

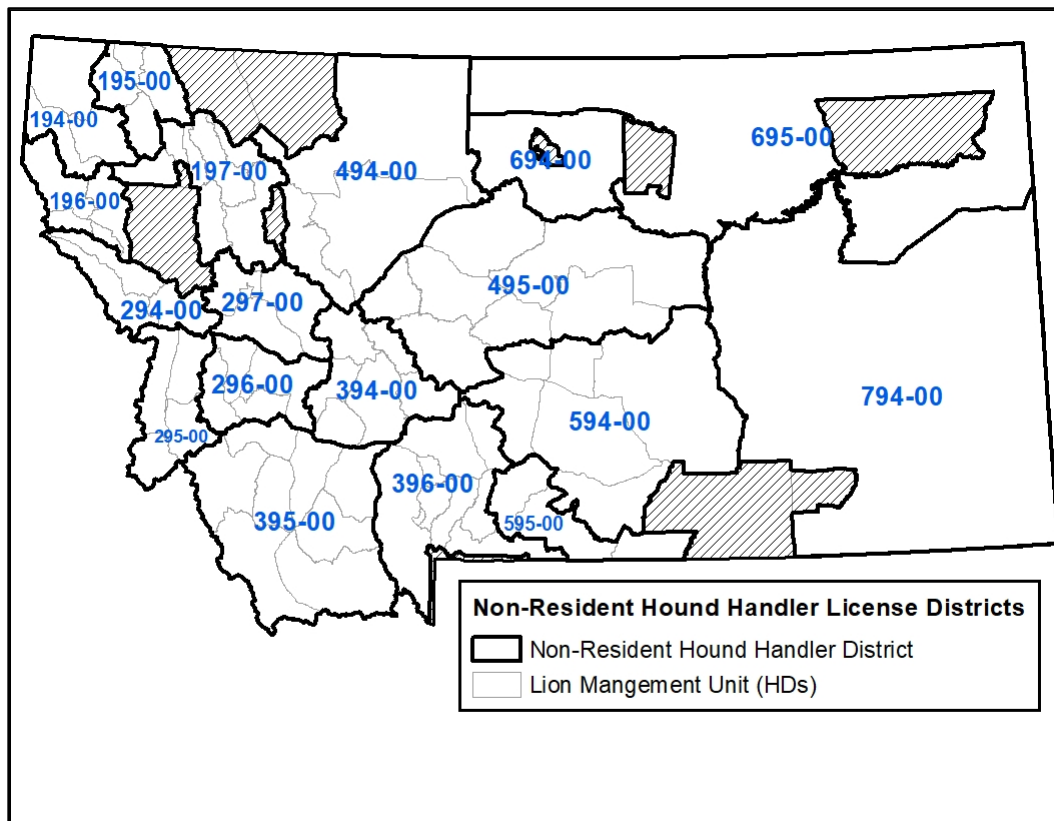
FAQ's for House Bill 311: Non-Resident Hound Handler License

The Montana State Legislature passed House Bill 311 during the 2019 legislative session. HB311 created a Non-Resident Hound Handler License. Statutory limitations of HB311 include that no more than 35 NRHH licenses may be issued in any year, and no more than 2 in any hunting district. The non-resident hound handler license is for personal use only and cannot be used to assist any other person in the pursuit of a lion for harvest. The cost of the license is \$500 and will be adjusted annually by the consumer price index - urban.

The following information describes *how FWP intends to propose implementation* of HB311 to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at their next currently scheduled meeting on April 23, 2020. *The Commission may approve or change this proposed implementation.*

Q: Which lion districts are open for non-residents that use their own hounds to apply for a Non-Resident Hound Handler License?

A: FWP is proposing to group Lion Management units (LMU's) into 18 Non-Resident Hound Handler Districts. Each NRHH license will be valid in only one NRHH district. District of choice will be specified on the application. See the map below and a detailed list of the LMU's grouped together into a NRHH District at the end of the document.



Q: How many Non-Resident Hound Handler licenses are available, and how will they be selected?

A: The statute limits the total number of NRHH licenses to 35 per year, with a maximum of 2 in any hunting district. For License Year 2020, the quota will be proposed to be 2 for all NRHH districts except for district 196-00 where the quota is proposed to be 1.

Q: Do I first need to purchase a Non-Resident Mountain Lion License before I apply for a Non-Resident Hound Handler License?

A: Yes, you must have a conservation (\$10), base hunting (\$15), and non-resident mountain lion license (general, special, or limited R2; \$320) to hunt with a NRHH license (\$500). Together these licenses total \$845.

Q: If I am unsuccessful in drawing the new Non-Resident Hound Handler License, can I turn in my Non-Resident Mountain Lion License (general, special, or limited R2) for a full or partial refund?

A: No. Montana state law does not allow for a refund. Those non-residents that have a general lion license, draw a special lion license, or obtain a limited Region 2 lion license, but do not draw the NRHH license have the following options: hire a licensed Montana Outfitter to hunt lions with hounds, hunt with a resident who owns his/her own dogs with no exchange of money or favors, or hunt lions without hounds.

Q: When can I apply and when will the licenses be drawn?

A: The drawing for Non-resident hound handler permits will occur AFTER the results for drawing a special mountain lion license are available. A special mountain lion license can be applied for between June 30 and July 24, 2020. The drawing for the special lion license will be July 28, 2020. Applications for the nonresident hound handler license will be available starting August 3, 2020. The deadline to apply for it will be September 4 and the drawing will be September 11, 2020. To be eligible for the drawing, hunters must have purchased one of the three types of mountain lion license.

Q: Can the holder of a Non-Resident Hound Handler License assist someone else in pursuing a lion?

A: No, the NRHH license is for the purpose of personally harvesting or chasing a mountain lion using hounds and the license cannot be used to assist any other person in the pursuit of a lion.

Q: If I am a non-resident hound handler and I only intend to pursue/chase lions and not harvest a lion, do I need the new Non-Resident Hound Handler License?

A: Yes, non-residents pursuing/chasing lions, even if they do not intend to harvest the lion, must have a general, special, or limited R2 lion license AND the new NRHH License.

Q: What if I have a friend who is a Montana resident that owns hounds and we exchange no money or favors, can I hunt over his or her hounds if I have a general, special, or limited R2 lion license?

A: Yes. But the non-resident hunter may not handle the hounds. All hound handling in this circumstance must be done by the Montana resident.

Q: Does a Non-Resident hunter need the hound handler license if they are hunting with an outfitter?

A: No, not if hunting with a Montana-licensed outfitter. Montana-licensed outfitters and guides and non-residents hunting with Montana-licensed outfitters are not required to have the new license. Please note - It is illegal to pay for the services of a non-Montana-licensed outfitter or guide in the pursuit of a mountain lion. It is illegal for a non-resident holder of the new NRHH license to aid anyone else in the pursuit of a lion.

Q: What opportunities are there for non-resident lion hunters to chase or harvest a lion in Montana?

A: The opportunities for Non-Residents to chase or harvest a lion in Montana are with:

- A General Lion License (over the counter)
 - o without the use of hounds
 - o with their own NRHH license and hounds
 - o with a Montana licensed outfitter
 - o with a MT resident who is handling his or her hounds while the non-resident hunts, and with no exchange of money or favors.
- A Special Mountain Lion License (by drawing only)
 - o without the use of hounds
 - o with their own NRHH license and hounds
 - o with a Montana licensed outfitter
 - o with a MT resident who is handling his or her hounds while the non-resident hunts, and with no exchange of money or favors.
- A Limited Region 2 General Mountain Lion License (available to unsuccessful applicants for a Special Mountain Lion License)
 - o without the use of hounds
 - o with their own NRHH license and hounds
 - o with a Montana licensed outfitter
 - o with a MT resident who is handling his or her hounds while the non-resident hunts, and with no exchange of money or favors.

Table 1. Non-Resident Hound Handler License Areas, the Lion Management Units (Hunting Districts) they consist of, and available/unavailable LPTs for 2020.

Nonresident Hound Handler License Areas																		
Region	1				2				3			4		5		6		7
LPT	194-00	195-00	196-00	197-00	294-00	295-00	296-00	297-00	394-00	395-00	396-00	494-00	495-00	594-00	595-00	694-00	695-00	794-00
Quota	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Districts	100	101	121	120	200	204	210	280	318	300	301	400	405	500	510	680	600	700
	103	102	122	130	201	240	211	281	335	302	309	401	410	502	520	690	611	701
	104	109	123	132	202	250	212	283	339	319	310	403	411	511	560		620	702
		110	124	140	203	260	213	284	343	320	311	404	412	530			621	703
				141	MSMA	261	214	285	350	321	312	406	413	540			622	704
				150		262	215	290	370	322	313	415	416	570			630	705
				151		270	216	291	380	323	314	421	417	575			631	
				170			217	292	388	324	315	423	418	580			632	
								293	390	325	316	424	419	590			640	
								298	391	326	317	425	420				641	
									392	327	360	426	432				650	
										328	361	441	445				651	
										329	362	442	446				670	
		101-01	121-01							330	393	444	447					
		101-02	121-02							331		450	448					
		100-01	102-01	122-01						332			449					
		100-02	102-02	122-02						333			452					
		103-01	109-01	123-01	120-01			210-00		334			454					
		103-02	109-02	123-02	120-02	200-00		211-00	280-00	340			455					
		104-01	110-01	124-01	130-01	201-00		212-00	283-00	341			471					
	104-02	110-02	124-02	130-02	202-00	204-00	213-00	290-00				426						

- Region 1 special lion areas
- Region 2 special lion areas

Each year some lion hunting district quotas are low enough (<10) such that the 10% maximum that can be awarded to non-residents is less than 1. For 2020, those district/LPTs that do not have any non-resident opportunity are listed in red.

- Blue Special lion LPT open to nonresidents in 2020
- Red Special lion LPT or hunting district not open to nonresidents in 2020