

MONTANA FUR HARVESTERS

FALL 2025

**COYOTES OF
WESTERN MONTANA
WORKING WITH FWP**

Beautiful Fall in Western MT



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Montana Fur Harvesters

2025 Fall Magazine

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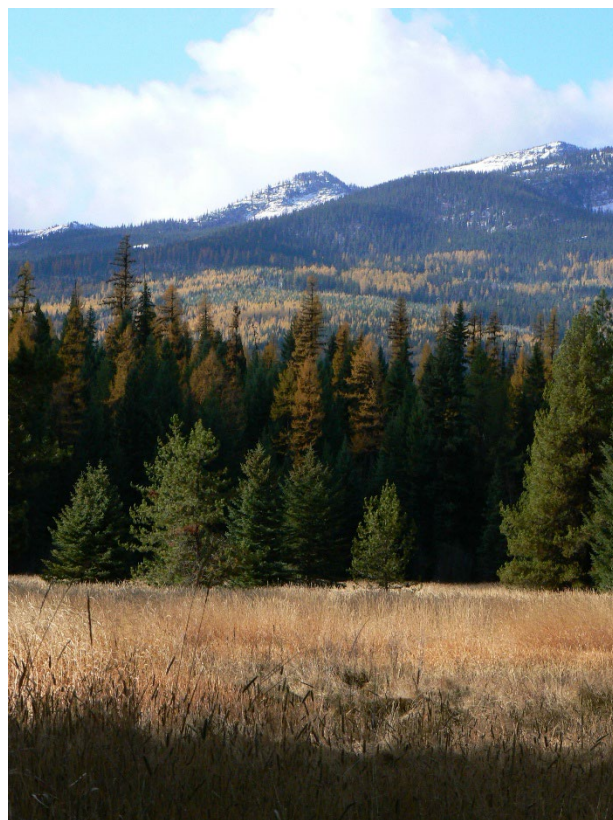
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A bugling bull means we are getting close to trapping season.



Cover Photo, Swan Valley of Western Montana

Notes from the president.

Hard to believe that Fall is already here! Some cooler days and nights, leaves falling, colors just starting to change. I just saw a big muley buck chasing a doe by the house the other day.

Our **Website**, the "*Montanafurharvesters.com*/" is up and running. Now people can join our membership, shop for furs, learn more about trapping, keep updated on events, request our furbearer show or download past MFH magazines. The site has been working well, I am hoping that you might have some suggestions on improving it. Here is a link to the [Website](https://montanafurharvesters.com/). <https://montanafurharvesters.com/> Stop in and look around. We are always looking for articles and photos for the site and future magazines. A hardy welcome to our new members that have signed up on the website.

Past events; We were active at the Columbia Falls Community Market this summer. They are held each Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. We did attend the market in 2024 and had good results, so we did so again. Sold lots of raffle tickets and furs. People from around the world and out of state stopped by the booth. Thanks to John Dana for running that.

We held our annual season ending dinner in Kalispell on September 18th. Those attending approved using the same raffle format for next year, in fact we will be using the same rifles. We drew the winning ticket and Rob Cherry from Napa California was delighted. He had been in Kalispell for the Fair and stopped by the booth on the way to the Rodeo. Due to California restrictive gun laws, he took the \$1000 instead. He was good to work with and thanked us over and over.

Our Fall **Trapper Ed Field Day**

Classes in Kalispell and Missoula will be over by the time you read this. We normally like to have 2 instructors for each of the three stations. We are lucky that we have such a dedicated and experienced group here in Western Montana to offer these classes. Ironically, most instructors are members of Fur

Harvesters. We are always looking for new instructors so if interested contact me or FWP, love to have the help.

Grizzly bear recovery in Montana has reached a level that needs addressing. We are seeing what people are doing to twist reality around facts to restrict outdoor uses. Taking lawsuits to sympathetic Judges to get rulings in favor of their views, despite science will cost dearly. Now we are faced with the wolverine listing. Montana is still working on this. Checkout page 6.

Calendar of Events

See the calendar of events that we will be facing soon. If you ever start getting bored, I am sure you will find something that you could take part in.



Watch your emails for up-and-coming events that I will be sending out.

Wolf management on **private lands in Montana** is vitally important. We as sportsmen need to do everything, we can do to foster good relations with landowners.

All Trappers, be sure to check out the new regulations!!

Last year saw a change in trapping regulations that now requires all trapping activities, a free **Supplemental Trapping Permit**. (Except those using water sets or live cage traps). This covers most all the central and western parts of Montana. This is on top of the regular trapping license. They can be picked up at Regional Offices. Be sure to check this year's regulations or with your local Game Wardens on new changes that happen monthly before setting traps. See page 10



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life or in the trapping world. We must continue to adapt and survive or we will become extinct. The list of large sponsors for the banquet is HUGE and it exemplifies our relationships that we have built and the teamwork of organizations and people that believe in our organization. Arizona Trappers Association, Brent Kinsfather, Camas/Blaine County Farm Bureau Federation, Chuck Hedin, Don Stamp, East Idaho Houndsmen Association, Foundation for

Wildlife Management, Idaho Cattlemen Association, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, Idaho Houndsmen Association, Idaho Sportsmen Access and Opportunity, Iowa Trappers Association, Intermountain Fur Harvesters, Mac Trapping Supplies, Montana Trappers Association, Moyle Tannery, NO BS Traps, Josh Jurek, North Idaho Whitetail Forever, Oregon Trappers Association, Todd and Kim Smith, Upper Snake River Trappers, Wall Tent Shop, Western Montana Fur Center, Wyoming Trappers Association.

Our Fisher reintroduction program will be kicking off soon. A huge thanks to our grant money from IDFG, National Trappers Foundation and Montana Trappers Association. I feel that this program will be a win-win-win for trapping in Idaho and the west. We are protecting ourselves from ESA listing, meanwhile giving trapping a great positive image and building defense to prove that the Clearwater region can sustain a fisher harvest. Hopefully after this three-year program we can put a proposal forward with the department proving that the Clearwater fisher population is healthy and can sustain a small harvest. I get so tired of hearing that trappers are all ruthless murderers and here is a situation where we are trying to help a furbearer population.

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Greetings from Idaho.

Idaho Trappers Association August Pres Report

Rusty Krame<idahotrapguy@hotmail.com>

Not a tremendous number of things going on in August. The kid's camp was a smashing success with 34 kids going through the camp. A huge thanks to Tim Buckendahl, Tim Conant, Ron, Garratt, mom, Mandi and Emmett, Travis Olson and our cooking crew of Annie and John McWilliams. Missy did a bang-up job getting the entire camp coordinated and set up and couldn't have done it without her. A huge thanks to Jerry Strickland for allowing us to use his property and our sponsors of Andy Maroloph, Hermen Merchant, Frank Herbert, Mac Trapping Supplies, Ryan Razee, Simon Farms and Porcupine Unlimited. Also, a huge thanks to the National Trappers Foundation and Idaho Department of Fish and Game for giving us a grant to fund this program. I would love to do this camp in more places in Idaho; all we need is a location and volunteers. The response I got from the kids was heartwarming. They were so engaged and interested in everything.

Been doing last minute push on our NTF banquet. We had a few hiccups with a last-minute venue change but that is just life. "Adapt or die" That motto is no more relevant in

Trapping season is right around the corner, get out there and harvest some fur and get it to the fur sale. I challenge each person to sign up a person for the Idaho Trappers Association and sign themselves up for a sustaining membership. We need your support!

For those that don't know, Rusty Kramer of the Idaho Trappers Association, is our National Trappers Association President. Rusty has taken our trapping community nationwide to a whole new level. I wish him all the luck in the world and plan on supporting him all the way. Tom Fieber

Greetings from Idaho,

Our 13th annual NTF/ITA banquet was held in Idaho Falls and tons of fun to be had. With the last-minute venue change the attendance was down some but still a great success. We cannot have these banquets without fantastic volunteers and supporters, and I have to give a shout out to them here. Our gun donors was a lengthy list: Oregon Trappers Assoc, Montana Trappers Assoc, Wyoming Trappers Assoc, Arizona Trappers Assoc, Chuck Hedin, Idaho Cattlemen Assoc, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, Camas-Blaine County Farm Bureau Federation, Idaho Sportsmen Access, Iowa Trappers Assoc, Brent Kinsfather, Idaho Houndsmen Assoc, East Idaho Houndsmen Assoc, Intermountain Fur Harvesters, Kim and Todd Smith, Moyle Tannery, and Foundation for Wildlife Management. All of the kid's meals and kid's donations were sponsored by Don Stamp and Mac Trapping Supplies. Looking for venues for 2026 banquet in North Idaho or Boise area. Last but not least a huge shout out to our event coordinator Missy Kramer for coordinating this entire event.

We are right in the middle of the IDFG furbearer season setting cycle and we are taking your comments to the department. Every season setting cycle we put recommendations to the department adjusting seasons, expanding bag limits and lifting some closures. Your trapping association is here working for you to be your voice for trapping in the state.

The fishers for Tomorrow program is ramping up. Starting in November, Idaho trappers will be live trapping 15 fisher and IDFG staff will be radio collaring them and relocating them to the Coeur d Alene



mountains. All trappers will be reimbursed for their trouble through the Idaho Trappers Association. All funds for the live trapped fisher will be paid with money raised from the National Trappers Foundation grant, IDFG grant and donation from Montana Trappers Association. A way you can contribute to this program is by supporting our fishers for tomorrow patch program. For \$50 you can get a limited-edition patch and a listing in the magazine. This program is a huge positive PR for trapping and hopefully will lead to a fisher harvest season.

As I write this report, I have already caught one wolf and headed out to check traps this morning. It's a little early to report fur prices but everything seems about like last season. I am already getting interest from craft and garment makers on prime fox, beaver, skunk, badger and otter. Make sure your animals are prime and leaving the feet properly left on pelts will add \$5 - \$20 on the pelts. Please support our fur sales because it is our main source of income for the year. We cannot continue to do the work we do without that revenue stream. Get out in the woods and trap this fall!

Thank you

Rusty Kramer

Idaho Trappers Association President

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Grizzly Delisting Subject to Change

This article was originally published in Predator Extreme magazine

The Trump Administration wasted little time putting the brakes on the proposed decision and Congress might be poised to act.

GRIZZLY BEARS REMAIN FEDERALLY PROTECTED ACROSS THEIR RANGE in the Lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act following a preliminary decision rendered in the final days of the Biden administration. But that decision could be subject to change following President Donald Trump's return to the White House.

Early this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that delisting grizzlies in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington state was "not warranted," citing in part the need for more connectivity between populations. The proposed decision came in response to petitions from Montana and Wyoming seeking delisting in the Northern Continental Divide and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems respectively. Bears in both ecosystems now top 1,000 each — far exceeding science-based recovery criteria, while more recently, the states have worked to move grizzlies between them in order to increase genetic diversity.

In addition to its proposed decision to continue protection, USFWS also issued a major shift in management direction. Previously, the service defined different recovery zones as "distinct population segments," under the ESA, meaning that each could be considered separately for delisting once it met recovery criteria. The decision now places all grizzly habitat in swaths of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, as well as all of Washington state, into one large distinct population segment. The Biden administration defended the decision as setting a better foundation for eventual delisting while providing more management options to agencies and private landowners to deal with livestock depredations.

The decision saw a swift rebuke from officials in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, with accusations of



ignoring the science and the need to better address conflicts between the bruins and humans. Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte accused USFWS of playing politics before the new administration was sworn in. "It's time or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to catch up with the science, follow the law and return management of grizzlies to the states, here it belongs," he said.

By the 1930s, grizzlies occupied only about 2 percent of their historic range in the Lower 48 states and at the time of listing in 1975, they numbered 700 to 800. Today their population tops 2,300, with bears found dispersing into new areas nearly every year.

"This is not a science-based decision, but a decision based on the federal government not wanting to give up control," said Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director Angi Bruce. "One of the greatest wildlife conservation success stories on earth is being Undermined by a failure to recognize those compromises, collaborations and sacrifices that brought back grizzly bears from the brink of extirpation."

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been a leading advocate for states to manage grizzlies just as they carefully manage elk, black bears, mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain lions and a host of other species.

"The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation disagrees with the decision. Once again, decision makers are moving the goalposts for delisting and turning their backs on the established science and success linked to these recovered populations at a time when we should be recognizing and celebrating them," said RMEF Chief Conservation Officer Blake Henning.

The decision to continue ESA protections also comes after Montana, Wyoming and the National Park Service worked collaboratively this past year to address one of the core issues that has stymied past • delisting efforts. Due to concerns raised about genetic connectivity between populations, last summer wildlife officials translocated two bears from the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in an effort to "jump start" connectivity that is moving closer to occurring naturally. Officials were pleased after monitoring the bears over the past few months as they remained in the region and appeared to be settling in, including finding den sites for the winter.

The Trump Administration wasted little time putting the brakes on the proposed decision. The January 8 USFWS announcement was scheduled to trigger a 60-day public comment period including four informational meetings and public hearings. A week after Trump took office on January 20, the Service-canceled those meetings, citing the transition of power and need for review by the new administration.

The decision has also brought renewed attention from members of Congress both urging the new administration to withdraw and re-write the rule or to delist grizzlies via legislation. In a letter to newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, representatives from Montana, Wyoming and Idaho encouraged a return to state management. Both Bergum and Trump's nominee to lead the USFWS — former Wyoming Game and Fish Director Brian Nesvik — have voiced support for delisting grizzlies. Lawmakers have also introduced bills in both the U.S. House and Senate seeking to delist the bruins in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

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Tom Fieber 🐾

BREAKING NEWS

The [Outdoor Heritage Coalition](#),

along with other plaintiffs, are taking legal action against the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission and Montana

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks ("Defendants") for Defendant's failure to regulate wolf hunting and trapping as required by law. This failure to regulate the population has created an overabundance of wolves, negatively impacting rural Montanans.

A pair of Montana lawmakers and the Outdoor Heritage Coalition last week filed a lawsuit alleging the state is failing to carry out several Republican-sponsored laws that sought to reduce the number of wolves in the state.

The Sept. 30 complaint was filed in Sanders County District Court and names the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, a politically appointed board that sets hunting, fishing and trapping regulations, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks as defendants.

The commission has failed to follow a series of laws passed in 2021 by the Republican-dominated Legislature to expand opportunities to hunt and trap wolves, the lawsuit claims. The plaintiffs are asking the court to require the commission "to utilize all available management tools authorized by statute, including extended trapping seasons, snaring and liberal harvest regulations, particularly in regions with the greatest number of wolves."

Republican Reps. Paul Fielder, of Thompson Falls, and Shannon Maness, of Dillon, are listed as plaintiffs along with Yellowstone-area outfitter Craig Neal.

The complaint cites the 2024 wolf report published by FWP this summer, which estimated wolf populations statewide as remaining well above the minimums established by the management agreement between state and federal wildlife regulators. Since 2010, the statewide wolf population has remained relatively stable, generally falling between 1,000 and 1,200 wolves despite a changing patchwork of measures aimed at reducing that number.

The return of wolves to the state's landscape since the 1980s, while heralded as a conservation success by many, has also carried costs for livestock producers in places where they roam. Ranchers and farmers are compensated for those losses through government-funded depredation programs. But many Republicans argue the population of wolves now exceeds the state's carrying capacity.

Among the GOP-sponsored laws passed in 2021, the state directed the commission to establish hunting and trapping seasons "with the intent to reduce the wolf population in the state to a sustainable level." But it also required the

agency to ensure no fewer than 15 breeding pairs remain, in line with federal requirements.

Instead, hunting and trapping quotas set by the commission have fallen well short of the harvest levels needed to put a dent in the wolf population, they allege.

“Because wolves are so adaptive and prolific, to reduce the overall population it is necessary to harvest 30% of the adult wolves every year,” the lawsuit states, citing FWP’s wolf management plan.

The state’s failure to enact the Legislature’s policies has harmed the plaintiffs, the lawsuit claims: “For example, wolves attack members’ livestock and pets, they deplete ungulate populations and consequently reduce hunting and trapping opportunities for members, they cause a threat to members’ safety and they harm members’ businesses.”

The plaintiffs also state the commission’s hunting and trapping regulations limit opportunities for members of the Outdoors Heritage Coalition to hunt wolves. Neal, the outfitter listed as a plaintiff, has also lost business opportunities through wolves’ impact on elk populations that he and his clients could otherwise hunt, according to the complaint.

The plaintiffs also allege the commission’s actions are infringing on their rights “to harvest wild fish and wild game animals” under the Montana Constitution through “restrictive” regulations on wolf hunting and trapping. A failure by the commission to fully consider public comments submitted in advance of an August 2025 hearing to set wolf quotas also infringed on their right to participate in government decisions, the lawsuit claims.

In a text message on Friday, a spokesman for FWP and the Fish and Wildlife Commission declined to comment on pending litigation.

Reached by phone Friday afternoon, Rep. Fielder said he had no comment to add beyond what’s contained in the lawsuit. Rep. Maness likewise declined to comment when contacted, referring instead to a statement from the Outdoor Heritage Coalition.

"The overabundance of gray wolves in Montana adversely affects Montanans," the organization stated. "The gray wolves attack livestock and pets, deplete ungulate populations and consequently reduce hunting and trapping

opportunities, and in some cases threaten economic prosperity and physical safety."

The organization has been involved in a couple other lawsuits related to the state’s wolf policies.

Most recently, it intervened on behalf of Montana government defendants in a 2023 lawsuit filed by the Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force in federal court. U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy ruled against the state wildlife commission, finding that early- and late-season wolf trapping in some areas could put grizzly bears at risk.

They’ve also intervened on behalf of FWP in a lawsuit filed in 2022 by Wildearth Guardians, challenging state laws on killing wolves and the commission’s regulations enacting them. That lawsuit is still ongoing in Lewis and Clark District Court, with a pretrial hearing scheduled for late 2026.

As President of the Montana Fur Harvesters, many of our organization are offering our support for this action. As posted on Facebook. **Tom Fieber** 🐾

The beaver working group update.

Public Comment Opportunity

Deadline: Comments will be accepted through October 27, 2025 at 5 p.m. MST

Montana has one of the most robust non-lethal conflict resolution programs in the western U.S., the Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Project (BCRP). The BCRP is housed within the National Wildlife Federation with support from FWP and other non-profit organizations and private donors. This program works to help landowners and land managers find non-lethal solutions for beaver-human conflicts.

COYOTES OF MONTANA

Noted for its nightly serenades of yaps and howls, the coyote is primarily nocturnal, running with tail pointed downward and sometimes attaining a speed of 64 km (40 miles) per hour. Coyotes are extremely efficient

hunters, and their senses are keen. They are visual predators in open areas, but they mostly use smell and hearing to locate prey in thick vegetation or forest. In the northern parts of its range, the coyote relies primarily on the snowshoe hare and white-tailed deer as prey. A single coyote is able to capture an adult deer, especially in deep snow. Coyotes take down deer by repeatedly biting at the back legs and hindquarters, the kill finally being made with a choking bite to the throat. In fall and early winter, coyotes often hunt in pairs or packs, and the success of a pack increases with its size. Larger packs typically hunt larger animals, although they will capture and eat whatever prey they encounter. The coyote also consumes carrion. Wherever or whenever prey is unavailable or hard to



IDENTIFICATION Coyotes are members of the Canid, or dog, family, which in Montana also includes gray wolves, swift foxes, red foxes, and domestic dogs. Coyotes have a sharp snout, long pointed ears, and a long bushy tail tipped in black. The fur ranges from grayish buff to brownish gray. Coyotes are commonly mistaken for wolves, but they are much smaller, averaging just 22 to 28 pounds and 1.5 feet tall at the shoulder, compared to the wolf's 78- to 103- pound average and shoulder

height of 2.5 feet. At a distance, with nothing to compare them to, a coyote looks a lot like a wolf, so the misidentification is understandable. One way to ID a coyote is to watch the animal on the move. "When running, the coyote carries its tail low, nearly between its legs; domestic dogs and wolves allow the tail to ride up. Also, coyotes live statewide while wolves occur only in the state's western half. **HABITAT** Coyotes prefer open plains but can survive in forests and even suburbs and rural subdivisions. **DIET** Coyotes will eat almost anything, including berries, human garbage, birds and their eggs, and reptiles. Meat is their preferred food, and they hunt small mammals ranging from cottontails and jackrabbits to Columbian ground squirrels and marmots. The mid-size carnivores are notorious for preying on lambs, beef

calves, deer fawns, and baby elk, though it's sometimes not clear if they have killed the young animal or are scavenging on one that died of starvation, disease, or other causes.

Coyotes may live in small packs of several individuals, but, unlike wolves, they usually travel alone. A mating pair sticks together while the female nurses the young, which are born in a den located in a cut bank or brushy ravine or under a large deadfall.

The four to seven young are born blind and helpless in late March through April. By three weeks of age, the pups begin leaving the den to explore their surroundings. HOWLING Coyotes "yip-howl" at dusk, making a sound that resembles someone screaming in a high-pitched voice. The yip-howl serves as a territorial display warning other coyotes to stay away. And that's just one sound. A single coyote can produce such a wide variety of howls that it can sound like an entire pack.

Coyotes are classified in Montana as a "varmint" and can be killed by anyone, without a license, at any time of year. Though coyote numbers aren't monitored, populations seem to be healthy. Wolves don't tolerate coyotes, so as wolves were killed off during the early 1900s, coyotes quickly filled the vacuum. In recent years, the recovery of wolves in western Montana may have reduced coyote numbers, though no one is sure. That possible decline may be offset by less mortality from hunting and trapping as coyote fur prices have dropped by more than half in recent years.

A few years ago, a good Montana Pelt would bring around \$120 at auction. Now we are lucky to get \$25 or anything at all for a less quality one. Many coyotes are targeted because of predation. Even with low prices for pelts, we still need to remove numbers to balance with the prey species.

Tom Fieber 🐾

All Trappers, be sure to check out the new regulations!!

Last year saw a change in trapping regulations that now requires all trapping activities, a free **Supplemental Trapping Permit**. (Except those using

water sets or live cage traps). This covers most all the central and western parts of Montana. This is on top of the regular trapping license. They can be picked up at Regional Offices. Be sure to check this year's regulations or with your local Game Wardens on new changes that happen monthly before setting traps.

Tom Fieber 🐾

Fish and Wildlife Commission passes new wolf regulations

HELENA –The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission finalized wolf hunting and trapping regulations during a lengthy meeting Thursday where commissioners heard passionate comments from people around the country.

The Commission debated several amendments to the 2025/2026 Furbearer and Wolf Hunting and Trapping Regulations proposal that FWP released in early July. Though the regulations cover all furbearer trapping and wolf hunting and trapping, the central focus of the discussion was crafting a new set of wolf regulations.

For the 2025/2026 wolf hunting and trapping season the Commission approved a 452 statewide wolf quota, which includes a sub-quota of 60 wolves in Region 3, and separate quotas of three wolves each in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316.

The Commission established that a person may harvest 15 wolves via trapping and 15 wolves via hunting, provided that five wolves from each method of take are harvested in FWP Region 1 or Region 2. Hunters must purchase a wolf license for each wolf they harvest via hunting, but they may purchase up to 15 licenses before going afield.

The Commission approved a regulation allowing a trapper to gain prior authorization from FWP to temporarily leave the live wolf in the trap for the purpose of radio collaring by FWP. In this circumstance the wolf would not be harvested, but the trapper would immediately notify FWP, per the prior authorization arrangement, and a FWP official would radio collar the wolf and release it from the trap.

The Commission approved regulation changes to require that all harvested wolves must be presented to FWP for inspection within 10 days of harvest for pelt tagging, tissue sampling, and tooth extraction. A trapper must present the hide and skull for tagging and sampling within 10 days of harvest. It is now illegal to leave a wolf hide and skull in the field after harvest, even if the hunter or trapper doesn't want to keep the animal.

The Commission removed trapping setbacks on roads closed to motor vehicle and OHV traffic (except snowmobiles and unless in a designated no trapping area) in Mineral County and on the Spotted Bear Ranger District in northwest Montana.

FWP staff will finalize the regulations and release them online in the coming days. Printed regulations will be available later this summer.

Archery wolf season opens Sept. 6. Trapping season will open Dec. 1, except within the geographic area identified by federal court order. Just like last season, trapping within the geographic area will be limited to Jan. 1 to Feb. 15. The geographic area is all of FWP regions 1, 2 and 3, and portions of regions 4 and 5. This area, with limited trapping dates, is the same as last year, according to the FWP proposal.

Outside this geographic area, wolf trapping closes March 15, 2026, or when a quota is met.



Captured on a trail cam checking on a trap site.

Scientists Discover the Largest Wolf Pack Roaming America

By Chris Weber,

2025-07-06

In a groundbreaking wildlife discovery, researchers have identified what is now considered the largest wolf pack currently roaming the American wilderness. This extraordinary finding has captured the attention of wildlife biologists, conservationists, and nature enthusiasts across the country. The discovery challenges previous understandings about wolf social structures in North America and provides invaluable insights into how these apex predators adapt to changing environments. As wolf populations continue their gradual recovery from near extinction in many regions, this remarkable pack represents a significant milestone in conservation efforts and offers a unique opportunity to study complex pack dynamics at an unprecedented scale.

The newly documented wolf pack, now named the "Yellowstone Northern Range Pack," consists of an astonishing **42 individuals**, making it nearly twice the size of what was previously considered large for North American wolf packs. Discovered in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem spanning portions of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, the pack's territory covers approximately 400 square miles of diverse terrain.

Wildlife biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working in collaboration with university researchers and local conservation groups, confirmed the pack's size through a combination of aerial surveys, GPS collar tracking, camera traps, and DNA analysis of scat samples. Dr. Eleanor Martinez, the lead researcher on the project, described the finding as "a once-in-a-career discovery that fundamentally changes our understanding of wolf social dynamics in modern North American ecosystems."

The Northern Range Pack has developed sophisticated hunting strategies that differ markedly from those observed in smaller wolf groups. While typical packs focus primarily on elk and occasionally target bison when conditions favor wolf success, this mega-pack regularly takes down adult bison through coordinated hunting techniques involving specialized roles for different pack members. Camera trap footage and field observations reveal the pack executing complex ambush strategies requiring at least 20-25 wolves working in concert. 🐺



Well folks, here we are again. Another summer has come and gone. I sure do hope that everyone has had a great summer and spent time with your family and friends. Here in the Swan, we were pretty lucky as there were no fires close by. I am still mowing what little grass we have. It seemed to rain some about every two weeks, just enough to keep things green. In my world, we had a great summer with no anxiety of fire season. Now we are in the fall season and fire season is pretty much past. We now have some snow in the yard, and the mountain tops are white.....YES.

We just returned from Antelope hunting, and the 9-hour drive home was a little crazy at best. We drove about three hours in snow and had 3" ice coming over the pass. At times I was driving about 20 MPH, we even drove behind a few snowplows. This time of year, when we are Loping, we normally have temps in the 70-80-degree range. I like the cooler weather but it rained all Saturday night on the east side and it was impossible to get out and do any hunting on Sunday. Between the gumbo and the 50+ winds we choose to

drive on the gravel roads past the ranch we hunt and decided not to go off road. Old but not foolish!!

By this time of year, we should have all our tools and equipment ready for another season. As I age my skin is not as tough as it once was when I was younger. I



also had a stent put in my heart a year ago. So, I was on blood thinners and it also seemed to make my skin a little thinner. And as a result, I bleed easier. When I was preparing my extension cables and snares, I was getting bloody finger from the ends of the cables

where the crimped cable was. So, I tried something new to help eliminate not having to wear thick leather gloves to dip my cables. Yes, I wear nitrile gloves, but most of you know that they last about 1 minute with sharp objects.

So here is what I did to help eliminate the sharp ends on the ext. cables. After I soaked the new cables and snare in well water and dawn dish detergent overnight. I rinse them in clean well water and hang them to dry for several weeks over a line of some type outside. This helps to weather the cable and helps to eliminate any odor. I have found that simmering my cables in baking soda, that it will start to eat and weaken the cables. This will cause a major failure in the cable and you will lose you catch. Or worse yet, the breakaway will not work properly and the snare

will stay on the animal and will make headlines.



Here is the little trick I'm trying and it seems to be working?? In the photo you can see the ext. cables that are shiny and a roll of black tape. In the next picture you can

see that I tightly wrapped the ends of the cables with electrical tape. After wrapping the cables, I then dipped them in Formula One trap and snare dip from Snare One products. This is a water-based product and mixed 3 to 1 with water. I like the brown color for dipping. I also use well water or water from the stream; I think city water has too many chemicals and may leave some odor. This is just my opinion, and I'm not implying that city people stink. HUMMM

For dipping, I like the weather to be super-hot and sunny. This helps to dry the dip into the cables. After dipping the cables, I find the half way point and hang from there over a piece of rebar to dry. I think that this helps to hang with the ends facing down and the dip runs down into the taped area and helps glue and seal it. In the last picture you can see the dipped and taped cables all rolled up and ready for the season. The picture with the cables hanging, you really have to look closely to see the ones that I have already dipped. That dip is really nice for what I want. I hope this will help you with your cables. Sorry for the old man story, but life happens. I try to keep as much blood as possible off the animals and in my body:}

In closing, we just spoke to the Kalispell fair grounds and it looks like we may be having our 2nd annual - MFH Mountain Man Rendezvous on May 8-9th 2026 at the fairgrounds. Please stay tuned on our website for upcoming info.

I hope that everyone has a Blessed and safe season.

Tail Dragger



NEW IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR BOOTH

I picked up a new cargo trailer in August. With some shelving and carpenter work it now holds all our booth displays and inventory. We have used it in Idaho, Deer Lodge, Kalispell and Trego. It sure is convenient having everything in one place and available

Here is our new table covers that we added to our booth. The graphics turned out great. I also added new hangers for the furs that seemed to really work.

We just wrapped up our final show for the year, just in time to get out on the lines.

Thanks for all of you who volunteer to run the booth throughout the year

WE PROMOTE AND PRESERVE FUR HARVESTING AND ITS HERITAGE IN MONTANA AS BOTH A SPORT AND AN INDUSTRY THROUGH EDUCATION AND REGULATORY ACTIVISM. WE SUPPORT FUR HARVESTING AS A SUSTAINABLE USE TOOL FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, AND FIGHT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE WILDLIFE AND HABITAT. WE WORK WITH MT FWP TO SUPPORT THEIR MANAGEMENT GOALS.

Activities*****

Active with FWP shaping regulations that shape our trapping.

Trapper Education

Booths at Family Forestry Expo

School Shows

Northwest Montana Expo

Newsletters

Local County Fairs

Fur Handling Clinics

Public events

- ✕ Montana Fur Harvesters represents Trapper, Houndsmen and Predator Hunters**
- ✕ Consider becoming a member of The Montana Trappers Association and The National Trappers Association. Every dollar raised will help to fight for trappers across the nation. Go online to their websites to join.**

Memberships run from January 1 to December 31

Please Complete this form and send to: MFH, PO Box 3481, Kalispell MT 59903

Please Print Clearly

Date ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

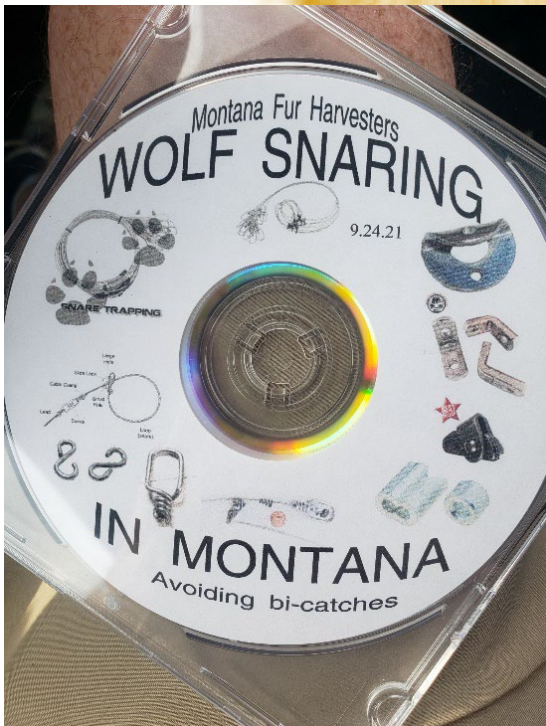
Phone _____ Email _____

Please check one ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Pro-rate for 2020 balance.

☐ Sustaining Membership \$20.00 annual dues ☐ Junior (under 18) \$10.00 annual dues ☐ Family Membership \$30.00 annual dues ☐ Charter Member \$100.00 annual dues **Add a magazine to your membership at a discounted price** ☐ Trapper Post Magazine \$14.00 ☐ The Trapper \$12.00 ☐ Trappers World \$18 Predator Extreme Free. Goto

www.grandviewoutdoors.com/order/subscriptNote: ☐ Check here to receive your Newsletter by Email ☐ Check here to have Newsletter mailed. **This very popular video** is a must see for anyone thinking of snaring in Montana. I have sent them out to Alaska, Idaho and Montana. If you can't make one of your local classes, at least take time to view this before you start buying or making snares. It could save you money from buying wrong supplies or worse making a bad set.

To purchase a video: Pick one up at a local class for \$20 and save \$5 postage. Send a **check** for \$25 in the mail to, Tom Fieber, 507 Bayview Dr, Polson Mt 59860. For **Credit Card** sales at \$25. Send me your contact info then call me at 406-250-3386 Our Wolf Snaring Education Video on Avoiding By-catches has been shown to over 400 prospective wolf snaring trappers. The video has been sold in multiple states as well. Evening classes were held in a dozen local communities and in online FWP Wolf Certification Classes. The video is available to all.



Tom Fieber 🐾 **Thanks to The Meuli's of Columbia Falls.** They are always willing to share their facility for our events. Shawn, Amber, and Kimberly are great sportsmen!

Montana Fur Harvesters works closely with local FWP personnel. Game warden, **Jon Obst**, is one of the first to work with trappers and is a valued asset to the trapping community. He knows trapping, regulations, how traps function, what trappers are dealing with.

Wildlife biologist, **Jessy Coltrane**, has been heading up the fisher denning box project in the Cabinet Mountains. She has been great to work with and is a hard worker herself. Wildlife biologist for region one.

Neil Anderson, he has been another one that attends public meetings and sportsman events. He has been working to address road and trail issues as well as other issues that affect sportsman. Neil really listens to people's concerns and acts on them.

Biologist, **Tyler Parks** in Region Two is also very good to work with. Tyler runs the region 2 spring trapper meetings and is a member of the trapping education committee.

Dillon Tabish from Region 1 is always doing what he can to get things organized and get out press releases.

Nathan Kluge is our new Furbearer biologist for FWP in Helena. Nathan has been active at the Trapper Education Class and has been really good to work with and knowledgeable as a trapper.

Ben Chappelow, game warden from the Flathead, has been filling in for Jon Obst in that capacity. Ben has been assisting with the Trapper Ed Classes and doing a great Job.

Vivica Crowser IO from Region 2 has been a big help with our trapper education events.

These are just a few of the many local personnel that I work with and appreciate.

Thanks to each and every one of them!

Charter Members for 2025

Donating \$100 or more!

The following members have gone the extra mile to support MFH. Without this commitment, it would be hard to publish this and host the fur shows.

Bill Boehme, Bill has been supporting us as a charter member for years. He is a great seminar instructor and a real member of the trapping community.

Idaho Trappers Association, This Association is a real asset to the entire US Trapper Community. Thanks to Rusty Kramer for all he does.

Ed Schweitzer. Ed attended our booth at the Kalispell Gun Show and signed up as a charter member. This is deeply appreciated.

Scott S Smith, Director from Whitefish has been supporting the Fur Harvesters in many ways, manning booths as well.

Kenneth Cordoza, our past President still goes out of his way to support his organization.

Rusty Kramer, Idaho Trappers Association President has been a strong supporter here in Montana.

Mark Williams, from Florida has his second term.

Bob and Nickie Clyde of St Regis have supported wolf trapping since 2011.

Brook Lincoln, from Haugan has been a strong supporter of predator management for years.

Hunter Shima, Hunter and his family have been supporting us from Montana Power Products.

Jeff Schlink, from Cut Bank just joined our Charters

Eric and Susan Clark from Lolo just joined Charters

As you can see, we still have room for more!

Montana Fur Harvesters
PO Box 3481
Kalispell MT 59903



Montana Power Products not only sells great products, but they have a full-service shop to repair and maintain your equipment. They are also great supporters of the sportsman community. Like ours, Montana Sportsman for Fish & Wildlife and the Foundation For Wildlife Management. Thanks, from all of us.

SALES-SERVICE-PARTS



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