

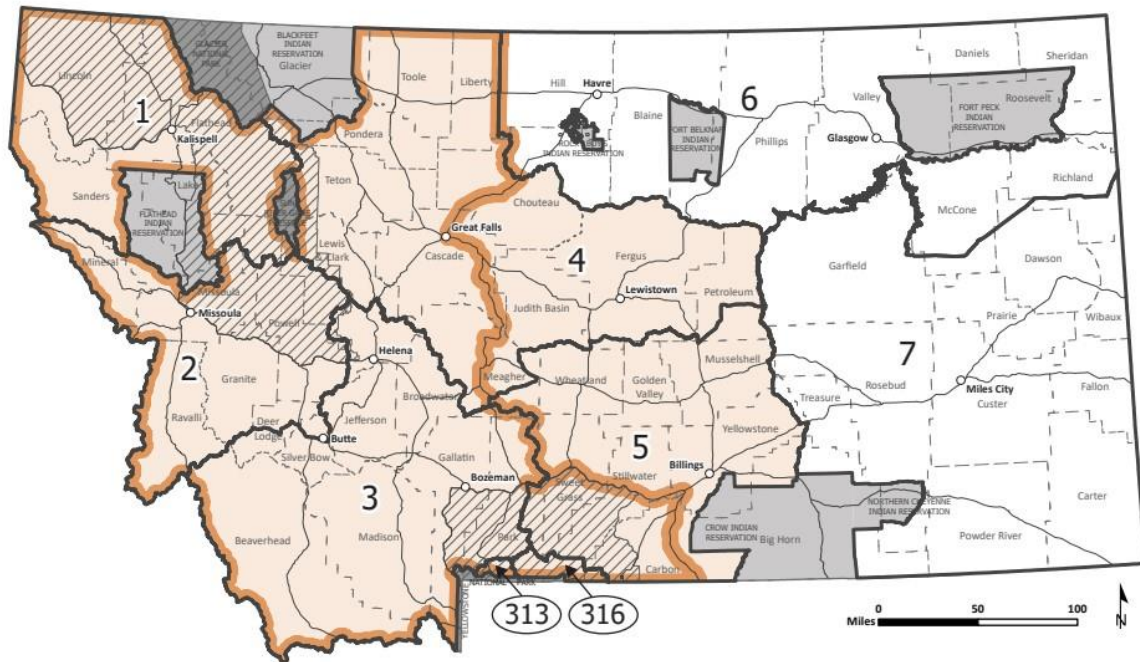








# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## Montana Free Supplemental Trapping Permit

### 1. What is a Free Supplemental Trapping Permit?

Starting Dec. 1, this free permit is required by all trappers targeting nongame (raccoon, badger, red fox) and predatory animals (coyote, striped skunk, spotted skunk, weasel) inside of the geographic area defined by federal court order. (See map) The only exception is that trappers using water sets or live cage traps do not need the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit.



-  Wolf Region/Management Unit
-  Lynx Protection Zones
-  Free Supplemental Trapping Permit Required.  
Wolf Trapping Season: Jan. 1–Feb. 15, 2025
-  Minimum 10-pound Trap Pan Tension Area
-  Closed to Hunting
-  Closed to Hunting for Game Animals

Trappers who are operating in this geographic area for livestock protection purposes must have not only the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit but also a completed and signed declaration identifying the producer’s name, that the producer has provided permission for the trapping activities, and the county where the activities are occurring. This declaration form can be downloaded at the time of acquiring a free Supplemental Trapping Permit online or obtained at any FWP office. A completed and signed declaration form must be carried by the trapper at all times when conducting livestock protection trapping activities.

### 2. How do I get a Free Supplemental Trapping Permit?

The Free Supplemental Trapping Permit is available online through the FWP online licensing system or by stopping by an FWP office.

**3. Why are you requiring this free permit?**

The Free Supplemental Trapping Permit will allow FWP to gather information on nongame and predator trapping efforts in the geographic area identified by the federal court order. Some information that FWP will gather from trappers who obtain the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit will include the number of trappers working for the protection of livestock, and which counties where trapping occurs, along with other trapping-related information that will further inform FWP's future trapping season proposals.

**4. Why do this now?**

FWP has been criticized for wolf and coyote trapping in occupied grizzly bear habitat. While wolf trapping in this area has defined dates to avoid incidental capture of grizzly bears, those dates do not apply to predator/coyote trapping. Accordingly, we are implementing this practice now so that we can gather information from those conducting predator/nongame trapping and then follow-up with those trappers with a post-season survey to determine overall effort, success, and rate of non-target capture.

**5. Why do I need a declaration when conducting livestock protection activities in this area?**

FWP wants to ensure a general understanding of trapping efforts for predators/nongame, including coyotes, in this area, and whether those activities are being conducted for personal reasons or for livestock protection. This information will be critical in helping FWP's management. The declaration may be reviewed by FWP law enforcement but will not be collected or retained by FWP, except in situations involving unlawful activities.

**6. Do I need to complete trapper's education to get the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit?**

Trappers must complete a trapper's education course to trap in Montana if they haven't been a licensed trapper for three prior years. However, trapper's education is not required for the free permit.

**7. Who is a producer?**

A producer is a person or a business that is actively engaged in and receives income from the raising of animals.

**8. Do I have to have the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit to trap furbearers or wolves?**

No. This only applies to people who are trapping nongame animals like foxes, racoons, and badgers as well as for those people trapping predators, like coyotes, weasels, and skunks. If you

trap furbearers, bobcats or wolves and also target nongame animals or predators, you'll need this Free Supplemental Trapping Permit.

**9. If I have a Special Recreation Use License from the Montana Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC), do I also need a Free Supplemental Trapping Permit?**

Yes, if you are targeting nongame and predators inside of the geographic area identified above.

**10. What happens if a grizzly bear is incidentally captured in a trap or snare?**

Effective 48 hours after FWP is aware of the capture of any grizzly bear, 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), from Dec. 1 - Dec. 31 and Feb. 16 – Aug. 31 must adhere to the following regulations:

- All foothold traps used in ground sets (regardless of the target species) must have an inside jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 1/2 inches.
- The use of snares is not allowed unless they meet ALL of the following criteria:
  - o 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;
  - o The snare is fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground (i.e., the use of drags is unlawful); and
  - o The top of the loop of the snare is not placed more than 26 inches above the ground; in snow, 26 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper's footprint established by the full body weight of the trapper.

These restrictions do not apply to trappers trapping for the purpose of livestock protection.

**11. Do landowners who are trapping on land they own or lease need this?**

Landowners who are trapping nongame or predators on their own land or land they lease within the court-ordered geographic area need the Free Supplemental Trapping Permit, but do not need the declaration.