

Indian Reservations – Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations. State regulations apply to deeded land and the Bighorn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information, call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-883-2888 ext 7200.

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

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.

State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) - which provide game animal winter range, are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or Dec. 1, whichever is later, to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

- **Exception:** Blackfoot Clearwater WMA from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or Dec. 1, whichever is earlier, through the remainder of the hunting season, that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.
- **Exception:** Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.
- Canyon Ferry WMA designated access gates for Ponds 2, 3, and 4 will be opened at noon the day prior to the opening of the youth and general waterfowl seasons.

Stream Access – Migratory game bird hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is lawful. However, landowner permission must be obtained to hunt or retrieve on private lands adjacent to waterways.

Statewide Closures

Region 2: Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County): An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

Region 3: Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County): The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in 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.)

Region 3: South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County): Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W. This area is closed to the hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area.

Region 3: Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure: Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

Region 3 and Region 4: Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve: No hunting. Beginning in Section 2, T12N, R3W at the southeast corner of Upper Holter Lake, then proceeding westerly along the northern shoreline of Upper Holter Lake in the Gates of the Mountains area located in Lewis and Clark County, then northerly along Stoney Point Beacon Road, then northerly along the powerline to said beacon, then along Bulldozer Road to the point of the ridge in Section 23, T13 N, R3W, then northerly to the Missouri River, then easterly across said river and lake to the USFS boundary to the wilderness boundary, then south along wilderness boundary to the southeast corner of Section 1, T12N, R3W, then west back to Upper Holter Lake, the point of beginning. Intending hereby to include in said game preserve all the territory adjacent of the Gates of the Mountains area, shall be called and known as the Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve.

Region 4: Freezout Wildlife Management Area: (Teton County): SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season. From the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20 to the end of the season.

Region 4: Missouri River (Cascade County): The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

Region 6: McLean Reservoir (Hill County): Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

Region 6: Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County): All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

Region 6: Sands Lake (Hill County): SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

Region 7: Treasure & Rosebud counties: Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.

Statewide- Snipe, Mourning Dove, and Sandhill Crane

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
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Common (Wilson's) Snipe

-	-	Sept. 1-Dec. 16	8 daily and 24 in possession	
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Mourning Dove

-	-	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	15 daily and 45 in possession	It is unlawful to shoot mourning doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.
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Sandhill Crane Special Drawing License

All sandhill crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway and in Wheatland, Meagher, Carbon, and Golden Valley counties and **those** portions of Sweetgrass **and Stillwater** counties north of I-90 is by special license only. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a crane special license online at ols.fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 19, 2024. Applicants may apply for only one area and must specify the hunting area for which they are applying.

280-01	5	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	1 sandhill crane	Only valid in Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County.
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Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County: those portions of Deer Lodge County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Highway 273, then westerly along Highway 273 to the junction of Highway 1, then southeast along said highway to Highway 275 at Opportunity, then east along said highway to East Side County Road, then north along said road to Perkins Lake, then west on said lane to I-90, then north on said interstate to the junction of Highway 273, the point of beginning. Except for sections 13 and 24, T5N, R10W; and Warm Springs Pond number 3.

284-01	40	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	2 sandhill cranes	Only valid in Ovando-Helmville area. Successful applicants will receive two 284-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
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Ovando-Helmville area: that portion of the Pacific Flyway, located in Powell County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the junction of State Routes 141 and 200, then west along Route 200 to its intersection with the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Fishing Access Site (Powell-Missoula County line), then southeast along said river to its intersection with the Ovando-Helmville Road (County Road 104) at Cedar Meadows Fishing Access Site, then south and east along said road to its junction with State Route 271 (at Main Street in Helmville), then east along said route to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, the point of beginning.

380-01	120	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	2 sandhill cranes	Only valid in Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison counties. Successful applicants will receive two 380-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
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390-01	25	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	2 sandhill cranes	Only valid in Broadwater County. Successful applicants will receive two 390-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
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480-01	20	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	1 sandhill crane	Only valid in Cascade and Teton counties.
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586-01	70	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	2 sandhill cranes	Only valid in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and those portions of Sweetgrass and Stillwater counties north of I-90. Successful applicants will receive two 586-01 Sandhill Crane licenses.
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599-00	30	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	2 sandhill cranes	Only valid in Carbon County. Successful applicants will receive two 599-00 Sandhill Crane licenses.
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Sandhill Crane Over-the-Counter Permit

Persons wishing to hunt sandhill cranes in the Central Flyway outside of the special license drawing areas must obtain a free permit available from all statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and license providers.

-	-	Sept. 28-Nov. 24	3 daily and 9 in possession	<p>Exception 1: That area south and west of I-90 is closed to the hunting of sandhill cranes except for Carbon County with the 599-00 license.</p> <p>Exception 2: Hunting in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 can only be done with a 586-01 license.</p>
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Statewide- Waterfowl

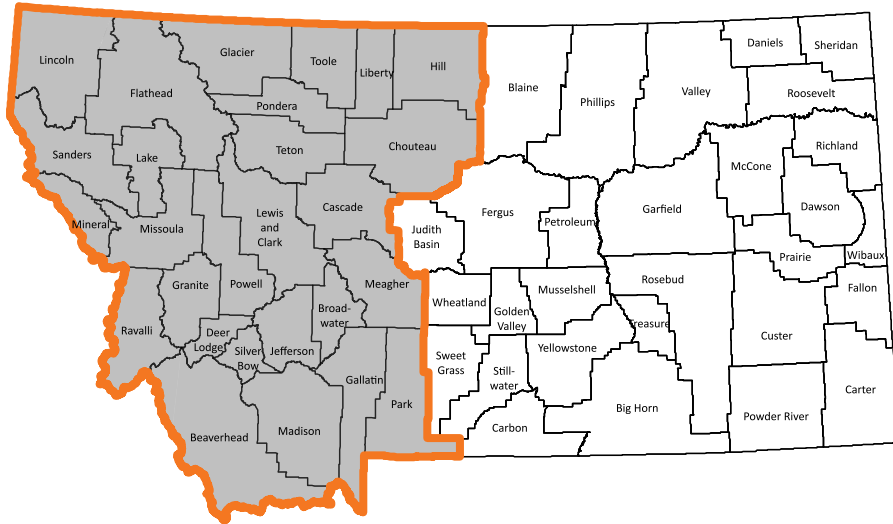
Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season Sept. 21-22, 2024 – Statewide

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. The bag limit, shooting hours, and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.

Exception: Canyon Ferry: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon Sept. 21 and 22.

Pacific Flyway - Waterfowl

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.



Pacific Flyway

Ducks (including Mergansers)

Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks and 2 scaup. Scaup season closes Dec 22. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Sept. 21 - Sept. 22	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Sept. 28 - Dec. 22	Standard bag limit. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
Dec. 23 - Jan. 10	Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Coots

Bag Limit: 25 daily and in possession

Sept. 21 - Sept. 22	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Sept. 28 - Jan. 10	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 5 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Sept. 21 - Sept. 22	Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
Sept. 28 - Jan. 10	Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

Falconry: Ducks (including Mergansers), Coots and Geese

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season.

Sept. 28 - Jan. 10	See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.
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Exceptions - Pacific Flyway Ducks, Coots & Geese

Exception 1: Canyon Ferry (see legal description below): Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, 2024, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season Sept. 21-22, 2024, hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, Oct 5, 2024, until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply.

Exception 2: Cochrane Reservoir, Morony Reservoir, and Ryan Reservoir in Cascade County are closed to waterfowl hunting.

Canyon Ferry Legal Description: Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson- Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

To learn about Montana's Migratory Bird Wetland Program and how your state "duck stamp" dollars are spent, go to:

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/habitat/migratory-bird-wetland-program>

Turn In Poachers. Enough is Enough! Make the call: 1-800-TIP-MONT 7

Pacific Flyway (continued)

Swan-Hunting by Drawing Only

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
481-20	500	Oct. 5 - Nov. 29	1 swan	Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving, or chest-high waders while hunting the dikes at Freezout.

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole, and portions of Teton and Pondera counties by special swan permit only. Those portions of Teton and Pondera counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation are closed to hunting of all swans. The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting. Hunting only by special permit. Application deadline is July 19. Must apply in only one flyway. Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License.

Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 19, 2024.

72-Hour reporting requirement:

Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by:

- 1) deposit in regular U.S. mail or,
- 2) deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA.

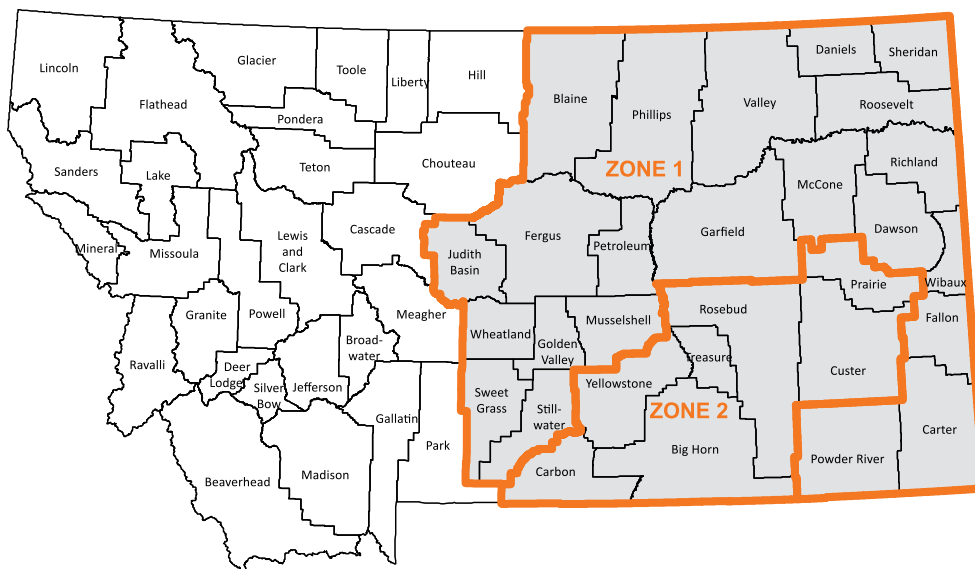


Bird Hunters: Know How to Release Your Dogs from Snares and Traps

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

Central Flyway - Waterfowl

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.



Zone 1 (Ducks, Coots & Geese): Includes Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland and Wibaux counties.

Zone 2 (Ducks, Coots & Geese): Includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone counties.

Central Flyway

Ducks (including Mergansers)

Bag limit: The daily bag limit is 6 ducks or mergansers. The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks and 1 scaup. During the first 9 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Sept. 28 - Oct. 6), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Sept. 28 - Jan. 2	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
-	Oct. 19 - Jan. 14

Coots

Bag Limit: 15 daily. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Sept. 28 - Jan. 2	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
-	Oct. 19 - Jan. 14

Geese

Daily limit: 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 5 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under	Sept. 21 - Sept. 22 Only licensed youth ages 15 and under
Sept. 28 - Jan. 10	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
-	Oct. 19 - Jan. 22

Falconry: Ducks (including Mergansers) and Coots

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sept. 18 - Jan. 2	Sept. 18 - Oct. 6
-	Oct. 19 - Jan. 14

Falconry: Geese

Bag Limit: For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

Zone 1	Zone 2
Sept. 28 - Jan. 10	Sept. 28 - Oct. 6
-	Oct. 19 - Jan. 22

Swan-Hunting by Special License Only

License	Quota	Season Dates	Bag Limit	Additional Information
684-20	500	Sept. 28 - Jan. 2	1 swan	Application deadline is July 19. Must apply in only one flyway.

Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License. Hunters may apply for a swan special license online at fwp.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than July 19, 2024. Surplus Central Flyway swan special licenses will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Aug. 12, either online, or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. For online requests, allow time for a permit, letter, swan tag, and bill card to be mailed to you.