

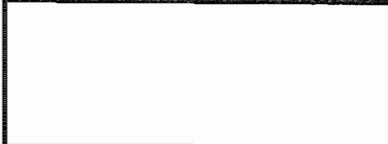
Draft

Wolf

Montana Hunting & Trapping Regulations



Reminders:
See page 2 for details



TURN IN POACHERS
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH
Make the call 1-800-TIP-MONT

Apply for Licenses Online at fwp.mt.gov

Regulations Adopted by FWP Commission

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in MCA 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, through February 28

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 Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Website – fwp.mt.gov. The FWP website offers a variety of information to help you plan your hunt. You'll find maps, regulations, and links to road reports, weather service sites and other fish, wildlife and parks resources.

License Requirements

The following licenses, except the wolf special permits, are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at fwp.mt.gov or discoveringmontana.com. The following licenses, for the purpose of wolf hunting and trapping, are valid March 1, through the dates listed in these regulations and subject to quota closures.

LICENSE	REQUIREMENTS	COST
Conservation	Required Prerequisite	\$8 Resident \$10 Nonresident
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	Annual fee charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license.	\$2 Resident \$10 Nonresident
Wolf	Available to conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Must be purchased or U.S. mail postmarked by August 31.	\$19 Resident \$350 Nonresident
Special Trapping Permit	Applicants must possess a valid wolf license to apply for a Special Trapping Permit. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. MST by Helena FWP on August 31.	\$5 Resident \$5 Nonresident

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact – Montana is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. Under the compact, member states recognize suspensions of hunting, fishing or trapping privileges. It is illegal 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.

Definitions

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

Wolf Management Units (WMUs) – Represents a group of hunting districts as specified under "WMUs Regulations".

General Regulations

Method of Taking – As a species in need of management, wolves may only be taken by hunting (firearms or archery) and trapping.

Possession of Hide and Head – Wolves are excluded from being considered as "suitable for food". A person that harvests a wolf

must possess the head and hide with evidence of sex naturally attached. The remaining carcass may be taken in possession or be left in the field. MCA 87-3-102

Illegal Take – A person convicted of the illegal taking, killing, or possession of a wolf will be fined \$1,000. MCA 87-1-111

Inspection – Wolves taken must be shown to FWP enforcement for inspection when requested.

Return to Kill Site – As a condition of hunting and trapping in Montana, persons may be required to return to the kill site or trap site if requested to do so by a FWP employee.

Closures – 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.

Export – A CITES permit is required in order to export wolf hides or parts out of the United States. Information on these permits and how to acquire them may be obtained from: Office of Management Authority, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington VA 22203 or telephone 1-800-358-2104 or local USFWS office or agent, or USFWS website at www.fws.gov

If you are 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, Great Falls International Airport, 2800 Terminal Drive, Suite 105, Great Falls, MT 59404 or phone 406-453-5790 or fax 406-453-3657 or download from USFWS website at www.fws.gov.

Recorded or Electronic Devices – 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 wolves.

Season Setting Authority – The FWP Commission, granted under MCA 87-1-301, has authority to set seasons for species in need of management.

Two-way Communications – It is unlawful to use two-way communications to: 1) hunt wolves. "Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture." OR 2) avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate unlawful activity. The rule shall not be interpreted to prohibit the possession or use of two-way radios for safety or other legitimate purposes.

Harvest Limits and Quotas

Harvest Limits

- A wolf license holder may take one legal wolf.

Harvest Quotas

- Harvest quotas will be established for each WMU.
- The hunting season quota is up to 75 percent of each WMU quota.
- The trapping season quota is at least 25 percent of each WMU quota.
- When a hunting season quota is reached in a WMU, the hunting season will close upon a 24-hour notice, but no later than November 30.
- When a trapping season quota is reached in a WMU, the trapping season will close upon a 24-hour notice, but no later than December 31.
- The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate a season closure prior to reaching a quota, when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 24-hour closure notice period.

Harvest Status and Closure Information

- Wolf harvest information may be obtained
 - by calling 1-800-385-7826 for statewide information or,
 - by checking the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov available 24-hours a day
- The toll-free line and FWP website are updated daily by 1 p.m. MST.

Wolf Season – September 15 - December 31

Hunting Season: September 15 - November 30

- Hunters with a valid wolf license may hunt a legal wolf within the established season and quotas in any WMU. Refer to map and legal descriptions for WMU boundaries.
- The wolf fall hunting season will close November 30 or earlier upon reaching 75 percent of the established WMU quota.
- Reporting requirements are listed under "Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting a Wolf".

Trapping Season: December 1 - December 31

- A trapper with a valid wolf license and wolf special trapping permit may be able to trap and/or hunt wolves within the established season and quotas in any WMU. Refer to map and legal descriptions for WMU boundaries.
- Special trapping permit holders may trap a wolf only during the trapping season
- Special trapping permit holders may hunt wolves during the hunting or trapping season.
- The wolf trapping season will close December 31, or earlier upon reaching 25 percent of the established WMU quota.
- Reporting requirements are listed under "Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting a Wolf".

Hunting Regulations

Hunter Education – All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana Hunter Safety and Education Course or a hunter safety course in any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Hunter Orange Requirement – Any person hunting or accompanying a hunter as an outfitter or guide must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist visible at all times.

Check Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Prohibited Methods of Taking

- It is illegal to place bait to attract wolves or to hunt wolves with dogs. No artificial scents or lures may be used to hunt wolves.
- It is illegal to trap wolves during the hunting season.
- It is illegal for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any wolf:
 - from any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle;
 - on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or barrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel. MCA 61-1-202) in the State of Montana; or
 - by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, or snare.
- Hunters may not use a motorized vehicle or aircraft to concentrate, drive, rally, stir-up, corral or harass wolves.
- Hunters may in some instances drive off established roads and trails to retrieve harvested animals. For further information, contact the appropriate land management agency. In all cases, when on private lands, hunters must first obtain permission from the landowner.
- 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 child, 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.

- Hunters are prohibited from loaning or transferring their license to another person or using a license issued to another person
- Party hunting is not legal in Montana each hunter must shoot his/her own animal

Night Vision Equipment – It is illegal to use night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game animals.

Airplane Spotting – Aircraft may not be used to locate wolves for the purpose of: 1) hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne: or 2) providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne. The same **hunting day** in this context is defined as between the earliest and latest legal hunting hours.

Hunting Hours – Authorized hunting hours for the taking of wolves begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset each day of the hunting season. See official sunrise-sunset tables in these regulations.

Special Trapping Permits

- Wolf trapping only by holders of a special trapping permit.
- Applicants must possess a current year conservation license and a valid wolf license to apply for a special trapping permit.
- Special trapping permits may be limited to 25 percent of a WMU quota.
- Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed, 10 percent of the special trapping permits within a WMU.
- Special trapping permits are issued by special drawing only and the deadline to apply for a special trapping permit is August 31. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. MST by FWP Helena Headquarters on August 31.
- Trappers may apply for a special trapping permit online at fwp.mt.gov or discoveringmontana.com OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. Trappers also have the option of applying by submitting their name, address, phone number, ALS number, and wolf management unit along with a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee. All applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. MST by Helena FWP on August 31. A special trapping permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website.
- Send applications to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, License Section, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.
- Trappers may apply for only one special trapping permit.
- Drawing results will be available no earlier than the third week of September.
- The special trapping permit holder is allowed to trap only in the WMU or portion of the WMU for which the special trapping permit is valid.
- The FWP Commission has authorized FWP to assign trappers to a portion of a WMU.

Trapping Regulations

Wolf Trapper Orientation – Successful special trapping permit applicants will be required to take a wolf trapping orientation course. A wolf trapping orientation DVD and test will be mailed to special trapping permit holders.

Trap Identification – Metal identification tags must be fastened to all traps per MCA 87-3-504. Metal tags must bear the name and address of the trapper or a personal identification number, which is the trappers date of birth and ALS number. Tags should be attached to the end of the chain or other anchoring material at the end farthest from the portion of the device which holds the animal. Landowners who trap on their own lands and irrigation right-of-way contiguous to their land do not need to tag traps.

Landowner Permission – Wolf trappers must obtain permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before trapping on private land.

Checking and Placing Traps – Traps should be checked at least once every 24 hours. It is the trapper's responsibility to check his/her traps regularly because quotas may fill quickly.

Method of Taking – Foothold traps only Limit of ten traps per trapper

Prohibited Methods of Taking

- Snares and conibears are prohibited to trap wolves.
- It is illegal to place bait to attract wolves or to hunt wolves with dogs. No artificial scents may be used to trap wolves

Exposed Carcass or Bait – No trap may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait that is visible from above. Exposed carcass or 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.

Public Land Roads and Trails – A 50-foot setback is required for foothold traps along open roads and hiking trails on federal and state lands that are designated by administrative signs or numbers.

Public Trailheads – On public land, foothold traps are prohibited within 1000 feet of a designated or marked trailhead (accessible by highway vehicle).

Public Campground – On public land, foothold traps are prohibited within 1000 feet of a designated campground or fishing access site (accessible by highway vehicle).

Occupied Dwellings – Foothold traps are prohibited within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification of the occupant.

Possession of Hide and Head – A person that harvests a wolf must possess the head and hide, with evidence of sex naturally attached. The remaining carcass may be taken in possession or be left in the field.

Incidental Wolf Take

- Trappers that accidentally capture a wolf when a trapper limit or harvest quota is met, must release the wolf (uninjured) and must report the capture to a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee within five (5) days of release. However, if you accidentally catch a wolf, FWP encourages you to contact the nearest FWP Regional Office or an FWP Wolf Specialist within 12 hours so a determination can be made by FWP to attach a radio collar to assist FWP in wolf management efforts.
- Wolf trappers that accidentally capture a wolf that cannot be released uninjured must notify a designated Fish, Wildlife & Parks employee residing in the WMU where the animal was taken within 12 hours to arrange collection of the animal. It is unlawful for any person to retain possession of an incidentally taken wolf per MCA 87-1-102.

Penalties – Persons convicted of the offense of knowingly abandoning the hide and/or head in the field shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$1,000, imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or both. In addition, such person shall forfeit his privilege to hunt, fish or trap for not less than 24 months. MCA 87-3-102.

Disturbing Traps or Trapped Animals – It is unlawful to destroy, disturb or remove any trap or trapped wildlife belonging to a trapper without permission of the owner of the trapper MCA 87-3-507.

Procedures to Follow Upon Harvesting a Wolf

- Immediately after killing a wolf, a hunter or trapper must cut out the proper month and date of the kill from the appropriate license and attach it to the hide in a secure and visible manner.
 - To properly validate a license, locate the appropriate month and date the animal was killed and completely cut away (notch out) the month and the first and second digits of the date designations. Removing more than one month or one date designation invalidates the license.
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.
- A hunter or trapper must personally report their wolf kill within 12 hours by calling the Wolf Reporting Number at 1-877-FWP-WILD (1-877-397-9453) so that FWP can monitor

- quota levels. Hunters or trappers are required to provide: name, telephone number, ALS number, species, date of harvest, WMU specific location (legal description), and sex when reporting a wolf harvest. When reporting a wolf harvest, it is unlawful to subscribe to or make any statement that is materially false.
- A hunter or trapper is required to personally present the hide and skull to a designated FWP employee within ten (10) days after harvest for the purpose of:
 - inspection and registration of kill.
 - verify evidence of sex.
 - tagging the hide. The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.
 - Any hide and skull not presented or registered to FWP personnel within ten (10) days of harvest are subject to confiscation.
 - It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any wolf, or part thereof, unless the animal has been tagged as prescribed.

Hunter Access

Private Land Access

- Montana law requires hunters to have the permission of the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not. Access courtesy cards and a map directory pamphlet are available at all FWP offices.

Public Land Access

- Wolf hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is illegal without landowner permission. Landowner permission must be obtained to hunt private lands adjacent to waterways.
- FWP is working cooperatively with other agencies to improve signing of legally accessible public lands wherever possible. A map directory pamphlet is available at all FWP offices.
- Enforcement of Area Closures on Public Land: All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season.

Railroad Access – Railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission.

State School Trust Land – A conservation license allows hunters, anglers and trappers access to all legally accessible state lands.

- Motorized travel is only allowed on public roads or on designated roads.
- Designated roads signed as "open" to motorized vehicle use or the information as to which roads are designated as open is available from the DNRC Offices.
- Motorized use of other roads and trails and all off-road use is prohibited.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) – Wildlife Management Areas are generally open to hunting during the fall wolf season. WMAs with big game winter range are closed to public entry, unless otherwise posted, from the day following the end of the general deer-elk season or December 1, whichever is later, to May 15 each year, as posted.

- Exception: Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10; Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.

Closed Lands – State Game Preserves, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges are closed to wolf hunting. For additional information on state and federal regulations, contact the local land manager.

Tribal Lands – Indian Reservations are limited to tribal members only for big game hunting unless otherwise provided for by the Tribal Government. Contact the respective Tribal Government office for additional information.

WMU Legal Descriptions

Management Unit 1 – Northern Montana

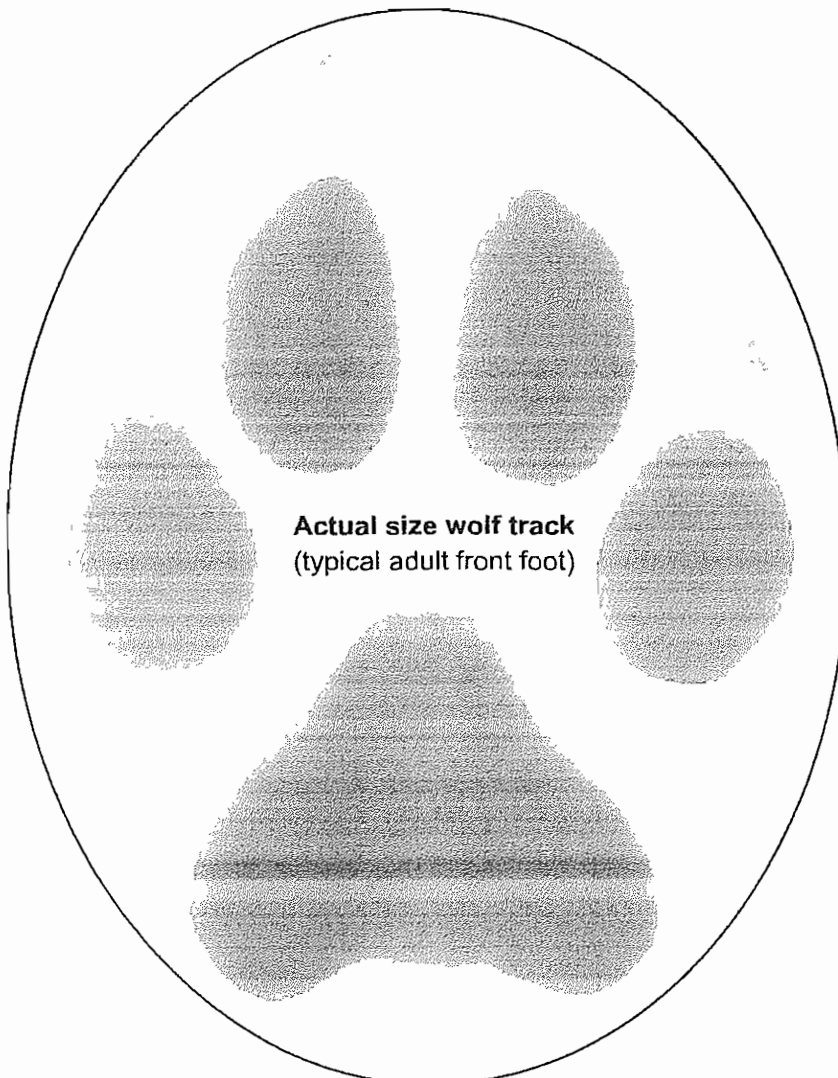
Those portions of Lincoln, Sanders, Mineral, Flathead, Lake, Missoula, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Lewis and Clark, Powell, Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Granite, Cascade, Choteau, Judith Basin, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips, Valley, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Daniels, and Dawson counties within the following described boundary: beginning at Lolo Pass at the Montana-Idaho state border on Highway 12, then easterly to the intersection of Highway 12 and Interstate 90, then easterly along Interstate 90 to the intersection of Interstate 90 and Interstate 15, then northerly along Interstate 15 to the intersection with Highway 200 near Great Falls, then easterly along Highway 200 to the Montana – North Dakota border, then northerly along said border to the Montana – Canada border, then westerly along the Montana –Canada border to the intersection of the Montana – Idaho border, then southerly along the Montana-Idaho border to the point of beginning

Management Unit 2 – Western Montana

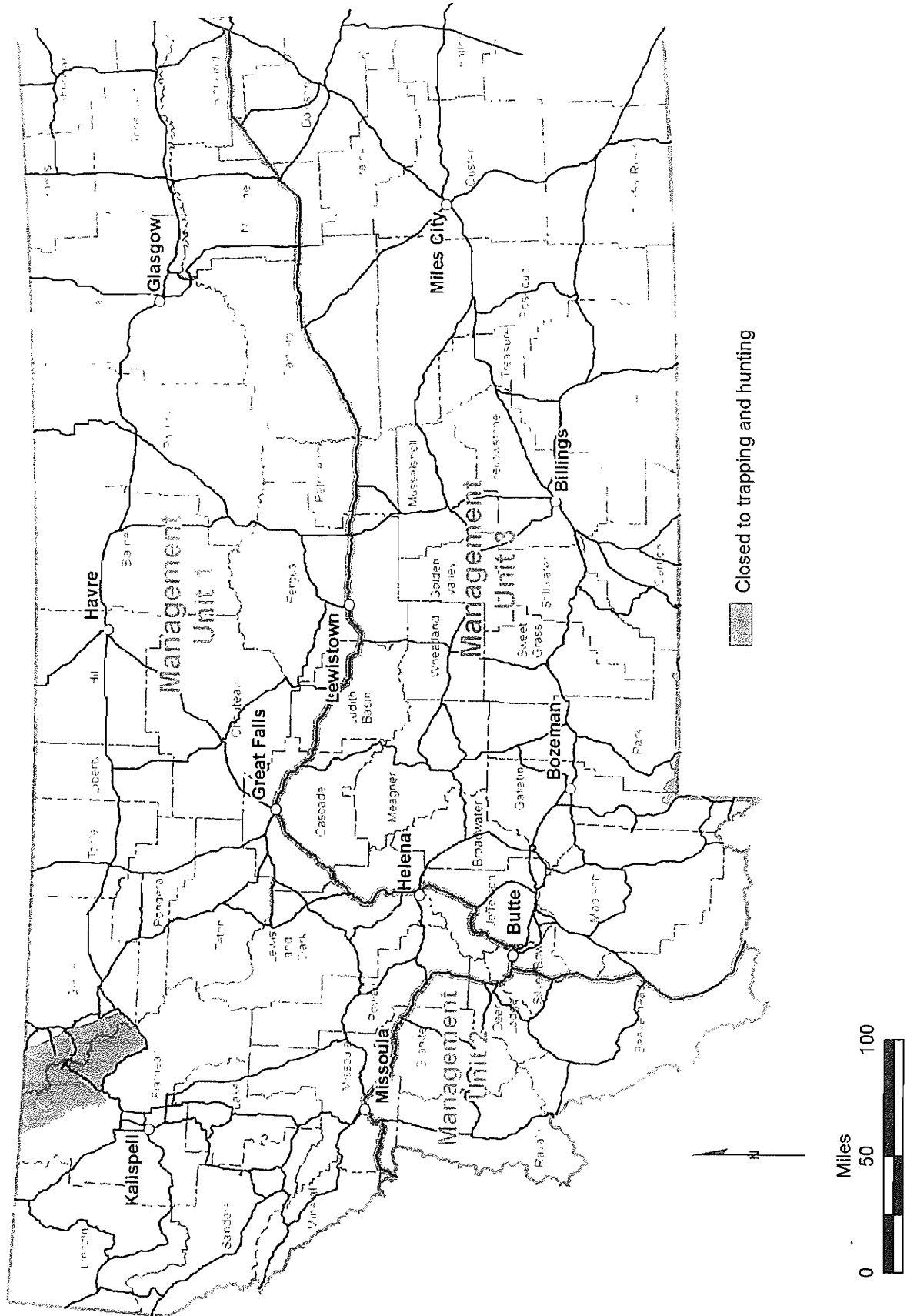
Those portions of Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, and Beaverhead counties within the following described boundary: beginning at Lolo Pass at the Montana-Idaho state border on Highway 12, then southerly along the Montana-Idaho state border to the intersection of the Montana-Idaho border and Interstate 15, then northerly along Interstate 15 to the intersection with Interstate 90, then westerly along Interstate 90 to the intersection with Highway 12, then westerly along Highway 12 to the point of beginning

Management Unit 3 – Southwestern Montana

Those portions of Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Jefferson, Madison, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Cascade, Meagher, Gallatin, Park, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon, Golden Valley, Fergus, Petroleum, Musselshell, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, Wibaux, Dawson, Richland counties within the following described boundary: beginning at the Montana-Idaho state border on Interstate 15, then easterly along the Montana-Idaho state border to the Montana-Yellowstone National Park boundary, then northerly and easterly along the Montana-Yellowstone National Park boundary to the intersection of the Yellowstone National Park-Montana-and Wyoming borders, then easterly along the Montana-Wyoming border to the Montana – South Dakota border, then northerly along the Montana-South Dakota border to the Montana-North Dakota border, then northerly along the Montana-North Dakota border to the intersection with Highway 200, then westerly along Highway 200 to the intersection with Interstate 15, then southerly along Interstate 15 to the point of beginning.



Proposed Wolf Management Units



Contacts

Wolf 24-hour Harvest Reporting Number..... 1-877-FWP-WILD
(397-9453)

Wolf Quota Status –
24 hours/day - 7 days/week 1-800-385-7826
OR fwp.mt.gov

FWP Wolf Management Specialists –
Helena 406-461-0587
Bozeman 406-581-3664
Bozeman 406-581-3281
Missoula 406-865-0017
Kalispell..... 406-250-5047

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters
1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,
Helena, MT 59620-0701.....406-444-2535
Wildlife Division.....406-444-2612
Enforcement Division406-444-2452
Parks Division (Montana State Parks).....406-444-3750
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep,
mountain goat, and all special drawings....406-444-2950
Resident and nonresident licensing for
fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds,
black bear, and mountain lion.....406-444-2535
Telephone Device for the Deaf.....406-444-1200

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters

Region 1
490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-752-5501
Lewistown Area Res Office (LARO)
215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4658

Region 2
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
406-542-5500
Region 5
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

Region 3
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496
406-994-4042
Region 6
54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230
406-228-3700

Helena Area Res Office (HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
406-495-3260
Havre Area Res Office (HVARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406-265-6177

Butte Area Res Office (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
406-494-1953
Region 7
Industrial Site West
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0900

Region 4
4609 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana State Agencies
Agriculture
406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters
406-841-2373
Livestock
406-444-2977
State Lands
406-444-2074
Tourism
406-841-2870
Land Maps
Bureau of Land Management
406-896-5000
Topographical (USGS)
888-275-8747

Tribal Lands
Blackfeet Reservation
406-338-7276
Crow Reservation
406-638-2601
Flathead Reservation
406-675-2700

Federal Agencies
US Department of Interior
202-208-3100
US Fish & Wildlife Service
406-449-5225
USDA Wildlife Services
406-657-6464
Fort Belknap
406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation
406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne
Reservation
406-477-8844
Rocky Boy Reservation
406-395-4207

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 inches wide.
5 to 5.5 inches long

COYOTE

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

