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) through myfwp.
- When reporting a wolf 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 wolf harvest within 24 hours of reaching a trailhead.

Trappers and bobcat hunters are required to personally report their bobcat, fisher, otter, and/or swift fox harvests within 24 hours by calling the statewide FWP reporting line at **1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453 or 406-444-0356)** so that FWP can monitor quota levels. Trappers could also report their harvest online at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) through myfwp. Trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, region, county, specific location (TRS or Lat/Long), and sex when reporting a furbearer harvest.

#### Pelt Tagging/Inspection (CR)

A hunter or trapper that lawfully harvests a wolf and wishes to retain possession of the hide and skull, or captures a wolf that must be dispatched, is required to present the hide and skull to a designated FWP employee within 10 days after harvest for the purpose of: Tagging the hide. The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned. Any hide or skull not presented or registered to FWP personnel within 10 days of harvest is subject to confiscation.

Trappers and bobcat hunters are required to personally present the pelts of fisher, bobcat, otter, marten, and swift fox, for tagging to an FWP employee within 10 days of the calendar close of season. Trappers and bobcat hunters are required to provide harvest registration data for fisher, bobcat, otter, marten, and swift fox at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. Trappers and bobcat hunters unable to comply with the pelt tagging requirement due to special circumstances or the unavailability of local FWP personnel must contact a regional FWP office within 10 days of the calendar close of season to make arrangements for tagging by FWP personnel. Pelts not presented or reported to FWP personnel within 10 days of the calendar close of season are subject to confiscation.

#### Specimen Collection (CR)

Not Collected

- Lower Jaw - Hunters or trappers harvesting a bobcat, otter, and/or swift fox must provide a cleaned and air-dried complete lower jaw (both sides) for aging before a pelt tag is issued. Ages of harvested animals provide important information used in setting harvest quotas. Before bringing in the lower jaw, remove as much flesh as possible and allow it to dry in the open air. To prevent decay, do not store or transport in any closed container made of plastic—use a paper bag or cardboard box. The jaw may be returned upon request.
- Carcasses - It is mandatory that the entire and intact carcass of all fisher be turned into FWP in good condition, at the time the pelt is presented for tagging. The skulls will be retained by FWP for processing and examination and then returned to the owner if requested. Good condition is defined as fresh or frozen and securely wrapped in such a manner as to have prevented decomposition in order that all tissue samples are suitable for lab analysis.

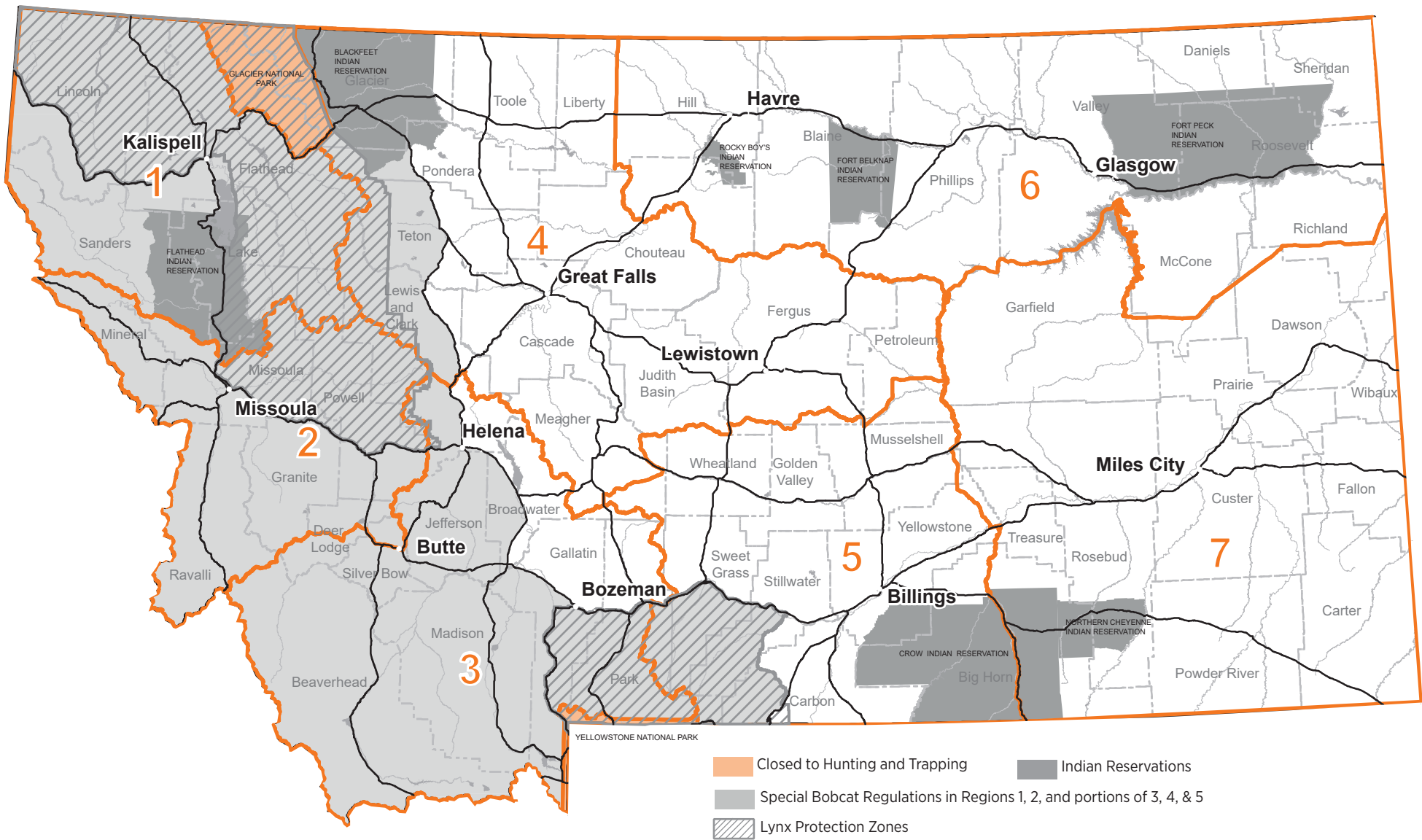
#### Transfer of Possession (MCA 87-6-411)

- A person licensed to hunt and authorized to possess a carcass of a wolf that requires mandatory department biological inspection may, after validating and attaching the license or tag in accordance with 87-6-411, transfer possession of all or part of that wolf 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.
- **REMINDER:** The hunter must still personally report their harvest by phone as required even if a transfer form is completed.
- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell, or purchase any wild wolf harvested in Montana, or part thereof, unless the animal has been tagged as prescribed.
- A hunter or trapper that lawfully harvests a wolf and does not wish to retain possession of the hide and skull, is still required to call the wolf reporting number within 24 hours as described above and personally present (by direct communication in person or on the phone) the above harvest information to a designated FWP employee within 10 days after harvest.

Transfer of possession does not apply to furbearers.



## Furbearer Regional Boundaries and Lynx Protection Zones



## Setbacks

### SETBACKS FOR FURBEARER, PREDATOR, AND NONGAME TRAPPING

**Ground Sets Along Roads and Highways** – Ground sets using 7 x 7 inches and larger body-gripping traps, and all snares, are unlawful within the right-of-way of county roads, state and federal highways, and interstates. Along county roads with no defined right of way these ground sets are unlawful within 50 feet from the edge of the road.

**Jaw Spread Sizes of Common Conibear Traps:** 110 - 4.5 inches, 120 - 4.5 inches, 160 - 6 inches, 220 - 7 inches, 280 - 8 inches, 330 - 10 inches

**Setbacks and Trapping on Public Land with Ground Sets and/or Snares** - The following regulations and setbacks apply to all federal and state public lands for the trapping of furbearers, predatory animals, and non-game wildlife at any time. See the Wolf Regulations for wolf setbacks.

- **Recessing Large Body Grip Traps on Land** - Ground sets using 7 x 7 inches and larger body-gripping traps must have the trigger recessed a minimum of 7 inches in a wood, plastic, or metal enclosure or cubby that provides a maximum opening of 52 square inches or less.
- **Campgrounds and Recreational Sites** - Ground sets including snares are unlawful within 1,000 feet of a designated campground or recreation site that is accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of the year. This includes areas such as, but not limited to, boat ramps or fishing access sites that have construction improvements or are accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of the year.
- **Roads and Trails** - Ground sets and snares require a 50-foot setback from the edge of roads and hiking trails that are designated by administrative signs or numbers. **Exception:** Roads closed year-round to motor vehicle and OHV use are not subject to these setbacks, for instance, Kelly-humped roads that are inaccessible to motor vehicle and OHV use but are lawfully accessible by snowmobile.
- **Trailheads** - Ground sets are unlawful within 300 feet and lethal ground sets and snares are unlawful within 1,000 feet of a designated or marked trailhead that is accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of year.

### SETBACKS FOR WOLF TRAPPING

**Trapping on Public Land** – The following regulations and setbacks apply to all public, federal, and state lands for the trapping of wolves at any time:

- **Campgrounds and Recreational Sites** - Ground sets are prohibited within 1,000 feet of a designated campground or recreation site that is accessible by a highway vehicle. This includes areas such as, but not limited to boat ramps or fishing access sites that have construction improvements or are accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of the year.
- **Public Land Trailheads (CR)**– On public land, foothold traps are prohibited within 1,000 feet of a designated or marked trailhead that is accessible by a highway vehicle at any time of year.
- **Expanded Setbacks along High Recreational Use Trails and Roads** – A 500-foot setback from both edges of the trails and roads listed in this table under expanded setbacks by region is required for all ground set traps in regions 1 and 3.
- **Roads and Trails** – Ground sets and snares require a 150-foot setback from the edge of roads and hiking trails that are designated by administrative signs or numbers. **Exception:** Roads closed year-round to motor vehicle and OHV use are not subject to these setbacks, for instance, Kelly-humped roads that are inaccessible to motor vehicle and OHV use but are lawfully accessible by snowmobile.

**Expanded Setbacks Along High Recreational Use Trails and Roads for Furbearers and Wolves:** A 500-foot setback from both edges of the trails and roads listed below is required for all ground set traps in regions 1 and 3. These setback rules do not apply to state or federal agency management or research efforts.

Region 1	Region 3				
	Hyalite Area	Bozeman Face Trails	West Bridger Mountains	Gallatin Canyon	Paradise Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Big Fork Nordic Trail</li> <li>•Whitefish Legacy Trail</li> <li>•Eureka Rails to Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Lick Creek/Wildhorse Trail #452</li> <li>•History Rock Loops Trail #424</li> <li>•Blackmore Loops Trail #423</li> <li>•Crescent Lake Trail #213</li> <li>•West Shore Trail #431</li> <li>•E. Fork Road/Pallisade Trail #433</li> <li>•Grotto Falls Trail #432</li> <li>•Moser/Buckskin Road Loop</li> <li>•Maxy Loop Trail #62</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bozeman Creek/Moser Winter Trail #850 &amp; #851</li> <li>•South Cottonwood Winter Trail #852</li> <li>•Bear Canyon Winter Trail #848</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•“M” Trails #538, #511, #512 and #513 in Sec 27 T1S, R6E</li> <li>•Sypes Trail #531</li> <li>•Middle Cottonwood Trail #586</li> <li>•Truman Gulch Trail #535</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Porcupine Trail #34</li> <li>•Beehive Basin Winter Trail #861</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mill Creek Trail #945</li> <li>•Suce Creek Trail #44</li> </ul>

### No Setbacks Required for Furbearers and Wolves

Region 1	<p>All of Sanders County (unless designated as a no trapping area or maintaining current setbacks) and southern portions of Lincoln County south of Highway 2 to Big Cherry Creek, then west following Big Cherry Creek to the intersection of Lincoln and Sanders County lines. These no setback areas supersede any setback required otherwise described on this page.</p> <p><b>Exceptions – Maintain current setbacks of 50 ft for furbearers and 150 ft for wolf at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trout Creek-Hope Valley Road from the forest service boundary to the junction of East Fork Trout Creek and Granite Creek. Maintained road for public access in the winter. West of Trout Creek.</li> <li>- Prospect Creek Road from end of snow maintenance to junction of Prospect Creek and Demont Creek, west of Thompson Falls.</li> <li>- Forest Service Roads #7507 and #340 in the Baldy Lake area north of Plains. Snowmobile and ski area.</li> </ul>
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## Closures for Furbearers and Wolves

All National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and Indian Trust or Tribal Trust lands are closed to trapping except as otherwise specified. For information or permits to trap on National Wildlife Refuges, contact the local refuge manager. All Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges are closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season. There are also areas closed to beaver and otter trapping. See the beaver specific section for details.

### Region 1 Closures

- Mule Pasture recreation area, Thompson Falls.
- Finely Flats recreation area, between Thompson Falls and Trout Creek.
- Trout Creek recreation area near Trout Creek.
- Trout Creek administrative and recreation site, Trout Creek.
- Bend Ranger Station- forest service rental cabin and recreation area in the Thompson River Drainage.
- Sheldon Flats recreation area, Libby.
- Flower Creek recreation area, south of Libby.
- Bear Creek Ski Area, south of Libby.
- Round Meadow Nordic Ski Area- North of Kalispell on Star Meadow Road.
- Blacktail Nordic Ski Area, in Lakeside
- Schnaus Rental Cabin-Sonderson Meadow – North Fork of the Flathead.
- Cedar Flats Recreation Area, north of Columbia Falls.

### Region 2 Closures

- Lake Como Ski Area – Ground sets are unlawful from Dec. 1 to March 31. The area is defined as that portion of the Bitterroot National Forest, and Ravalli County, lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of U.S. Forest Service Roads (FS) 550 and 550A, then south and west on FS 550A to its junction with FS 13201, then north on said road to its junction with FS 550, then east on said road to its junction with FS 550A, the point of beginning.
- Blue Mountain and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas, the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area (that portion lying outside and excluding the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area), and the Bass Creek Recreation Area are closed to furbearer trapping. For information or maps of these Special Recreation Areas, contact the local US Forest Service Office.
- Deer and Elk Hunting District 282 is closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season.

## Regulations by Species



### Beaver

- Beaver that have been lawfully trapped can be dispatched with a firearm. Beaver that have not been trapped cannot be taken with a firearm, except as outlined below in damage situations.
- Owners and lessees of property being damaged by beaver or muskrat as described in MCA 87-6-602(2) may request a free permit to remove beaver or muskrat and may remove beaver or muskrat without a permit between June 1 - Aug. 31. Please contact an FWP employee in your administrative region for further information and to request a damage control permit.
- A person participating in a beaver or muskrat damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during control activities. Damaging beaver or muskrat may be removed by trapping or shooting. A person may possess beaver or muskrat under the damage permit.
- Damage permits are only valid for the harvest of up to 10 animals (combined beavers and muskrats) at the location/property specified on the permit. Only those animals that are causing the damage for which the permit was issued may be taken under the damage permit. The damage permit expires May 31 after the date of issue.

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Regions 1, 2, & 3	Nov. 1 - April 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required	None
Regions 4, 5, 6, & 7	Sept. 1 - May 31	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required	None

### Beaver and Otter Closures

**Broadwater County** - Those portions of Dry Creek, Confederate Gulch, White's Gulch, Avalanche Gulch, Eagle Creek, Crow Creek, Jenkins Creek on public land.

**Deer Lodge County** - The entire Dry Cottonwood Creek drainage.

**Gallatin County** - That portion of the Gallatin River and all of its tributaries above the Gallatin River Bridge at the Squaw Creek Ranger Station.

**Gallatin and Park Counties** - That portion of the Yellowstone River and all of its tributaries inside the Gallatin National Forest boundary above the Yellowstone River Bridge on I-90 at Livingston.

**Granite County** - The entire Smart Creek, Wyman Creek, Swamp Gulch Creek, and Sand Basin Creek drainages.

**Lewis and Clark County** - The Blackfoot River upstream from the mouth of Bartlett Creek including the entire Bartlett Creek drainage.

**Mineral County** - The entire Cedar Creek, Big Creek, and Flatrock Creek drainages.

**Missoula and Mineral Counties** - The entire Fish Creek drainage.

**Missoula County** - Nine Mile Creek drainage above Pine Creek.

**Powell County** - The entire Pikes Peak drainage.

**Sweet Grass County** - That portion of the East Boulder River and all its tributaries from the Gallatin National Forest boundary upstream to the headwaters of the East Boulder River.

**Sweet Grass and Park Counties** - That portion of the Main Boulder River and all its tributaries from the mouth of Falls Creek upstream to the headwaters of the Main Boulder River.

**Teton County** - The entire Teton drainage including all tributaries of the South, Middle, West, and North Forks of the Teton River, downstream to the National Forest boundary.

## Regulations by Species

### Bobcat

License must be purchased by Nov. 30 to be valid for bobcat.

**Quotas:** Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov. The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Additional restrictions apply to areas designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 13.



Region	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limits	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/ Inspection	Specimen Collection
1	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	225	4 in region 1 or 7 in combination with regions 1-3	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw
2	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	150	7 in region 2 or 7 in combination with regions 1-3			
3	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	150	5 in region 3 or 7 in combination with regions 1-3			
4	Dec. 1 – March 1	100	No per person limit			
5	Dec. 1 – March 1	50	No per person limit			
6	Dec. 1 – March 1	25	No per person limit			
7	Dec. 1 – March 1	600	No per person limit			

### Bobcat Hunting Season

- Bobcat is the only animal defined by law as a furbearing animal that may be taken by hunting per MCA 87-2-606. Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcat chasing during the hunting season is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Bobcats may not be hunted or taken except during bobcat hunting hours.
- Dogs may be used to take bobcat, but no other animals defined by law as furbearing animals. Dogs may be used to hunt or chase bobcats within prescribed hunting hours and seasons.
- Persons with a trapper license for bobcat may lawfully chase bobcats during the open hunting season and anytime after the season is closed in regions 1, 2, 3 until Feb. 15 or regions 4, 5, 6, 7 until March 1. Nonresidents may not hunt or chase bobcats. Residents must possess a valid trapping license or bobcat hunting license to hunt and chase bobcats or an RHTL (resident hound training license) to only chase bobcats.
- Landowner permission is required to hunt on private land, including releasing dogs or chasing bobcats during the chase-only season.
- The bobcat season on the Flathead Indian Reservation is closed.
- Bobcat hunting license allows a resident hunter to harvest per person bag limit with the single license purchased by Nov. 30th, 2024

### Resident Hound Training Season

Area	Season Dates	Additional Information
ALL	Dec. 2 - Apr 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Resident Hound Training License entitles the license holder to use a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats during the hound training season from Dec. 2 - April 14 of the following year per MCA 87-2-521. A person may not kill a mountain lion or bobcat with a RHTL.</li> <li>• Bobcat chasing is open each day one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Dogs may be used to chase bobcats within prescribed seasons. All Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and Deer, Elk and Mountain Lion hunting district 282 are closed to the Bobcat Hound Training Season.</li> <li>• It is unlawful to release dogs on a bobcat track, or allow dogs to chase a bobcat, or hold a bobcat at bay, when the season is not open to hunting or chasing bobcats.</li> <li>• Bobcats may not be trapped to be later released for hunting and/or chasing with dogs. Wild furbearers captured alive must be killed or released. It is unlawful for a person to possess or transport wild furbearers alive.</li> </ul>



## Regulations by Species



### Lynx are protected by Federal law under the Endangered Species Act

Avoid placing sets that might attract lynx. Trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to a FWP warden or biologist within **24 hours** of release. If a lynx is injured, trappers must immediately notify a FWP warden or biologist or an FWP regional office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Persons who know about the taking of a lynx shall report it by calling 1-800-TIP-MONT (800-847-6668).

**Lynx Protection Zones (applicable on public lands only)** – Special regulations are required on public lands in areas identified as “Lynx Protection Zones” to protect lynx and help trappers avoid accidentally taking lynx in Montana. The special regulations for areas within the Lynx Protection Zones are:

- Rabbit or hare parts, whether for flagging purposes or for bait, may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of natural flagging such as bird wings, feathers, or pieces of fur may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of fresh meat baits is not allowed – only tainted meat bait is allowed (exposed to temperatures above freezing for >24 hours)
- The use of Conibear or “body-gripping” traps are not allowed unless they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:
  - ▶ they are placed as part of a water set
  - ▶ they are placed as part of an elevated set that does not include a leaning pole
  - ▶ they have a jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 inches (a Conibear #120 or smaller)
  - ▶ they are placed in a leaning pole set with a pole diameter of no larger than 4 inches and with trap and bait set at least 48 inches above the surface
  - ▶ if they have a jaw spread of >5 inches, they are placed with the trigger recessed a minimum of seven inches and contained in a wood, plastic, or metal enclosure or cubby with an opening no larger than 52 square inches
- For trappers targeting bobcat, the use of foothold traps are not allowed unless they meet **ONE** of the following criteria:
  - ▶ have an inside jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 3/8 inches
  - ▶ are placed in a leaning pole set with a pole diameter of no larger than 4 inches and with trap and bait set at least 48 inches above the surface
  - ▶ are equipped set with a minimum 10-pound pan tension device
- The use of snares are not allowed unless they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
  - ▶ have a cable diameter greater than or equal to 5/64 inch
  - ▶ have loops that are larger than 8 inches measured from side to side
  - ▶ are equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied are equipped with a relaxing snare lock
  - ▶ all snares in Lynx Protection Zones must be equipped with a relaxing device
  - ▶ **wolf snaring is prohibited on public lands in Lynx Protection Zones**
- All leaning pole sets must use poles that are no larger than 4 inches in diameter and with trap and bait sets at least 48 inches above the surface.
- “Take” of lynx is not allowed due to their federal status as a threatened species. Captures, whether the lynx is released uninjured, is injured, or killed are all considered “take” according to the definition set by federal law and used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Any lynx that is caught and uninjured must be immediately released, if possible. Any trapper who accidentally takes a lynx is required to notify a FWP warden or biologist or an FWP regional office as soon as possible or within 24 hours.
- Trappers targeting bobcat are required to visually check their traps at least once every 48 hours.
- Trappers are strongly encouraged to not set traps if lynx are observed in an area or if lynx tracks are identified. Trappers are also strongly encouraged to use live traps (e.g. box trap) and carry catchpoles to aid in the safe release of non-target species.

### Lynx Protection Zone Descriptions (see map on page 9)

#### Greater Yellowstone Area

Those portions of Gallatin, Park, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 191 and the Montana/Wyoming boundary, then northerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90, then easterly along said interstate to its intersection with Highway 78, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Highway 212, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with the western edge of Section 20 (T8S, R20E), then easterly along the USFS/private land boundary to the northeast corner of the SE ¼ of Section 22 (T8S, R20E), then southerly along the USFS/private land boundary to its intersection with the Montana/Wyoming boundary, then west along said boundary to the point of beginning.

#### Northwest Montana

Those portions of Lincoln, Flathead, Glacier, Lake, Missoula, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Teton and Pondera Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the westernmost point of the Montana/Canada boundary, then south along the Montana/Idaho boundary to its intersection with Highway 2, then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with Highway 35, then southerly along said highway to its intersection Highway 93, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90, the easterly along said interstate to its intersection with Highway 12, then easterly along said highway to MacDonald Pass, then northerly along the USFS/private land boundary and then the Glacier National Park/Blackfeet Reservation boundary to the Montana/Canada boundary, then westerly along said boundary to the point of beginning.



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## Additional Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Wolf and other Species Trapping Regulations Within and Outside the Geographic Scope Identified by Federal Court Order

**On Nov. 12th, 2024 the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted additions to the printed 2024/2025 Wolf, Furbearer, and Trapping Regulations.**

**Supplemental Trapping Permit Requirement:** Effective Dec. 1, 2024, ALL trappers conducting trapping activities (except those using water sets or live cage traps) inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order (see map on the next page) must obtain a free “Supplemental Trapping Permit” when targeting nongame (raccoon, badger, red fox) and predatory animals (coyote, striped skunk, spotted skunk, weasel). This includes those trappers already holding a valid trapping license.

**Trapping for Livestock Protection Requirements:** Trappers conducting trapping activities for livestock protection inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order must complete and sign a declaration identifying the producer’s name, that the producer has provided permission for trapping activities to occur on their private or leased property, and the county where such activities will occur. Landowners trapping for livestock protection on their own lands or lands they have leased for livestock production are exempt from the declaration. Recreational trappers are not required to complete a declaration but must still obtain the Supplemental Trapping Permit. Both recreational trappers and those conducting trapping activities for livestock protection must adhere to the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s “Nontarget Capture Requirement” rule, as it relates to reporting.

**Effective 48 hours after FWP is aware of the capture of any grizzly bear (after Sept. 1):** ALL recreational trappers conducting trapping activities (except those using water sets or live cage traps) inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order (see map on the next page), between Feb. 16 – Dec. 31 must adhere to the following regulations:

- All foothold trap ground sets (regardless of target species) must have an inside jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 1/2 inches.
- Snare are not allowed unless they meet all the following criteria:
  - The snare is equipped with a breakaway lock device installed on the loop end and designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied;
  - The snare is fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground (i.e., the use of drags is unlawful); **and**
  - The top of the loop of the snare is no more than 26 inches above the ground; in snow, 26 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper’s footprint made by the full weight of the trapper.

### Definitions

- Recreational Trappers: any trapper conducting trapping activities that are not undertaken in connection with livestock protection.
- Capture: evidence establishing that a grizzly bear was caught in a lawful recreational or livestock protection trap or snare, or a grizzly bear is actually caught and released from a lawful recreational or livestock protection trap or snare. This excludes any “capture” by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks or United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services. FWP will provide public notice of any capture.

### Wolf Trapping Season Dates

inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order	outside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order
Jan. 1 – Feb. 15, 2025	Dec. 2, 2024- March 15, 2025
see map on the next page	

### Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Animal Welfare

Recreational wolf trappers are encouraged to follow the “Best Management Practices for Trapping Wolves in the United States,” which is published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The best management practices for trapping wolves are as follows:

- Check wolf traps before 12 p.m.;
- See below regarding type of trap and padded vs. offset and/or laminated:

Trap Category	Jaw/Frame Characteristics	Inside Jaw/Frame Spread at Dog in inches	Inside Width at Jaw/Frame Hinge Posts in inches
Coil-spring	Padded	5-3/16" – 8"	6-7/16" – 8"
	Offset and/or laminated or wide jaws	7-1/8" – 7-1/2"	7-3/8" – 7-7/8"
Longspring	Padded	6-3/8"	5-13/16"
	Offset and/or laminated	6-1/8"	5-13/16"
Power Activated Footsnare	Smooth, round rod, 1/8" cable	8"	7-3/4"

- When snaring for coyotes, trappers are encouraged to set the length of the cable at a minimum of 96 inches (8 feet).
- Trappers are encouraged to avoid setting traps if grizzly bear are observed in an area or if grizzly bear tracks are identified.

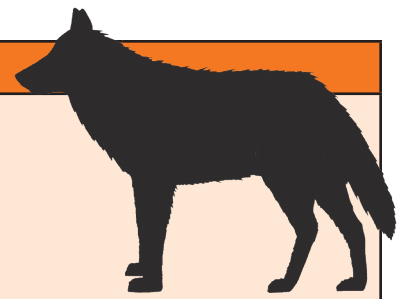
### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Contacts

Headquarters: Helena	(406) 444-2535
Region 1: Kalispell	(406) 752-5501
Region 2: Missoula	(406) 542-5500
Region 3: Bozeman	(406) 577-7900
Region 4: Great Falls	(406) 454-5840
Region 5: Billings	(406) 247-2940
Region 6: Glasgow	(406) 228-3700
Region 7: Miles City	(406) 234-0900





## Regulations by Species



### Wolf

**Quotas:** Statewide, region specific and WMU 313/316 specific harvest quotas have been established. When a quota is reached, all hunting and trapping for the state, the region and/or WMU will close upon a 24-hour notice, but no later than March 15, 2025. Wolf Harvest Monitoring: Harvests will be updated on the MTFWP website at [myfwp.mt.gov/fwpub/speciesHuntingGuide](http://myfwp.mt.gov/fwpub/speciesHuntingGuide) between 11am and 1 pm daily.

Resident and nonresident hunters and trappers may harvest any wolf in any open WMU or region statewide during the archery only, general, and trapping seasons. A person can take up to 20 wolves with no more than 10 via hunting and no more than 10 via trapping (maximum harvest of 20 wolves per person). For hunting, a separate license is required for each wolf. For trapping, only a trapping license is required.

#### Season Dates

**Archery Only Season:** Sept. 2- Sept. 14, 2024

**General Season:** Sept. 15 - March 15, 2025

#### Trapping Season:

Trapping season dates will be addressed by the commission at their October 2024 meeting. For more information, see [fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf).

Additional restrictions apply to areas designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 13.

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/ Inspection	Specimen Collection
Statewide	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 2 - Sept. 14 <b>General:</b> Sept. 15- Mar. 15 <b>Trapping:</b> See information above	334	Required within 24 hours of harvest.	Only required if pelt is retained	Not collected
Region 1		131			
Region 2		104			
Region 3		52			
WMU 313		3			
Wolves harvested in WMU 313 do not count toward the region 3 quota. WMU 313 is closed to wolf trapping in the Deckard Flats to Trail Creek Wolf Trapping Closure Area.					
WMU 316		3			
Wolves harvested in WMU 316 do not count toward the region 3 quota.					
Region 4		20			
Region 5		11			
Region 6		4			
Region 7		6			

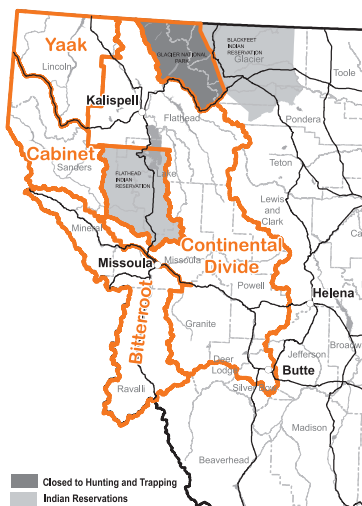
#### Hunting

- Baiting is legal for the hunting of wolves. Baiting restrictions apply within Lynx Protection Zones. See page 13.
- Wolves can be hunted on private lands outside of daylight hours with the use of artificial light and night vision scopes. Infrared and thermal imaging technology are prohibited. Night hunting on public lands is prohibited.

#### Trapping

- Snares are a lawful method of trapping during the wolf trapping season. Snaring is permitted on public and private lands consistent with trapping season dates, **EXCEPTION:** Snaring is not allowed on public lands within the Lynx Protection Zones (LPZs). Additional snare regulations are on page 7.
- Wolf trap pan tension must be at least 10 pounds in Regions 1,2,3,4, and 5.
- Trappers must immediately dispatch a trapped wolf by gunshot – unless otherwise authorized not to do so by FWP prior to wolf-trapping efforts.

## Regulations by Species



### Fisher

**Quotas:** Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota or subquota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season.

Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Additional restrictions apply to areas designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 13.

#### Fisher Management Unit (FMU) Descriptions

**Bitterroot FMU:** Mineral and Ravalli counties along with that portion of Missoula County that is south of I-90.

**Cabinet FMU:** Sanders County and that portion of Lincoln County that is south of Hwy 2.

**Yaak FMU:** Lincoln County, north of Hwy 2.

**Continental Divide FMU:** all those areas east of the Bitterroot, Cabinet, and Yaak fisher units and west of the continental divide.

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Bitterroot FMU	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	Overall: 5 Female Subquota: 1	1	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Carcass
Cabinet FMU Yaak FMU Continental Divide FMU	Quota: 0					

### Marten

- Marten trapping is closed in that portion of Montana north of Interstate 90 and east of Interstate 15.

**Avoid Incidental Capture of Fisher** – Marten trappers are encouraged to use cubby boxes with a closed front and 2 ½ inch x 2 ½ inch entrance hole to help avoid incidental catch of fisher.

Additional restrictions apply to areas designated as Lynx Protection Zones, see those rules and descriptions on page 13.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Regions 1-5	Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	Unlimited	Region 1: 10 Regions 2-5: No per person limit	Not required	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Not Collected

### Mink

State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Regions 1-7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required	Not Collected

### Muskrat

- State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations.
- Traps may be set in muskrat houses provided the part removed is replaced after insertion of the trap and after removal of the trap. It is unlawful for any person to willfully destroy, leave open, or partially destroy a muskrat house.
- Owners and lessees of property being damaged by beaver or muskrat as described in MCA 87-6-602(2) may request a free permit to remove beaver or muskrat and may remove beaver or muskrat without a permit between June 1 - Aug. 31. Please contact an FWP employee in your administrative region for further information and to request a damage control permit.
- A person participating in a beaver or muskrat damage complaint must have in their possession the damage permit issued to the landowner (or a copy thereof) during control activities. Damaging beaver or muskrat may be removed by trapping or shooting. A person may possess beaver or muskrat under the damage permit.



Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Pelt Tagging/Inspection	Specimen Collection
Regions 1-7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	Unlimited	Unlimited	Not required	Not required	Not Collected



## Regulations by Species



### Otter

**Quotas** – Furbearer seasons will close in 48 hours when a species quota is reached or approached prior to the end of the regular season. Current harvest status information may be obtained by calling 1-800-711-8727 or 406-444-9557, 24 hours a day, or the FWP website at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). The toll-free line and website are updated by 1 p.m. (MST) every day.

Region	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Inspection/ Pelt Tagging	Specimen Collection
1	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	40	4	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw
2	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	40	4			
3	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	36	2			
4	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	8	2			
5	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	4	2			
6	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	2	2			
7	Nov. 1 - Apr. 15	4	2			

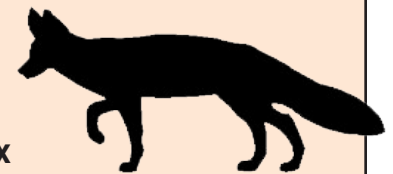
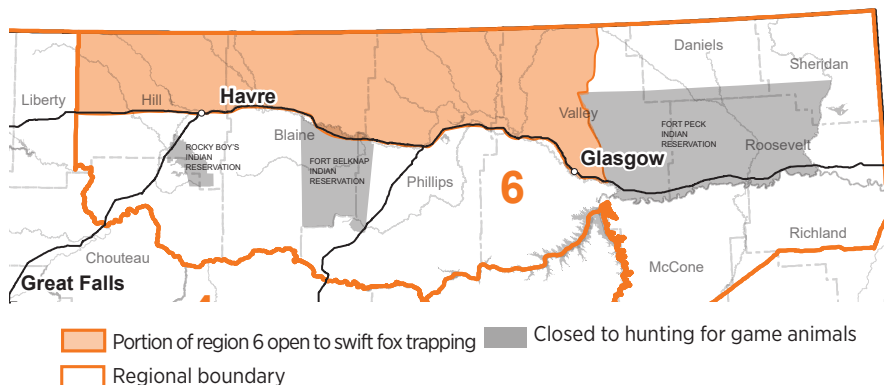
**Closures** – All areas closed to beaver trapping are also closed to otter trapping. See the list of closure areas under the beaver season section. State Wildlife Management Areas have specific closures and season dates. See WMA Special Regulations.

#### Recommendations to avoid incidental harvest of otter –

Otter inhabit rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and ponds. If the otter season has closed, avoid trapping where otter sign is evident. Look for tracks and scat while scouting or setting an area for beaver. When placing any kind of trap along a beaver pond, avoid putting sets near the dam crossover or near the inlet of the pond. One relatively otter-safe set utilizes a castor mound on the edge of a pond. The castor scent will attract beaver while otter will generally be uninterested. Also, avoid setting near abandoned beaver lodges and bank dens. These sets are not productive for beaver, and otter will readily use them. Otter generally avoid areas where beaver are active, so make sets as close as possible to active lodges.

Size 330 body-gripping traps (Conibears) are one of the most commonly used beaver traps. The trap is also very effective for otter. With some minor alterations the 330 can be set to minimize accidental otter captures. Move the trigger as far as you can to one side of the trap and bend the trigger wires close together. You can also shorten the trigger length to 4 to 5 inches by cutting or bending the wires. Since otter are more slender than beaver, otter often glide through the trap without tripping the trigger. Beaver, which tend to be larger and slightly less agile, will likely hit the release trigger while moving through the trap.

If you use foothold traps to capture beaver, avoid using them on dam crossovers, since otter often use these same areas. Castor mound sets with the trap set fairly deep are less likely to catch otter.



### Swift Fox

(see description of portion of region 6 open to swift fox, page 22)

**Quotas** - Season will close with 48 hours notice upon reaching the regional quota, or on the season closure date, whichever occurs first.

**Note:** Trapping only - No hunting allowed

Area	Season Dates	Quota	Per Person Limit	Reporting	Inspection/Pelt Tagging	Specimen Collection
Portion of Region 6	Nov. 1 - Jan. 15	10	3	Required within 24 hours of harvest	Required within 10 days of the calendar close of the season	Lower Jaw

### Wolverines are protected by Federal law under the Endangered Species Act

Avoid placing sets that might attract wolverines. Trapped wolverine that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to an FWP warden or biologist within 24 hours of release. If a wolverine is injured, trappers must immediately notify an FWP warden or biologist or an FWP regional office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Persons who know about the taking of a wolverine shall report it by calling 1-800-TIP-MONT (800-847-6668)



## Hunter and Trapper Land Access

**Fishing Access Sites (FAS) (ARM 12.12.114)** - When open to public use, fishing access sites are open to all commission established hunting and trapping season unless otherwise prohibited and posted. Written authorization by the department is required prior to trapping a fishing access site. The commission authorizes the department to issue specific restrictions on hunting and trapping at a fishing access site. Refer to the Fishing Access Site website at [myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore](http://myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore) for site-specific information, opportunities, and restrictions.

**Indian Reservation Trust Lands** - Some reservations may offer hunting and trapping opportunities with the use of tribal licenses to non-members. Please contact the appropriate Tribal Government. See "Contacts Outside FWP" on page 28 for contact information.

**Montana State Parks (ARM 12.12.114)** - State parks are open to all commission established hunting seasons unless prohibited by the board. The board authorizes the department to issue specific restrictions on hunting at a state park where hunting is allowed. Trapping is prohibited in state parks unless authorized by the board. The board authorizes the department to issue specific restrictions on trapping at a state park where trapping is allowed. Contact the specific park and/or refer to the Montana State Parks website at [fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/](http://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/) for site-specific information regarding hunting opportunities and restrictions.

**Private Land Access** - Montana law requires permission for all hunting and trapping on private land.

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

**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, 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 without permission of the inhabitant.
- Open fires are prohibited outside of fire pits within designated campgrounds.
- Trappers are required to obtain a free Special Recreational Use License (SRUL) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping or snaring on state school trust lands. The application deadline for a SRUL is September 30. For more information see the DNRC website at: [dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/recreational-use-of-state-land](http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/trust/recreational-use-of-state-land).

**State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) (ARM 12.12.114)** - When open to public use, wildlife management areas are open to all commission established hunting and trapping seasons unless otherwise prohibited and posted. Written authorization by the department is required prior to trapping on a wildlife management area. The commission authorizes the department to issue specific restrictions on hunting and trapping at a wildlife management area. 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 December 1, whichever is later.

**Stream Access Law** - This law does not allow access for trapping or snaring. Trappers are required to obtain permission from the landowner to trap or snare on navigable streams and rivers between the low and high water marks. Permission is required on private land for all non-navigable streams.

## Special Regulations for Trapping on Wildlife Management Areas

FWP owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are **generally** open to trapping, although special regulations apply to most WMAs. WMAs managed for game bird hunting may delay trapping until after the hunting season. Contact the local WMA manager or the FWP regional office for information on how to **obtain permission** to trap on WMAs in the state. The following WMAs have special regulations in effect that require trappers to apply for a permit by Sept. 15 to trap all or a portion of the area.

**Beckman Wildlife Management Area** - The Beckman Wildlife Management Area, Fergus County, is open to one trapper per trapping season. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and permitted to trap furbearers and predatory animals. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the upland game bird season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Sonja Andersen, Beckman WMA  
[sandersen@mt.gov](mailto:sandersen@mt.gov)  
(406) 538-2445 ext 2

**Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area** - Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name address, phone number and ALS number by Sept. 15 to: Furbearers - The Blackfoot-Clearwater Area is divided into two trapping units (Clearwater River and Cottonwood Creek), and trapping is permitted during two periods (Nov. 1 - Jan. 31; Feb. 1 - April 15); with one trapper per unit and time period (4 trappers total). Trappers will be selected by random drawing. The first trapper will be asked to choose a unit and period, the second trapper drawn will be offered the remaining choices and so on. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers, including 10 beaver. Wolves - The Blackfoot-Clearwater has one (1) wolf trapping unit. One trapper will be selected by random drawing each season and permitted to trap up to one limit of wolves. Trapping will be permitted for wolf only; no other furbearing or predatory species may be taken within the wolf trapping unit. Because the trapping unit is within the WMA's winter closure area, all trapping activity will be limited to nonmotorized travel only. In addition, because the wolf trapping unit includes state school trust land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline September 30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on school trust lands. Applicants must also possess a valid wolf trapping certification number to apply for this permit.

Lee Tafelmeyer, Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA  
[lee.tafelmeyer@mt.gov](mailto:lee.tafelmeyer@mt.gov)  
(406) 210-3479

**Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area** - The Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area is divided into two trapping units with only one unit open to trapping in a given year. One trapper will be selected by a random drawing and will be notified which unit is open for trapping. Applicants should be aware that only limited populations of most furbearers exist on the WMA and that most access is by foot. No trapping will be allowed on the WMA until the end of the pheasant season. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Adam Grove, Canyon Ferry WMA  
[adgrove@mt.gov](mailto:adgrove@mt.gov)  
(406) 266-3367

**Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area** - The Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area is divided into seven trapping units. Permitted trappers will be selected by random drawing. Trappers will be able to select a unit to trap in the order that names are drawn. Each selected trapper shall be permitted to trap a limit of furbearers and wolves, excluding beaver (the entire Fish Creek drainage is closed to beaver trapping). Trappers may also take predatory species within their permitted unit. Note: Because Trapping Unit

#5 is within the WMA's winter closure area, trapping activity within Trapping Unit #5 will be limited to non-motorized travel only after Dec. 1. In addition, because Trapping Units #1 - #7 include state school trust land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline Sept. 30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on School Trust Lands. All applicants must possess a valid trapper license and, if they wish to trap wolves, a valid wolf trapping certification # to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number and ALS number, by Sept. 15 to:

Ryan Klimstra, Fish Creek WMA  
ryan.klimstra@mt.gov  
(406) 431-0362

**Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area** – The Freezout Lake WMA is divided into two different trapping units for furbearers. One of these units consists of Pond 3 and is available for trapping to interested trappers by drawing only. Two trapping seasons are designated: fall (Nov. 1 to Dec. 31) and spring (Jan. 1 to April 15). After March 15 no traps will be allowed in/on muskrat houses or hay bale nesting structures. Trappers and trapping units will be selected/assigned by random drawing. Unless supply exceeds demand, any one trapper may trap only one unit and/or season per year. The second trapping unit consists of the main lake, Priest Lake and Ponds 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. This second unit will be open to any/all interested trappers except those persons already holding drawn permission to trap Pond 3. Trapping, hunting and access within the waterfowl closure on the south end of the main lake is prohibited until Nov. 20. Any part of the WMA that is open to public access is open to interested parties for the hunting and/or trapping of predatory animals and nongame wildlife. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply. Applicants must submit their name, address, telephone number, ALS number, and indicate the season for which they wish to be considered by Sept. 15 to:

Brent Lonner, Freezout Lake WMA  
blonner@mt.gov  
(406) 467-2488

**Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area** – The Lake Helena Wildlife Management Area consists of one trapping unit. A spring trapping season is designated: Jan. 1 to April 15. No trapping will be allowed on the area until after the waterfowl hunting season. One trapper will be permitted to trap furbearers, nongame, and predatory animals. The trapper will be selected by a random drawing. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Lindsey Parsons, Lake Helena WMA  
lindsey.parsons@mt.gov  
(406) 495-3268

**Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area** – The Mt. Haggin WMA consists of four trapping units where a quota of four licensed trappers shall be permitted to trap a limit of furbearers and wolves, including 10 beaver. Trappers will be selected by a random drawing. Trappers will be able to select an area to trap in the order that names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Permission to trap wolves on Mt. Haggin WMA is extended only to those trappers that were successful in the drawing. Note: Because Trapping Unit #4 is within the winter closure area of the WMA (closed to all motorized travel Dec. 2 – May 15), trapping activity in this unit will be limited to non-motorized travel only after Dec. 1. In addition, because Trapping Units #3 and #4 include state school trust land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline Sept. 30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on School Trust Lands. All applicants must possess a valid trapper license and, if they wish to trap wolves, a valid wolf trapping certification # to apply for this permit. Trappers wishing to take predatory animals must contact Vanna Boccadori for a predator permit. The predator permit is valid only for animals classified as predatory animals (i.e. coyotes) - it does NOT apply to wolves. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Vanna Boccadori, Mt. Haggin WMA  
vboccadori@mt.gov  
(406) 494-2082

**Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area** – The Spotted Dog area has one (1) wolf trapping unit. One trapper will be selected by random drawing each season and permitted to trap up to one limit of wolves. Trapping will be permitted for wolf only; no other furbearing or predatory species may be taken within the wolf trapping unit. Because the trapping unit is within the WMA's winter closure area, all trapping activity will be limited to non-motorized travel only (except for access across the groomed snowmobile Route 314, which is open to over-the-snow vehicles). In addition, because the wolf trapping unit includes state school trust land, trappers are reminded to obtain a Special Recreational Use License (application deadline September 30) from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to trapping on school trust lands. Applicants must possess a valid trapper license and a valid wolf trapping certification number to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by September 15 to:

Kirstie Yeager, Spotted Dog WMA  
kirstie.yeager@mt.gov  
(406) 270-6998

**Trail Creek Beaver Management Area** – The Trail Creek trapping area is described as Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary. The Trail Creek trapping areas consists of one unit for beaver and otter. One trapper will be selected by random drawing to trap this unit. The selected trapper shall be permitted to trap five beaver. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Vanna Boccadori, Mt. Haggin WMA  
vboccadori@mt.gov  
(406) 494-2082

**Upper Madison Beaver Management Area (refer to description)**

The Upper Madison trapping area consists of seven (7) units for beaver and otter with quotas for each species. Trapping season is Nov. 1 through April 15 by permit only. Trapping units will be allocated based upon a random drawing of written trapper applications. Trappers may select a trapping area in the order their names are drawn. Each of the selected trappers shall be permitted to trap five, or 10 beaver depending on the trapping area assigned. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping area. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and ALS number by Sept. 15 to:

Julie Cunningham,  
Upper Madison Beaver Management Area  
juliecunningham@mt.gov  
(406) 577-7865

**Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area** – The Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area consists of three (3) trapping units for furbearers: Warm Springs Ponds Unit, Warm Springs Hospital Ponds Unit, and the Job Corps Ponds Unit. Applicants should be aware that most of the access is by foot or in some areas, non-motorized boat. Selected trappers shall be permitted to trap one limit of furbearers each, including not more than five (5) beaver per trapping unit. Trappers may select a trapping unit in the order their names are drawn. The last trapper selected will be assigned the remaining trapping unit. Trappers wishing to take predatory animals must contact the FWP area manager for a predator trapping permit. All trapping permits are valid through April 15. Applicants must possess a valid trapper's license to apply for this permit. Applicants must submit their name, address, phone number, and valid trappers license number by Sept. 15 to:

Brady Shortman, Warm Springs WMA  
bshortman@mt.gov  
(406) 693-9083



## Region Legal Descriptions

### Region 1 –

Those portions of Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell and Sanders counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Continental Divide intersects with the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, then westerly and northerly along the Glacier National Park boundary to the Canadian line, then westerly along said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly along said border to its junction with the Sanders-Mineral County line, then easterly along said county line to Trail 404 near Combust Peak, then east on Trail 404 to Miller Creek Loop Road, then along Miller Creek and Forest Road 7593 to Patrick's Knob, then southerly on Trail 1714 to Montana Route 135, then easterly along said route to Trail 242, then southerly along said trail to Clark Fork-Ninemile Divide, then easterly along said divide and Sanders County line to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide at Wolverine Peak, then south, east and north along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary at Marias Pass, the point of beginning.

### Region 2 –

Those portions of Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Silver Bow Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho border, then in an easterly direction along the Mineral County-Sanders County line to U.S. Forest Service Trail 404 near Combust Peak, then east on said trail to Miller Creek Loop Forest Service Road, then east along said road to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 415, then south and east on said trail to its junction with U.S. Forest Service Trail 1714, then south on said trail to the Clark Fork River at the Cascade Campground, then south along Forest Service Trail 242 to the Ninemile-Seigel Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Flathead Indian Reservation, then southeasterly and northeasterly along said reservation boundary to the Swan-Clearwater Divide, then easterly and northerly along said divide to the Blackfoot-Flathead Divide, then southerly, easterly and northerly along said divide to the Continental Divide at Triple Divide Mountain, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then west and north along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then westerly and northerly along said border to Lookout Pass, the point of beginning.

### Region 3 –

Those portions of Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Silver Bow and Sweet Grass Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Mt. Tiny on the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then southerly and easterly along said border to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the

National Forest/private land boundary in the southwest quarter of section 23, then west, north and west along the National Forest and Gates of the Mountain Wilderness boundary to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Humps cabin, then southwesterly along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwesterly down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch Divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate -15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then southeasterly along said divide to Interstate 15, then in a southerly direction along said interstate to its junction with Interstate 90 at Butte, then westerly and northerly along said interstate to its junction with State Route 1, then northwesterly along said highway to State Route 274 (Mill Creek Road), then southerly along said route to the Continental Divide, then southwesterly along said divide to Mt. Tiny, the point of beginning.

**Trail Creek Beaver Management Area** – Joseph Creek from Chief Joseph Pass to the confluence with Trail Creek and Trail Creek downstream of this confluence to the National Forest boundary.

**Upper Madison Beaver Management Area** – Those portions of Gallatin and Madison counties that include all of the Madison River drainage upstream from the Earthquake Lake Dam described as follows: Beginning at the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam on the Madison River, then northerly to US Highway 287, then northeasterly to the intersection of Rock Creek, then up said creek to the Beaverhead-Gallatin National Forest boundary, then northerly on said boundary to the Madison River-Gallatin River divide, then easterly along said divide to the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then south along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line northerly and westerly to its intersection with Highway 87, then along highway 287 to the Madison River, easterly along said river to the outlet of Earthquake Lake Dam, the point of beginning.

**WMU 313 – Gardiner:** Those portions of Park county lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the intersection of the Cottonwood-Hellroaring Creek divide and Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then westerly along said boundary to USFS Trail #106, then northeasterly along said trail to the head of Mill Creek, then northeasterly along said creek to Cinnabar Creek, then easterly along said creek to the Yellowstone River, then northerly along said river to Cedar Creek, and then easterly along said creek to USFS Trail #72 at the head of Cedar Creek, then easterly along said trail to the Cedar-Bear Creek Divide, then easterly along said divide to Monitor Peak, then southeasterly along the Mill-Hellroaring-Bear Creek divide to Ash Mountain, then southerly along Crevice-Hellroaring Creek divide and Cottonwood-Hellroaring Creek divide to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, the point of the beginning.

**WMU 316 – Absaroka:** Those portions of Carbon, Sweet Grass, and Park Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Montana-Wyoming border and the Custer-Gallatin National Forest boundary southeast of Albino Lake, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to Granite Mountain, then north one-half mile to the Stillwater County Line, then west along said county line to the Custer-Gallatin National Forest Boundary near Timberline Mountain, then northerly along said boundary to the Slough Creek-Boulder River Divide near Columbine Pass, then southwesterly along the Boulder River-Slough Creek Divide and northwesterly along the Boulder River-Buffalo Fork Divide and the Hellroaring Creek-Boulder River Divide to the Hellroaring-Mill Creeks Divide near Crow Mountain, then southwesterly along the Mill-Hellroaring Creeks Divide to the Bear-Hellroaring Creeks Divide to Ash Mountain, then southerly along the Crevice-Hellroaring Creeks Divide to the Crevice-Cottonwood Creeks Divide, then southerly along the Crevice-Cottonwood Creeks Divide to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then easterly and southerly along said boundary to the Montana-Wyoming border, then easterly along said border to the Custer-Gallatin National Forest boundary southeast of Albino Lake, the point of beginning.

### Region 4 –

Those portions of Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties lying within the following described boundary:

Beginning at a point where the eastern boundary of Glacier National Park intersects the United States-Canada Boundary, then east along said boundary to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly and southerly along the south edge of said reservoir to the Musselshell River, then southerly along the west bank of said river to State Route 200, then west along said route to Winnett, then southwest along the Winnett to Roundup Road (FAS 244) to its junction with US Highway 87, then north on said highway approximately 4 miles to Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the South Fork of Flat Willow Creek, then westerly up said creek to the Red Hill Road, then south along said road to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then westerly along said divide to the head of Meadow Creek, then westerly down said creek to US Highway 191, then south on said highway to the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line, then westerly on said line and subsequently continuing westerly along the Meagher-Judith Basin County line to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then south on this road to US Highway 12, then southeasterly on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then southwest along said route to its junction with US Highway 89, then southerly along said highway to Sixteen-Mile Creek (near Ringling), then southwest along north bank of said creek to the Meagher-Gallatin County line, then west along said line to the Broadwater-Meagher county line, then northwesterly along said line to the Broadwater-Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line, then northwesterly along the Lewis and Clark – Meagher County line until its intersection with USFS Rd #4143, then westerly along said road to the Beaver Creek Road (USFS Road #138), then northwesterly along said road to the National Forest/private land boundary in the southwest quarter of section 23, then west, north and west along the National Forest and Gates of the Mountain Wilderness boundary to the posted Beartooth WMA boundary fence near Hump Cabin, then southwest along the Willow Creek-Elkhorn Creek-Porcupine Creek divide, then southwest along said divide to Willow Mountain, then along the Meriwether Canyon-Willow Creek divide, then southwest down the Meriwether Canyon-Mann Gulch divide to the mouth of Meriwether Canyon on the east side of the Missouri River, then northerly up Holter Lake and the east shore of the Missouri River to Interstate 15, then southerly along said interstate to the junction with US Highway 287, then south on said highway to the bridge over Lyons Creek, then up said creek and the North Fork of Lyons Creek to the Continental Divide, then northerly along said divide to the Glacier National Park boundary, then easterly and northerly along said boundary to the United States-Canada boundary, the point of beginning.

#### **Region 5 –**

Those portions of Big Horn, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties lying within the following described boundaries: Beginning at Wolverine Peak where the Stillwater-Yellowstone River Divide meets with the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northwesterly along said divide to Columbine Pass and the Boulder River-Yellowstone River Divide, then westerly and northerly along said divide to Elephant Head Mountain, then north down Mission Creek to the Yellowstone River, then east down the south bank of said river to the mouth of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the West Fork of Duck Creek, then northwesterly along the west bank of said creek to the Shields-Yellowstone River Divide (Crazy Mountain Divide), then northerly and westerly along said divide to the Shields-Musselshell River Divide, then westerly along said divide to the Smith-Shields River Divide and the head of the Middle Fork of Sixteen Mile Creek, then westerly down the south bank of said creek to Sixteen Mile Creek, then northwesterly along the south bank of said creek to US Highway 89, then north on said highway to its junction with Route 294, then northeasterly on said route to its junction with US Highway 12, then northwesterly on said highway to its junction with the Spring Creek-Whitetail Creek Road (Forest Service Road #274), then north on said road to the Meagher-Judith Basin county line, then easterly along said line and subsequently continuing easterly along the Wheatland-Judith Basin county line to its junction with US Highway 191, then northerly on said highway to its junction with Meadow Creek near Garniel, then northeasterly along said creek to the Snowy Mountain Divide, then easterly along said divide to

its intersection with the Red Hill Road, then north along said road to South Fork Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to Flatwillow Creek, then easterly along said creek to US Highway 87, then southerly along said highway to Route 244, then northerly along said route to Winnett, then east along US Highway 200 to the Musselshell River, then south along the east bank of said river to the Melstone-Custer Road bridge, then south along the Melstone-Custer Road to Interstate 94 near Custer, then east along said interstate to State Route 47, then south along said route to Interstate 90 at Hardin, then south along said interstate to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then westerly along said line to the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, then northerly and westerly along said boundary to the Stillwater-Yellowstone River divide at Wolverine Peak, the point of beginning.

**Special Regulations in Regions 1, 2 and portions of 3, 4 & 5 –** Those portions of Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 within the following described boundary: From the Montana-Idaho state line at the Canada border then east along said border to the Glacier National Park boundary and south and east along said boundary to Marias Pass then easterly along US Highway 2 to its intersection with US Highway 89 in Browning and then southeasterly along said highway to its intersection with US Highway 287 at Choteau and then southerly along said highway to its intersection with Interstate 90 near Three Forks and then easterly along said interstate to its intersection with State Route 78 at Columbus and then southerly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 212 at Red Lodge and then southerly along said route to the Montana-Wyoming state line and then along said state line to the Yellowstone National Park boundary and then west and south along that boundary to the Montana-Idaho state line and then westerly and northerly along said state line to the US-Canada border, the point of beginning.

#### **Region 6 –**

Those portions of Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to the Marias River, then southerly along the east bank of said river to the Missouri River, then easterly along the south bank of said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south along said creek to State Route 200, then east and northeast along said route to the North Dakota border, then north along said border to the Canadian border, then west along said border to State Route 233, the point of beginning.

**Portion of Region 6 for Swift Fox Season –** Those portions of Blaine, Hill, Phillips, and Valley counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where State Route 233 joins the Canadian Line (near the port of Willow Creek), then west along said border to the Hill-Liberty county line, then south along said line to US Highway 2, then east along said Highway to Nashua, then northerly along Porcupine Creek to the West Fork of Porcupine Creek, then northerly along said creek until the north boundary of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, then easterly along said boundary until MT Highway 24, then northerly along said Highway to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to the port of Willow Creek, the point of beginning.

#### **Region 7 –**

Those portions of Bighorn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone and Wibaux Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Route 47 and Interstate 94, then west along said interstate to the intersection with the Melstone-Custer Road near Custer, then north along said road to Melstone, then east along US Highway 12 to the Musselshell River bridge, then north along the east bank of the Musselshell River to the Missouri River, then east and northeast down said river to the Fort Peck Powerhouse, then southerly along the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir to Big Dry Creek, then south up said creek to Little Dry Creek, then east along State Route 200 to the Montana-North Dakota state line, then south to the Montana-Wyoming state line, then west along said state line to Interstate 90, then north along said interstate to State Route 47, then north along said state route to Interstate 94, the point of beginning.

# HOW TO HUNT SAFELY IN Bear Country



## **Tips on how to prepare for safe outings.**

- Inquire about recent bear activity in the area.
- Carry and know how to use bear spray.
- Let someone know your plans and time frame.
- Travel in groups of three or more people when possible.
- Stay on trails or rural roads.
- Watch for signs of bears such as bear scat, diggings, torn-up logs and turned over rocks, and partly consumed animal carcasses.
- Make your presence known by making noise - talking, singing, carrying a bell - especially when near streams or in thick forest where visibility is low. This can be the key to avoiding encounters. Most bears will avoid humans when they know humans are present.
- Don't approach a bear; respect its space and move off.

## **Hunters**

Bears have expanded to areas where they previously may not have not been. They can now be found throughout Western and Central Montana.

Be aware that the act of hunting puts you at risk of encountering bears and that elk bugling, game calls and cover scents may attract bears.

When hunting, the golden rule is “get the elk or deer out of the area as quickly as possible.” The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in hunting camp, or in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a bear. The sooner elk and deer are taken home the better.

If you must leave the carcass, hang it, in pieces if necessary, at least 10' above the ground. Leave the carcass where you can see it from a distance, and when you return, observe the carcass with binoculars before approaching. If a bear has claimed the carcass, leave the area and report the incident to the proper authorities. It's not worth risking your safety or the bear's safety.

Bears are opportunists and change their behavior in order to take advantage of new food sources. So if you are hunting always assume that bears are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are unavailable or contained.





## Weapons Restriction Area

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 "Lawful Methods of Hunting" section on page 4.

### 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
- 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 10½ 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 Legal Descriptions

### **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.

**Deckard Flats to Trail Creek Wolf Trapping Closure Area:** The following described area is closed to all wolf trapping: Those portions of Park County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of the Yellowstone River and Little Trail Creek northwest of Gardiner, then northeasterly along Little Trail Creek up to its headwaters, then easterly to the USFS Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Boundary, then easterly along said boundary to the North Fork of Bear Creek, then southeasterly along said creek to its confluence with Bear Creek, then northerly along said creek to the confluence of Pine Creek, then easterly along said creek to the intersection with the USFS Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Boundary, then southerly along said boundary to the boundary with Yellowstone National Park, then westerly along said boundary to the confluence of the Yellowstone River and Reese Creek west of the town of Gardiner, then westerly along the Yellowstone River to its confluence with Little Trail Creek, the point of beginning.

**Flathead Weapons Restriction Area:** 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 WMA, Teton County:** As posted.

**Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area (GVWRA):** Rifles may not be used to hunt wolves in the GVWRA. Beginning at the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Enders Road, continuing southeast from that intersection along Cottonwood Road, north to South 19th, then east on South 19th to Nash Road, then east on Nash Road to Sourdough Canyon Road, then south on Sourdough Canyon Road, to the National Forest Boundary, then east along said boundary to boundary of State Lands Sections 4, 3, 34, 35 and 1 to Bear Canyon Road, then northerly on Bear Canyon Road to the Bear Canyon Interchange with Interstate 90, then northerly to Rocky Creek, northwesterly along Rocky Creek to L Street, then north on L Street to Story Mill Road, then north on Story Mill Road to Deer Creek Drive, northeast on Deer Creek Drive to Lookfar Way, north on Lookfar Way to Rolling Hills Drive, north on Rolling Hills Drive to Sypes Canyon Road, northwesterly on Sypes Canyon Road to Summer Cutoff Road, then Saddle Mountain Road, then east on Saddle Mountain Road to Bostwick Road, then north along Bostwick Road to Baseline East Road, then west on Baseline East Road to Walker Road, then north on Walker Road to Penwell Bridge Road, then west on Penwell Bridge Road to Wes Davis Road, then north and west on Wes Davis Road to Hamilton Road, then west and north on Hamilton Road to Cactus Road, then west on Cactus Road to Highway 290, then south on Highway 290 to Weaver Road, then west on Weaver Road to Highway 10, then northwesterly on Highway 10 to Heeb Road, then south on Heeb Road to Amsterdam Road, east on Amsterdam Road, to Linney Road, south on Linney Road to Cameron Bridge Road, then east on Cameron Bridge Road to River Road, then south on River Road to Highway 84, then east on Highway 84 to Shedd's Bridge, then south up western most channel of the Gallatin River to Gallatin Gateway Bridge, then east on Gallatin Gateway Road to US Highway 191, then south on US Highway 191 to Cottonwood Road, to point of beginning.

**NOTE: Sourdough Exclusion Zone from SWRA within HD 309:** Beginning at the intersection of Nash and Sourdough Canyon Road, then south on Sourdough Canyon Road to the USFS boundary, then east, north and east along said boundary in Section 8, then along said boundary in Section 8 to the intersection with State Lands in Section 9, then north along the section line of Sections 4 and 5, then west along section line of Sections 5 and 32 to the intersection with Sourdough Road, then south on Sourdough Road, then west on Nash Road, 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, at the Stevens Creek/Yellowstone River confluence, then downstream (northwesterly) to the marked line at the USFS boundary on the east bank of the Yellowstone River (the boundary between T9S R8E S17 and T9S R8E S16), then northerly along said section line to Riverview drive, then easterly along Riverview Drive 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:** 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 WMA:** Legal description and 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.

**Muskrat Valley Weapons Restriction Area:** (Restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader): 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. Restricted to archery, shotgun, traditional handgun or muzzleloader only.

**Poindexter Slough FAS south of Dillon:** Sections 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, R10W, 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.

**Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area:** Closed to all hunting per refuge regulation: Portions of Section 36, T22N, R24E and Sections 31 and 32, T22N, R25E, as posted.

**Townsend Weapon 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.

## General Information

### Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Animal Welfare

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold a higher percentage of animals and reduce the chance of injuries occurring.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets and especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use guarded “stop-loss” traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species—foot pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon, and most other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box, or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings, and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps - tailor methods to hold the largest species occurring in the area in case of an incidental capture.
- Use traps with laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion and select trap site placement carefully when setting body-gripping traps.
- Use time to your advantage—do not set more traps than you can handle.
- Use early morning trap checks to reduce the time an animal is held, reduce its chances of pulling out, and avoid theft of traps and animals.

### Breakaway Snares

Following are examples of commercially manufactured breakaway lock designs that meet regulation requirements to release at 350 pounds of force or less:

- Amberg Lock with release ferrule
- Gregerson Lock Snares
- Snare Shop - N. D. Lock and Stop
- Breakaway J-Hooks
- Breakaway S-Hooks
- Thompson Snares - Thompson Release Lock

For information on dealers of breakaway lock devices and snares, contact the FWP State Furbearer Coordinator at 406-444-0042.

### Relaxing Snares

A relaxing snare has a lock that allows the snare loop to loosen when an animal stops pulling against it. Below is a partial list of locks that are commercially available through snare and trap dealers and are considered relaxing locks, if they are not modified and are assembled with the appropriate snare cable diameter. Any alteration of a lock from its manufactured condition may affect performance, and again, the cable size must match the lock to avoid the cable from becoming bound up at the lock.

- Relax-A-Lock
- Dakota Line's Low Pro
- Relaxing Washer Lock
- Quarter Washer Lock
- Berkshire Washer Lock

**Checking Traps** – FWP recommends checking traps at least once every 48 hours.

**Export** – A federal CITES pelt tag (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) is required to export the pelts of any bobcat, otter, or wolf from the United States. These CITES pelt tags are issued by FWP during the normal check-in and pelt tagging process. When transporting game, furbearers or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form and inspection. Contact the Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 165, 39825 Interstate 15, Sweetgrass, MT 59484 or call (406) 335-4350 or FAX (406) 335-4351.

**Trapper Mail Survey** - Each year FWP mails a harvest survey to trappers. Information from this survey is used to track effort and population trends. This information is important for managing populations and determining appropriate levels of harvest. Please complete your survey accurately and on time. Doing so is important for the future of trapping.

## Wolf Parasites

**Mange** - Some wolves have mange – a skin parasite that results in the loss of fur on the wolf. In mild cases, the wolf can lose hair on its tail, lower belly, or the lower parts of its legs. In severe cases, a wolf can lose hair across a large part of its body. Hunters can visually scan a wolf to see if it shows signs of hair loss. If it does, you may choose to not take the animal, as its fur will likely not be in prime condition for tanning. If you shoot a wolf that does show signs of mange, tag the animal and report the kill to FWP. You may be issued another Wolf License.

**Tape Worm** - Wolves commonly carry tapeworm in their intestinal tract called *Echinococcus granulosus*. There is some risk of humans becoming infected with this parasite. Hunters should wear gloves when field dressing a wolf, coyote, or fox carcass, and wash hands and forearms thoroughly, since they may have come into contact with contaminated feces or fur. When skinning any animal, use common sense precautions: wear rubber (latex) gloves, minimize contact with animal fluids, brain and spinal tissues, and wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing. Carry and use hand sanitizer.

- For more information visit the FWP website at: [fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf](http://fwp.mt.gov/hunt/regulations/wolf)



# 2024-2025 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. **(Do not use other sources).**



**ZONE 1:** INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders counties

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:56	8:14	7:36	7:14	8:19	6:19	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:59	8:00	5:40	7:15	6:22
2	6:58	8:12	7:37	7:12	8:21	6:18	8:02	4:49	8:21	5:00	7:59	5:41	7:13	6:24
3	6:59	8:10	7:38	7:10	7:22	5:16	8:04	4:48	8:21	5:01	7:57	5:43	7:11	6:25
4	7:00	8:08	7:40	7:08	7:24	5:15	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02	7:56	5:44	7:09	6:27
5	7:02	8:06	7:41	7:06	7:25	5:13	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03	7:55	5:46	7:07	6:28
6	7:03	8:04	7:42	7:05	7:27	5:12	8:07	4:48	8:21	5:04	7:53	5:48	7:05	6:29
7	7:04	8:02	7:44	7:03	7:28	5:11	8:08	4:47	8:20	5:05	7:52	5:49	7:04	6:31
8	7:06	8:00	7:45	7:01	7:30	5:09	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:06	7:50	5:51	7:02	6:32
9	7:07	7:58	7:47	6:59	7:31	5:08	8:10	4:47	8:20	5:07	7:49	5:52	8:00	7:34
10	7:08	7:56	7:48	6:57	7:33	5:07	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:09	7:47	5:54	7:58	7:35
11	7:09	7:54	7:49	6:55	7:34	5:06	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10	7:46	5:55	7:56	7:37
12	7:11	7:52	7:51	6:53	7:36	5:04	8:13	4:47	8:18	5:11	7:44	5:57	7:54	7:38
13	7:12	7:50	7:52	6:51	7:37	5:03	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:12	7:43	5:58	7:52	7:39
14	7:13	7:48	7:53	6:49	7:39	5:02	8:14	4:48	8:17	5:14	7:41	6:00	7:50	7:41
15	7:15	7:46	7:55	6:48	7:40	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:17	5:15	7:39	6:01	7:48	7:42
16	7:16	7:44	7:56	6:46	7:41	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:16	7:38	6:03	7:46	7:44
17	7:17	7:42	7:58	6:44	7:43	4:59	8:16	4:49	8:15	5:18	7:36	6:04	7:44	7:45
18	7:18	7:40	7:59	6:42	7:44	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:14	5:19	7:35	6:06	7:42	7:46
19	7:20	7:38	8:00	6:40	7:46	4:57	8:18	4:49	8:14	5:21	7:33	6:07	7:40	7:48
20	7:21	7:36	8:02	6:39	7:47	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:22	7:31	6:09	7:38	7:49
21	7:22	7:34	8:03	6:37	7:48	4:55	8:19	4:50	8:12	5:23	7:29	6:10	7:36	7:51
22	7:24	7:32	8:05	6:35	7:50	4:54	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:25	7:28	6:12	7:34	7:52
23	7:25	7:30	8:06	6:33	7:51	4:54	8:20	4:51	8:10	5:26	7:26	6:13	7:32	7:53
24	7:26	7:28	8:08	6:32	7:52	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:28	7:24	6:15	7:30	7:55
25	7:28	7:26	8:09	6:30	7:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:29	7:22	6:16	7:28	7:56
26	7:29	7:24	8:11	6:28	7:55	4:52	8:21	4:53	8:07	5:31	7:20	6:18	7:26	7:58
27	7:30	7:22	8:12	6:27	7:56	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:06	5:32	7:19	6:19	7:24	7:59
28	7:32	7:20	8:13	6:25	7:58	4:50	8:21	4:55	8:05	5:34	7:17	6:21	7:22	8:00
29	7:33	7:18	8:15	6:24	7:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:04	5:35	-	-	7:20	8:02
30	7:34	7:16	8:16	6:22	8:00	4:49	8:21	4:57	8:02	5:37	-	-	7:18	8:03
31	-	-	8:18	6:21	-	-	8:21	4:58	8:01	5:38	-	-	7:16	8:04

**ZONE 3:** INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone counties

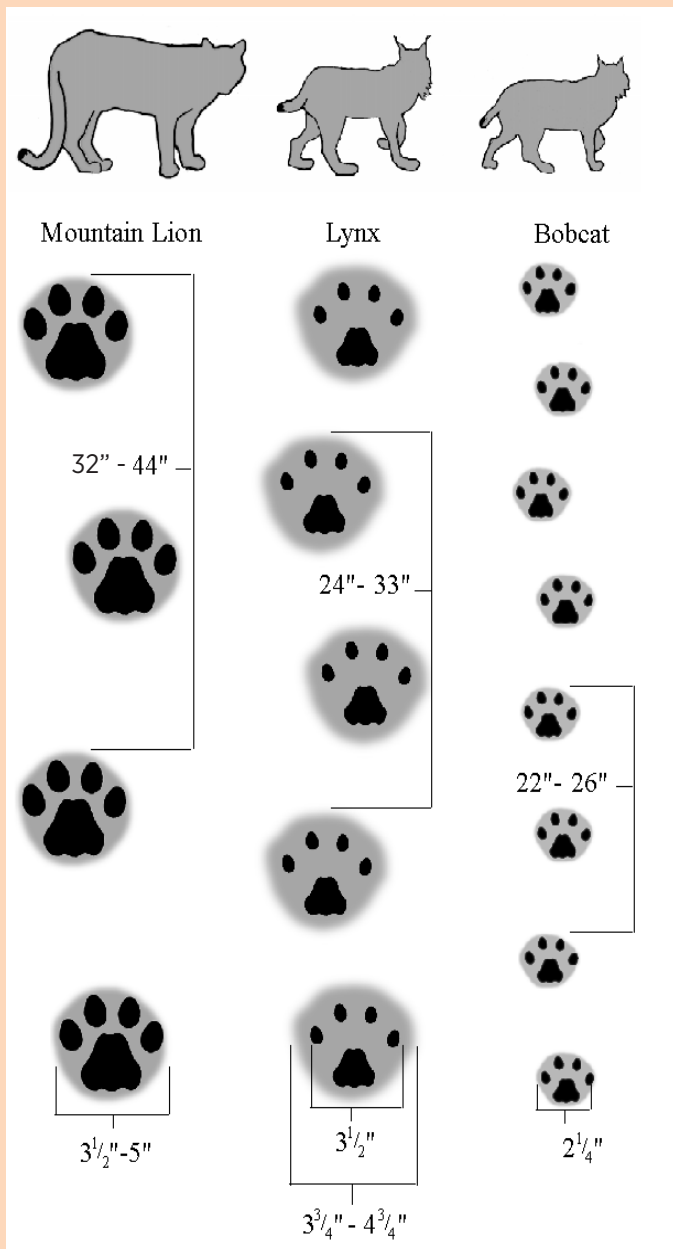
	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:38	7:56	7:17	6:56	8:02	6:00	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:39	7:42	5:21	6:57	6:04
2	6:39	7:54	7:19	6:54	8:03	5:59	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:40	7:41	5:23	6:55	6:05
3	6:41	7:52	7:20	6:52	7:05	4:57	7:46	4:29	8:04	4:41	7:40	5:24	6:53	6:07
4	6:42	7:50	7:21	6:50	7:06	4:56	7:47	4:29	8:04	4:43	7:38	5:26	6:51	6:08
5	6:43	7:48	7:23	6:48	7:07	4:55	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:44	7:37	5:27	6:49	6:10
6	6:44	7:46	7:24	6:46	7:09	4:53	7:49	4:29	8:03	4:45	7:35	5:29	6:47	6:11
7	6:46	7:44	7:26	6:44	7:10	4:52	7:50	4:28	8:03	4:46	7:34	5:30	6:45	6:12
8	6:47	7:42	7:27	6:42	7:12	4:51	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:47	7:33	5:32	6:44	6:14
9	6:48	7:40	7:28	6:40	7:13	4:49	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:48	7:31	5:33	7:42	7:15
10	6:50	7:38	7:30	6:38	7:15	4:48	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:50	7:30	5:35	7:40	7:17
11	6:51	7:36	7:31	6:37	7:16	4:47	7:54	4:28	8:01	4:51	7:28	5:36	7:38	7:18
12	6:52	7:34	7:33	6:35	7:18	4:46	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:52	7:26	5:38	7:36	7:20
13	6:54	7:32	7:34	6:33	7:19	4:44	7:56	4:28	8:00	4:53	7:25	5:40	7:34	7:21
14	6:55	7:30	7:35	6:31	7:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	8:00	4:55	7:23	5:41	7:32	7:22
15	6:56	7:28	7:37	6:29	7:22	4:42	7:58	4:29	7:59	4:56	7:22	5:43	7:30	7:24
16	6:57	7:26	7:38	6:27	7:24	4:41	7:58	4:29	7:58	4:57	7:20	5:44	7:28	7:25
17	6:59	7:24	7:40	6:25	7:25	4:40	7:59	4:29	7:58	4:59	7:18	5:46	7:26	7:27
18	7:00	7:22	7:41	6:24	7:27	4:39	8:00	4:30	7:57	5:00	7:17	5:47	7:24	7:28
19	7:01	7:20	7:43	6:22	7:28	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:02	7:15	5:49	7:22	7:30
20	7:03	7:18	7:44	6:20	7:29	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:03	7:13	5:50	7:20	7:31
21	7:04	7:16	7:45	6:18	7:31	4:36	8:01	4:31	7:54	5:04	7:11	5:52	7:18	7:32
22	7:05	7:14	7:47	6:17	7:32	4:36	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:06	7:10	5:53	7:16	7:34
23	7:07	7:12	7:48	6:15	7:33	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:52	5:07	7:08	5:55	7:14	7:35
24	7:08	7:10	7:50	6:13	7:35	4:34	8:02	4:33	7:51	5:09	7:06	5:56	7:12	7:37
25	7:09	7:08	7:51	6:11	7:36	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:10	7:04	5:58	7:10	7:38
26	7:11	7:06	7:53	6:10	7:37	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:49	5:12	7:02	5:59	7:08	7:39
27	7:12	7:04	7:54	6:08	7:39	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:48	5:13	7:01	6:01	7:06	7:41
28	7:13	7:02	7:56	6:07	7:40	4:31	8:03	4:36	7:47	5:15	6:59	6:02	7:04	7:42
29	7:15	7:00	7:57	6:05	7:41	4:31	8:04	4:37	7:46	5:16	-	-	7:02	7:44
30	7:16	6:58	7:59	6:03	7:43	4:30	8:04	4:38	7:45	5:18	-	-	7:00	7:45
31	-	-	8:00	6:02	-	-	8:04	4:39	7:44	5:19	-	-	6:58	7:46

**ZONE 2:** INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole counties.

	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan		Feb		Mar	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
Day	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:49	8:06	7:28	7:07	8:11	6:12	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:52	7:51	5:33	7:07	6:15
2	6:50	8:04	7:29	7:05	8:12	6:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53	7:50	5:34	7:05	6:16
3	6:52	8:02	7:30	7:03	7:14	5:09	7:55	4:42	8:12	4:54	7:49	5:36	7:03	6:17
4	6:53	8:00	7:32	7:01	7:15	5:08	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55	7:47	5:37	7:01	6:19
5	6:54	7:58	7:33	6:59	7:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56	7:46	5:39	6:59	6:20
6	6:55	7:56	7:34	6:57	7:18	5:05	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:57	7:45	5:40	6:57	6:22
7	6:57	7:54	7:36	6:55	7:20	5:03	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:58	7:43	5:42	6:56	6:23
8	6:58	7:52	7:37	6:53	7:21	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	4:59	7:42	5:43	6:54	6:25
9	6:59	7:50	7:38	6:51	7:23	5:01	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:00	7:40	5:45	7:52	7:26
10	7:00	7:48	7:40	6:49	7:24	5:00	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02	7:39	5:46	7:50	7:27
11	7:02	7:46	7:41	6:47	7:25	4:58	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:03	7:37	5:48	7:48	7:29
12	7:03	7:44	7:42	6:46	7:27	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:04	7:36	5:49	7:46	7:30
13	7:04	7:42	7:44	6:44	7:28	4:56	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05	7:34	5:51	7:44	7:32
14	7:06	7:40	7:45	6:42	7:30	4:55	8:05	4:41	8:08	5:07	7:33	5:52	7:42	7:33
15	7:07	7:38	7:47	6:40	7:31	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:08	7:31	5:54	7:40	7:34
16	7:08	7:36	7:48	6:38	7:33	4:53	8:07	4:41	8:07	5:09	7:29	5:55	7:38	7:36
17	7:09	7:34	7:49	6:37	7:34	4:52	8:07	4:42	8:06	5:11	7:28	5:57	7:36	7:37
18	7:11	7:32	7:51	6:35	7:35	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:12	7:26	5:58	7:34	7:39
19	7:12	7:30	7:52	6:33	7:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:14	7:24	6:00	7:32	7:40
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21	7:15	7:26	7:55	6:30	7:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:16	7:21	6:03	7:28	7:43
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23	7:17	7:22	7:58	6:26	7:42	4:47	8:10	4:45	8:01	5:19	7:18	6:06	7:24	7:45
24	7:18	7:20	7:59	6:24	7:44	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:00	5:21	7:16	6:07	7:22	7:47
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29	7:25	7:11	8:06	6:16	7:50	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:28	-	-	7:13	7:54
30	7:26	7:09	8:08	6:15	7:51	4:43	8:12	4:50	7:54	5:30	-	-	7:11	7:55
31	-	-	8:09	6:13	-	-	8:12	4:51	7:53	5:31	-	-	7:09	7:56

## Cat Identification

Field identification characteristics of mountain lion, lynx, and bobcat—physical markings and tracks in the snow (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1999).

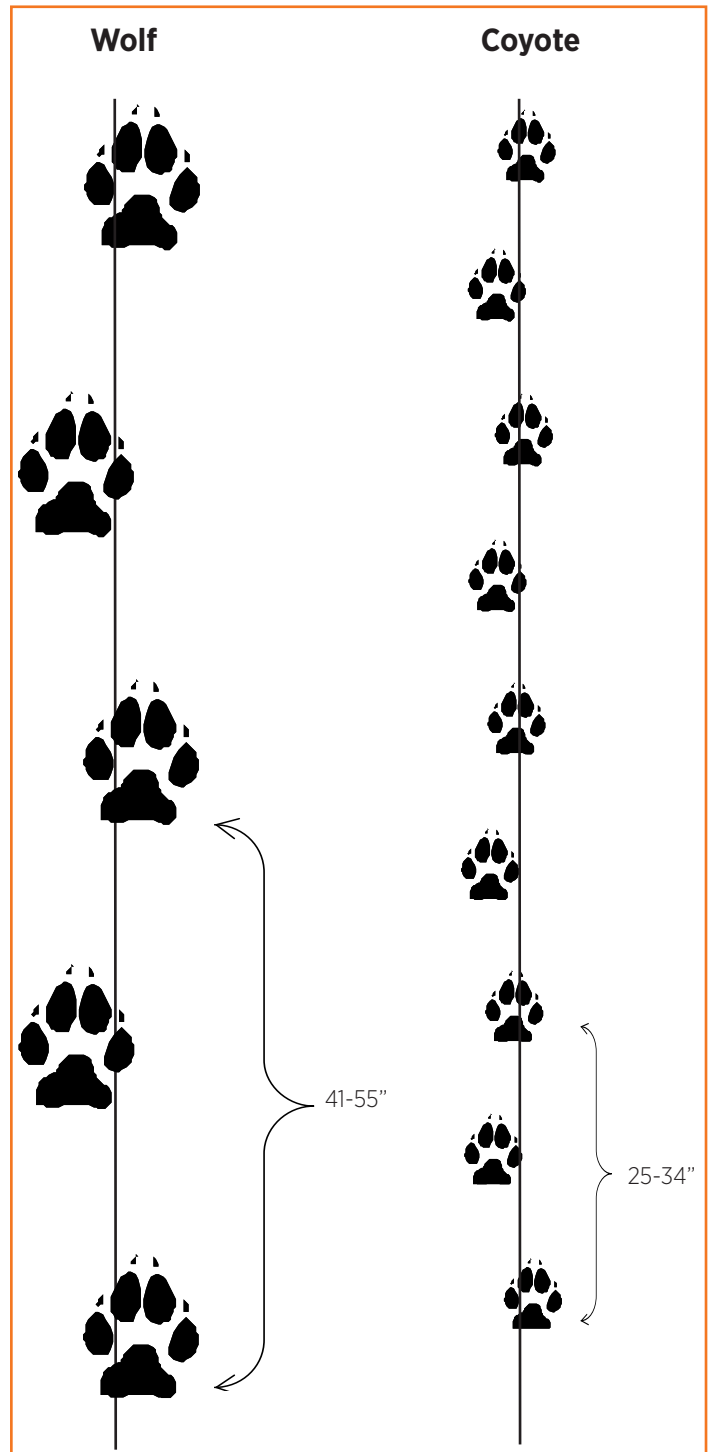


- Note difference in tail length of lion. Black markings on tip of lynx and bobcat tails are different: lynx tail tip is black all around as if dipped in ink; bobcat tail is black on top only.
- Lynx ear tufts are longer than bobcat ear tufts.
- Lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length differences between species.

## Tracks Stride Length

The tracks shown below represent a "stride length" measurement comparison between a wolf and coyote.

- Claws evident
- Track generally square shape
- Track is longer than wide
- Four toes symmetrical
- Single lobe on the front of the main foot pad



## Contacts

### Bobcat, Otter, Fisher, Swift Fox, and Wolf 24-hour

Harvest Reporting Number ..... 1-877-FWP-WILD  
(1-877-397-9453)  
OR..... 406-444-0356

### Bobcat, Otter, Fisher and Swift Fox Quota Status

(24 hours/day - 7 days/week) ..... 1-800-711-8727  
OR..... 406-444-9557  
OR online at the website..... [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)

### Wolf Quota Status

(24 hours/day - 7 days/week) ..... 1-800-385-7826  
OR..... 406-444-1989

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters

1420 East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701  
406-444-2535 – fwp.mt.gov

Hunter Education ..... 406-444-9948  
Wildlife Division..... 406-444-2612  
Licensing ..... 406-444-2950  
Resident and nonresident licensing for  
fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds, wolf,  
black bear, and mountain lion ..... 406-444-2535  
Enforcement Division..... 406-444-2452  
Montana State Parks ..... 406-444-3750  
Hearing Impaired (use Montana  
Relay)..... 7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

#### REGION 1

490 N Meridian Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901 ..... 406-752-5501

#### REGION 2

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

#### REGION 3

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59715 ..... 406-577-7900

#### REGION 4

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

#### REGION 5

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

#### REGION 6

1 Airport Rd  
Glasgow, MT 59230 ..... 406-228-3700

#### REGION 7

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

### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Area Resource Offices

#### Butte

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

#### Havre

2165 Hwy 2 East  
Havre, MT 59501 ..... 406-265-6177

#### Helena

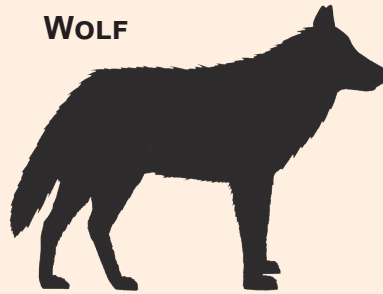
930 Custer Avenue West  
Helena, MT 59602 ..... 406-495-3260

#### Lewistown

190 Terminal Dr. PO Box 938  
Lewistown, MT 59457 ..... 406-538-4658

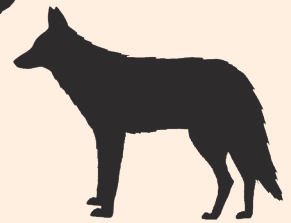
## Wolf Identification

### WOLF



- 2.5 feet tall
- 5-6 feet long
- 70-120 pounds
- Broad snout
- Round ears
- Color light gray to black
- Long, low howl
- Track 4.5 inches wide,
- 5 to 5.5 inches long
- Claws evident

### COYOTE



- 1.5 feet tall
- 4 feet long
- 30-40 pounds
- Narrow snout
- Pointed ears
- Color light gray to brown
- Track 2.5 inches wide, 2 to 2.5 inches long
- Claws evident

### FWP Wolf Management Specialists –

Bozeman..... 406-577-7879  
Butte..... 406-425-3355  
Great Falls..... 406-750-4279  
Kalispell..... 406-751-4586  
Missoula..... 406-542-5523

### Contacts Outside 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  
USDA Wildlife Services  
406-657-6464

#### Federal Agencies continued

USDI Bureau of Land Management  
406-896-5000  
National Weather Service (Missoula)  
406-329-4840

#### 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  
406-477-6526  
Rocky Boy's Reservation  
406-395-4207

## 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  
Missoula, MT 59803  
(406) 243-5751

[montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu](http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu)

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