

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENTS
2021 SETBACKS

1. I can't condone trapping of any kind. It is grossly inhumane, needless, and indiscriminately kills unintended animals!!! We no longer live in the 1800's where trapping for fur was necessary for survival. The argument that trapping is part of Montana's heritage is used up; it bears no weight! Killing native Americans used to be part of Montana's history and that needed to change. It too, was gross and inhumane! In addition traps are a safety issue!!!! I've run into traps when hiking, and I have subsequently thrown them in the trash! Dogs get caught in traps (indiscriminate), and recently a toddler was caught in one. I think that occurred in Colorado. With more and more people going into the backcountry, the risk of being harmed by a trap increases dramatically!!! I can see a civil lawsuit on the horizon! Trapping maybe legal, but harming somebody with one is not!!!!

Millie Carson Bozeman, MT

2. Dear FWP Director and Commissioners, Regarding trapping setbacks from roads and trails, this is another solution in search of a problem. There are not numbers of trapped/molested/disabled/disturbed dogs and pets in any significant numbers to warrant trapping setbacks in any of our regional management areas. This issue is akin to the Commission Rule that mandates trappers to report their trapping activities to occupants of habitable structures which are within 1,000' of those structures. According to FWP Wardens there has not been one case made based on a violation of that Commission Rule. This Rule was enacted in response to a purported (never confirmed) report of a dog caught in a trap in Flathead County years ago. This Commission Rule needs to be taken out of the Regulations as soon as possible because no one is following this Rule and Wardens across the state have no record of ever having prosecuted anyone in violation of this Rule. Finally, this is another ill-conceived notion offered by the uninformed public and also the anti-trapping community. Again, this proposal is a solution in search of a problem. The number of incidental/accidental "captures" of dogs, livestock, pets, etc. is statistically insignificant and is based only on anecdotal evidence. Trappers need to have the ability to make their trapsets in some of these corridors because these are where the furbearers and predators travel. Again, a solution in search of a problem. Director and FWP Commissioners, do not approve of any trapping setbacks in any FWP Regions.

Jeff Rader Livingston, MT, USA, MT

3. In regards to more setbacks there are enough already, trails, campgrounds and houses. Need to get rid of setbacks on logging roads as it makes it very hard to trap and check sets.

Gary W Grenfell Libby, MT

4. No set backs please. Many trappers are older and disabled and can't walk far! Thanks so much and God bless! RobW

Robert Wigton Clancy, MT

5. My family owns 640 acres in Dawson County, and I appreciate the wildlife in Montana. I oppose “no setback” areas because they endanger people, pets, and non-target wildlife. Both traps and snares are indiscriminate and unspeakably cruel. Putting the interests of trappers and snarers is at the expense of both residents and visitors. Why do you want to make Montana so inhospitable for recreationists? Why do you want to inflict suffering on animals and the people who care about them? Setbacks should be uniform throughout the state, generous in terms of protecting the public, and there should be an inviolable requirement that notices be posted when traps and snares are in use.

Pamela Williams Boise, ID

6. I do not agree with any of the proposed no trapping areas. I also do not agree with any rules making it stricter on trapping and or trappers such as set backs. People with animals such as dogs should be able to know what areas are being trapped and be responsible during those seasons to keep their animals out of traps regardless of a set-back which are undo hardships on trappers. It is my opinion that any area that needs to be closed or changed should only be done so for reasons such as amount of game in area. The best way is to control the trapping amounts based on either too many of a specific animal or too few. Trapping is a renewable resource that should be protected above all and to also allow trappers to control the population of predators and not use extra FWP monies to cause extra hard ship on the FWP employees. When trapping areas are closed then it becomes the responsibility of FWP to control those populations in those areas which is un-necessary. Thanks

Darryl Ball Three Forks, MT

7. at this point and time I do not want any more set backs. Trappers always have to give into recreational use. If the people want to ski they can leave their dogs at home, or walk them in the park in town. I am tired of the dog doo and the loose dogs. Why can't they give a little? Trappers help to pay for the areas with our money from Robertson Pittman Act.Thanks

Scott smith BIGFORK, MT

8. Please choose NO SETBACKS. THANK YOU

David Campbell Superior , MT

9. I recommend setbacks of 100 ft for paved highways and main county Roads only. Defined as those maintained and snow plowed.

John sullivan Alder , MT

10. FWP Commission, I would like to ask that you make no new setback proposal for Montana Trappers. Thank You for your time and consideration on this matter. Sincerely, Todd V McKay, Dillon

Todd V McKay Dillon, MT

11. Please consider setbacks in areas people backcountry ski.

Adam Switalski MISSOULA, MT

12. I support these setbacks that are proposed and I would like the commission's support as well. Thank you for the opportunity to manage our great state's natural resources in a responsible way.

Michael Tvardzik Anaconda, MT

13. No set back! Wolf trapping already has to many regulations.

John Wilkinson Armbrust, PA

14. No more set backs u people put so many restrictions on everything it's almost impossible to trap at all.

Dana Crofts Kalispell, MT

15. I'm not in favor of the setbacks! Vote no!!

Nick Bohms Chana, IL

16. No set-backs on public land, 1- mile from a trailhead location, Period !!!

John Lunetta Noxon, MT

17. I do not support this proposal. A blanket ban on trapping and increased setbacks makes no sense. Many types of traps and trap sets(cage traps, colony traps, water sets, sets over 4' off the ground, etc) have no potential to conflict with other users. Conflicts with other users are already extremely rare and in most of those cases existing trapping, trespassing, and dog at large laws were violated. With the new mandatory trapper education requirement these conflicts will only get rarer.

Michael Laird Dillon, MT

18. No setbacks.

Laurien Riehl Missoula, MT

19. I am against anything that restricts the ability of Trappers rights to harvest

Keven Heinle Fairfield, MT

20. We do not need any more setbacks except in the no brainer areas that no trapper in their right mind would set a trap

GUY KEMPTHORNE MISSOULA, MT

21. NO SETBACKS

Joe McGillivray Lolo, MT

22. There should be no additional setbacks and the the proposed areas for no trapping should remain open for trapping to help with the predator population and allow are game numbers to go up.

Levi Seal Columbia Falls, MT

23. There are already too many restrictions to make it viable to control wolves. Please no more

James Bryant Henderson , NC

24. I am a resident wolf trapper . I am against any setbacks for wolves . The ground I trap in sees little conflict with recreational users . The setbacks being what they already are drops the wolf harvest drastically. Being they are an animal that habitually uses roads to traverse there territories. I am a sportsman and tax paying citizen and am against the setbacks we have and any new set back proposals UNLESS they eliminate setbacks all together. Sincerely Josh Jurek and family

Josh Jurek Plains, MT

25. I would like urge to to choose the No set back option. public land is multi use area and people need to be responsible for themselves and their pets. as I understand there are no set back regulations for discharging a firearm. which is a deadly weapon please do not change our set back. thank you

michael j Vickerson Boulder, MT

26. **Cody carr Plains, MT**

27. No setbacks. It is tough enough without more setbacks

Jerry Coleman Carlisle , PA

28. Im a non resident trapper and im totally against set backs.

Steven Cecil Milltown , IN

29. I'd like to submit the following comments regarding trapping setbacks: I do not support expanded trapping setbacks. As far as I've seen, the amount of incidental catches of pets on public land is minimal considering all the users. The majority of pets caught are normally due to major neglect of regulations, illegal sets, and sets presumably placed by individuals looking to harm trapping's image. I've seen no documentation proving that expanded setbacks have done anything to reduce the amount of incidental pet catches. What we need to help with this topic is education not regulation

Chris Morgan Clancy , MT

30. No additional setbacks. The 150' off roadways, and 1000'from campsite, and recreation area's is enough.

Derrick Bruner Marion, MT

31. I live in region 1 and trap here. I don't see a issue at all with the nine trapping public on my trapline. Where I trap all I see is lion hunters in the winter. No skiers or other outdoor enthusiast. I say no set backs. Thank you

Paul antczak Marion, MT

32. We do not need 500 foot set backs. 100 feet should be the most ever. No setbacks would be preferred.

Terry Peterson Rexford, MT

33. I feel the proposed expanded 500 foot setback and no trapping areas are unreasonable and FWP commission should stop trying to fix things that aren't broken.

Tim Burnett Deer Lodge, MT

34. Ladies & Gentlemen, I am against any proposals or regulations regarding the 500 foot setback idea or any other setbacks. This setback idea is just another ploy by the anti-trapping establishment to prevent any trapping of furbearing animals in Montana. Thank you for listening.

Curt Reynolds Stevensville, MT

35. 500 ft setback and allow trapping.

Garett Bacon East Helena, MT

36. I'd like to propose no setbacks. Thank you for your consideration.

Rick French Whitehall, MT

37. Commissioners; On behalf of the membership of the Montana Trappers Association; I would ask that, if you are considering this late to the table proposal, please consider no change or no set backs. Yes, there are areas of high rec use and trappers & hunters naturally avoid these areas where wildlife has been driven from the landscape. In areas where recreation, trapping and hunting do coexist, mutual respect for each other will prevail and it is the belief of the MTA that no one group should attempt to drive another user from the landscape by asking that onerous regulations be imposed on a particular user. Thank you for your consideration. Jim Buell, MTA President

Jim Buell Gildford, MT

38. Dear Sirs, I do not feel any changes are necessary. It all comes down to common sense and more rules are not going to change those without it. Respectfully Paul Harris

Paul Harris Lewistown, MT

39. I am an active winter recreationist. I backcountry ski and cross-country ski with my dog on closed roads regularly. My dog is well-behaved and under voice control, but the threat of him getting caught in a trap due to limited setbacks is very real. I support the limited setbacks proposed by Montana Backcountry Alliance. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. Imposing reasonable setbacks and excluding some of these areas from trapping entirely is a reasonable compromise that will keep backcountry recreationists, their pets, and even their children safe. Imposing setbacks and limited exclusions does not impact trapping in Montana in an unreasonable manner. Most of Montana is open to trapping and imposing limited setbacks and exclusions in the areas proposed by Montana Backcountry Alliance is a

common sense and reasonable way to reduce the threat of trapping to winter recreationists.
Thanks you for the opportunity to comment. Greg Peters

Greg Peters Missoula, MT

40. I propose No Setback in all regions.

William Martinell Dell, MT

41. I support NO setbacks. I do NOT support any additional setbacks or no trapping areas. Thank you, Caleb Gillis

Caleb Gillis Glen, MT

42. Regions 1 and 3, I propose No Setbacks; Regions 2 and 4–7 I propose no changes.

William Martinell Dell, MT

43. Regions 1 and 3, I propose No Setbacks; Regions 2 and 4–7 I propose no changes.

Kristina Martinell Dell, MT

44. I support the trapping setback proposals as presented and ask that you consider them when making your final decision.

Edward M Hebbe IV Deer Lodge, MT

45. Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to please support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many people like myself like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to please adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Marsha Davis Missoula, MT

46. Ridiculous. It endangers even more recreators with their kids, and dogs on leashes. Vote NO.

Susan Waldron Kalispell, MT

47. Please do not approve the proposal to eliminate trap setbacks in Sanders and Lincoln Counties. This proposal amounts to the beginning of an all-out takeover of our public lands! Who would want to recreate on public lands when traps can be anywhere, including campgrounds, parking lots, as well as trails? This is positively insane!!! This proposal would completely eliminate public access. As it is, right now, even with 500 ft. setbacks on some trails in the Bozeman area, I rarely recreate on public lands during trapping season, for fear of my dog getting caught in a trap, but most people still do get out there. With no setbacks, no one would be there except for trappers. This is unacceptable! Trappers constitute 1/2 of 1% of our population, and they should not be allowed to take over our public lands! This is a precedent -- if continued in other

counties, it would amount to privatization of our public lands. It is the mission of MTWFP to "provide for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of MT, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations." This proposal would benefit no one but trappers. Please do not approve it. Thank you.

Sharon Sutherland Belgrade, MT

48. People should not be allowed to set up traps scattered around public land that might harm unsuspecting people, pets or target animals. Of course people and pets will receive sympathy and special consideration even though they are visitors. The target animals live there and deserve to be the ones given special consideration. Stop recreational trapping on public lands.

Larry Campbell Darby, MT

49. For the safety of all the wildlife that live in all the proposed areas, and the visitors to those areas, all areas must be designated no trapping. Any trapping anywhere is a threat to any species that come across them. Trapping is indiscriminate and non-target animals are a constant casualty. Designate all areas in the proposal as No Trapping

Jennifer Nitz Missoula, MT

50. I Believe that the setbacks already in place are more than sufficient, as there is a leash law that needs to be addressed and enforced.

Matthew Stoddard Fortine, MT

51. Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Phil Knight Bozeman, MT

52. I think that we should keep the setbacks in place at Round Meadows at 500 feet. thanks

Terry F Halvonik Bigfork, MT

53. Dear Commissioners... We had a 13 year old dog who got her paw stuck in a wolf trap on 12/31/2020 on the Continental Divide Trail at the Mile Creek trailhead, not 1/4 mile in and smack dab on the trail! Fortunately, we were able to free her paw but she was in a lot of pain and severely bit me. It was the beginning of her demise and she ended up dying a couple months later, we still miss her! Please reconsider! I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski

with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Leila Bost Bozeman, MT

54. Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments. Carolyn Pardini Carolyn

Pardini Polson, MT

55. I support more setbacks, as well as more education. Every time a dog is caught in a trap it is another nail in the coffin for trappers. Also, because of their lethality, I also think you ought to consider banning snares and possibly conibear traps altogether in high use areas such as south of Bozeman. There is a lot of off-trail recreation going on and high potential for a dog to get killed by a snare.

B. Rob Gregoire Bozeman, MT

56. You've eliminated the native wolf by illegally forcing the frankenwolves down our throats. Where was the EIS? Wasn't any!! Why? Oh cause you are the government? I see zero value in these wolves. I don't care if all out of staters want to see or hear them howl. If they want them so badly then bring them to their home land. Let them content with the killers at their own houses. Disregard any non resident comments. It would be Montana's gain that these folks didn't ever visit this great state. The out of stater's are the same ones against logging and look at the fire season the wildlife has to contend with.. Stupidity plain and simple.

Martin Price LIBBY, MT

57. Please agree to set back or better yet no trapping

Mary Linhoff Bozemsn, MT

58. July 26, 2021 TO: Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission FROM: Footloose Montana RE: Proposal to allow trapping with no setbacks in all of Sanders County and in Lincoln County south of Route 2. Dear Commissioners: We strongly encourage the Commission to reject this dangerous proposal on the following grounds: Public Safety. This proposal eliminates any public safety measures. This summer has already set a record for public lands use across our state by Montanans and visitors. Public safety is essential to a civil society; it's intrinsic to our quality of life and that of future generations. Our hunting regulations do not

allow shooting in communities or near homes. Safety zones are created for that purpose. It is illegal to leave a hook on a fishing rod unattended. Set guns—loaded weapons—were banned decades ago. Why would we allow such a danger as baited, hidden and set traps and snares littering public lands without setbacks? While any activity involves some level of risk, hiking, picnicking, camping and family time should not be threatened by harmful, lethal steel devices. Traps on trails, in fishing access areas, campgrounds, along rivers and in wilderness areas frequented by horseback riders, families, dogs and hunters are a disaster waiting to happen. Montana's Economy. Outdoor recreation generates tremendous income and jobs for our economy. We are experiencing a record use of public lands and that means tremendous investment in recreation, such as hiking, hunting, birding, rafting and wildlife viewing. Trapping by contrast adds little or nothing to our economy; instead, it takes the resource people come here to see. Besides Representative Paul Fielder, there has been no outcry to remove setbacks, which are basic common sense. In reality it seems like a blatant attempt to control these public lands by creating fear and safety concerns to discourage people from using these lands for recreation. This is public land; it is not designed to be controlled by one special interest group. Would you float the Flathead River in Sanders County for a few days knowing traps can be set wherever you want to fish or make camp? This is just one of many popular recreation areas in Sanders and Lincoln Counties. In these litigious times, removing setbacks for traps creates enormous risk. It takes just one child hurt in a trap to make national headlines and kill the golden goose. Precedent-setting. Allowing trapping everywhere on these lands sets a dangerous precedent. This proposal attempts to control these public lands by discouraging public access. These lands belong to not just all Montanans, but all Americans. We cannot systematically privatize public lands by default trapping. This overreach by one small special interest is a precedent for private control of public land that trappers hope to expand across the state. We strongly ask that the commission say no to this effort. Legal Actions. In these litigious times, it seems to create enormous risk to allow such a clear danger to people coming to enjoy their times on these lands. The idea of weaponizing these lands so less than ½ of 1% of our population can kill, opens the door to potential legal action if people or pets are hurt or killed. Exponential increase in indiscriminate take. This proposal would exponentially increase the indiscriminate killing of a public resource—Montana's wildlife—in unlimited, unmonitored numbers on one trapping license. All animals use trails, including game animals and endangered species. There is no reporting necessary in this proposal, except for a few species already required to report. There will be no record of the numbers or species of most wildlife killed. This undermines all wildlife management and removes any stewardship by Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It is incredibly irresponsible and unethical. Mission of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This proposal is a blatant rejection of the mission of FWP. The Commission is mandated to uphold the mission, which "provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations." Like many citizens, we were surprised by the lack of a 30-day comment period, which seems out of step with the norms of commenting. Instead of removing setbacks, the commission should consider limiting trapping in the urban wildland interface of communities and in areas of critical connectivity. There should be mandatory signage in areas where traps are legal. Children, family pets and others are at risk. Our organization and others stand ready to litigate on behalf of the rights of the public on public lands. We urge you to say no to this radical proposal to undermine

our safety and the right to use our public lands without threat of traps everywhere. Thank you for considering these issues when making your decision. Respectfully, Stephen Capra, Executive Director, Footloose Montana Connie Poten, Board Chair, Footloose Montana

stephen capra Missoula, MT

59. No on the set backs... keep laws as they are Hands off

Rex Smith EUREKA, MT

60. Yes I believe setbacks from roads and trails used by the public in the off-season would be very appropriate. I feel there's plenty of space for trapping other than our public trails and roads that are used for cross country skiin access or snowshoe access. I personally had a dog trapped in a leg trap last winter by a illegally set trap on a established trail head in Madison County Montana.

Greg Awe Cameron , MT

61. Dear Commissioners... I spend most of my spare time in the winter skiing on public lands (either backcountry or cross-country) with my dog. I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Although I live in Bozeman, I frequently travel to western Montana and frequently ski in Regions 1, 2, and 3. I have found that some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers such as myself, along with other winter recreationists. Although I know how to free my dog from a trap, not everybody has this skill, and even though I know how to free her from a trap it is still very concerning to know that my dog might get caught in a trap. As somebody with a wildlife biology background, I understand the value of trapping, but small (or non-existent) setbacks create unnecessary use conflict between trappers and other public lands visitors in winter. Furthermore, while most of Montana is open to trapping, there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing. I believe that trapping is inappropriate in places that are frequently visited by people recreating (especially with dogs!), but at the very least there should be significant setbacks to protect people's pets and reduce conflict. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. thank you, Hilary Eisen

Hilary Eisen Bozeman, MT

62. Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Kingsley H. Murphy Bozeman, MT

63. Dear Commissioners, I like to backcountry ski and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by winter recreationists. Allowing trapping on these roads in the winter is inappropriate, as it becomes dangerous for many who are using these roads to recreate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments. Becca Ritter

Rebecca Ritter Bozeman, MT

64. Hello - my family and I enjoy winter recreation in the backcountry - mainly xc skiing and sledding with our little boys and our dog, and backcountry skiing with adult friends - and our dog. I am extremely concerned about the lack of trapping setbacks proposed for what looks like most of western/southwestern MT. It does not seem to me that trapping on widely used access roads is consistent with multiple uses. Please consider adding road setbacks so that we - and others like us - can recreate safely, without worrying about having an encounter with set traps or animals in them. Than you for considering our comments.

Warren Colyer Missoula, MT

65. Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Anneka Door Bozeman, MT

66. Winter roads are for ALL access travel. This includes skiing, snowshoeing, trapping, and recreating with dogs. Allowing traps to be placed directly on snow-covered roads puts dogs, kids, and everyone else in danger. Small or non-existent setbacks create increased opportunities for user conflict, and do not support multiple-use land management. Reducing or eliminating setbacks clearly benefits one user group to the detriment of others. Backcountry skiers and hikers use a very small amount of land compared to what is available for trapping. Allowing traps to be placed on roads is a political decision, and not one that considers all of Montana's wilderness users. I urge you to support Montana Backcountry Alliance's proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2, and 3. Thank you for considering my comments, and those of every other Montanan.

Emily Holmes Bozeman, MT

67. Please do not allow setting of traps in popular recreation areas. It is a safety concern for my dogs and my family as we recreate often in these areas. Thank you.

JR Mooney Bozeman, MT

68. "Dear Commissioners... I like to ski/ride in the backcountry and I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers, snowboarders and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers.

Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing, and here trapping is inappropriate. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for consideration of my comments."

Christopher M Boyd Bozeman, MT

69. Commissioners, As an avid backcountry skier I urge you to support the Montana Backcountry Alliance proposal for expanded setbacks and closures in Regions 1, 2 and 3. Some of the roads where trap setbacks are not required are used extensively by skiers and other winter recreationists, and many of us like to ski with our dogs. Most of Montana is open to trapping, yet there are only a few areas that are accessible, suitable and popular for backcountry skiing. Trapping in these areas is likely to lead to conflict. Small or non-existent setbacks create a potential for user-conflict between trappers and skiers. I urge you to adopt the setbacks recommendations submitted by the Montana Backcountry Alliance. Thank you for your consideration. Mark Egge 542 N Black Ave Bozeman, MT 59715

Mark Egge Bozeman, MT

70. I don't understand why any consideration is being given to reducing or eliminating set back distances for trapping. The number of recreationists far exceeds the number of trappers, many of whom are accompanied by their dogs. I have friends whose dogs have been trapped while hiking and it is a heart wrenching experience. I guarantee you, when potential tourists are aware of this danger they will find another state to visit. Perhaps the opposite should be considered. Traps should only be allowed with a 500 ft set back and warning signs should be required. A baited trap may attract a pet more than 500 ft. but a warning sign would caution pet owners to leash their pets. My cousin lost his bird dog to a conibear trap while pheasant hunting. Had a sign been posted, he would have hunted elsewhere. The people making the rules have either forgotten that traps do not exclusively catch the intended prey, or they just don't care.

Sue Wooldridge Helena, MT

71. 500 ft setbacks

Maureen Edwards Polson, MT

72. Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission, Please exercise your authority and do everything in your power using science, facts, the public's safety, the public trust doctrine, and the responsibility entrusted to you to oversee fish and wildlife management, accordingly.

Vicky Tang Bayside, NY

73. I do not want to see the elimination of trapping setbacks on any public land. This is a hazard for humans and puts public safety at risk. This will make me and others fearful to use our public lands. Our children and dogs will be at risk. Please consider all Montanans and do not approve the elimination of setbacks.

Suzanne Held Bozeman, MT

74. Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Administrators- To be upfront, I am writing to submit my general opposition to expanded/easing trapping regulations in any regions. While I appreciate expanding setbacks to 500 feet in proposal number 1, my preference is that the six specified trails and roadways in region 1 and 3 be changed instead to No Trapping. For proposal number 2, I don't agree with item #5 at all. Sanders and the roads in items #s 7,8, and 9 should be changed to No Trapping. You can guess that proposal number 3 is the most agreeable to me as I would prefer to see trapping ended in the State entirely. That said, I will allow that there are times when trapping is a legitimate and necessary tactic for managing wildlife. At those times, it should be performed by State of Montana or US Wildlife management professionals. Other than as a necessary management tool there is no place for indiscriminate maiming and killing of wildlife or family pets. Thank You for the opportunity to comment. Richard Rister

Richard Rister Missoula, MT

75. We think a 500 foot setback should be uniform, statewide, no exceptions.

Jack and Rachel Potter Columbia Falls, MT

76. I am favor of expanding setback to 500 feet in all areas proposed. I am in favor of maintaining all 500 foot setbacks currently in place. I am opposes to all proposals to reduce setbacks from current settings or to establish no setback areas. There is no legitimate argument for reducing or eliminating setbacks.

MICHAEL WOOD Missoula, MT

77. Eliminating setbacks anywhere on public lands is a move in the wrong direction. This would essentially hand over our public lands to less than 1% of Montanans with the rest of us left out. I have experienced the trauma of having a pet caught in a trap. No one should have to endure this just so a few unregulated and twisted individuals can torture animals to death. This proposal would increase the likelihood of more unsuspecting hikers, fishermen, hunters and children watching their pets die in horrible circumstances. Trapping is a mostly unregulated activity where the FWP does not know the true number of pets, non-target wildlife and even target species are killed each year. Voluntary reporting by people who torture animals to death simply doesn't work. This proposal will create more conflict and chaos on our public lands leading to more lawsuits and more bad press for Montana and its image across the world. We need larger setbacks, more "No Trapping" areas and a move to eliminate this disgusting activity from our state.

Barry Dutton Missoula, MT

78. I am against no setbacks in the areas listed under "II - No Setbacks". ALL areas where trapping is allowed should incorporate 500 foot setbacks. Thanks for your consideration.

Dan McCaffery Missoula, MT

79. Please limit trapping as much as possible. It is a barbaric practice which has no place in 21C wildlife management. Mankind does enough to stress wildlife through habitat encroachment and climate change without adding the pain and suffering of trapping. Thanks

Anthony Boote MISSOULA, MT

80. When you have trapping near trails you effectively eliminate all the other users from the area because they know they cannot safely go along these trails anymore. You might as well set up shotguns triggered by trip wires. All this for a very small segment of our society bent on carrying out a bloodthirsty activity. How sick! Not supported by science either

Wesley Miles Hamilton, MT

81. Please, do not allow trapping on public lands. I know all too well the dangers associated with trapping in areas used by humans and domesticated animals. I will save you the horrid details and just tell you that these are not only stories, they affect your constituents lives forever. Thank you - John

John Mammenga Missoula, MT

82. It is very important to strengthen current setbacks and reduce the accidental catching of domestic animals on trails. There is plenty of land in Montana for trapping that avoids used trails.

Linda Veum Ronan, MT

83. I oppose elimination of setbacks for trapping. Setbacks allow for the safety of people and their pets. Trappers are a very small percentage of trail users. Please help protect the large majority of trail users. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Bob Hughes, MT

84. We would like to impress upon the Forest Service that any allowance of trapping needs to be abolished immediately. Specifically, why is our government allowing .05% of the Montana populace control over Montana's precious resource of our wildlife and watersheds while we are currently witnessing the 6th great extinction on our planet which is human caused? Why is the Forest Service even considering allowing trappers which represent a fraction of our populace, to reign over the safety of the public and our wildlife? Please help us to understand the reasoning or lack of behind the proposed and current policies. Trapping no longer has a place in our society or Montana culture. It's barbaric and it threatens the existence of many species which are currently under extreme stress due to disappearance of water sources, tremendous heat indexes and the influx of people flooding our state. If nothing else, please declare of moratorium on current trapping regulation so that we can give ourselves and our wildlife an opportunity to recover. We are in unprecedented times. We need decisions that reflect the current crisis. Not decisions that add to our dilemma. There may be no turning back. We beg you

to consider more than just the trappers. Our future depends on your willingness to defend our precious resources. Sincerely, Mimi Werner Victor Davis 33548 S. Finley Point Road Polson, MT 59860

Mimi Werner, Vic Davis Polson, MT

85. The proposed set backs are completely inadequate and unrealistic. Please change them back to a more reasonable limit. Thank you - Myni Ferguson

Myni Ferguson Columbia Falls, MT

86. This is an obscene proposal. Our son was tangled in a rusty snare abandoned by a trapper. I've heard trappers brag they have set more than 100 snares in a drainage. They're not picking them up. Putting them in the trails and campgrounds and next to roads in areas I recreate in is only asking for more people to become anti-trapping/anti-snare when their pets get nailed or they encounter a wounded/dead animal. Allowing this will cement opinion that you're closing down public lands to recreationalists for the minority trapper population. That's not balanced use. That's a total sell out.

Betsy Brandborg Helena, MT

87. trapping should be outlawed.

John Oetinger Missoula, MT

88. I love and cherish our Montana outdoor lifestyle. I enjoy the outdoors with my two dogs. Having no setbacks in Sanders County, including Flathead and Jocko rivers and half of Lincoln County south of Route 2, places like Bull Lake, the Fisher River and the Cabinet Wilderness seems like madness. The presence of public lands is a major draw for residents, small businesses and the visitors who come primarily to view wildlife. Our public lands comprise roughly only 1/3 of Montana. We should be able to safely enjoy our public lands free from hidden traps and snares whose whereabouts are known only to the trapper. No warning signs are required and traps and snares are not marked in Montana. Dogs hunting, accompanying cross country skiers, or going for a swim are not leashed and can easily fall victims to traps and snares. Trapping is legal year round in Montana. We should not have to compromise peace of mind and child and pet safety when using public land. Unattended traps, especially with no setbacks, indiscriminately catch, maim, and kill unintended victims from pets to protected species, such as eagles and Canada lynx. Trapping Is Not Fair Chase: Trapping does not follow the time-honored principles of "Fair Chase." Animals are lured with bait. It is illegal to leave a fishing pole unattended in Montana but trappers set and leave an average of 50,000 traps and are not present when their quarry is caught. Now to allow no setbacks seems like a taking of the safe enjoyment of our public lands from the vast majority that do not trap, for a very few. Please reconsider this proposal.

Nik Geranios Missoula, MT

89. Get rid of trapping. It is barbaric

Kathy miller Stevensville, MT

90. It is time to eliminate all trapping on public lands in Montana. It is an archaic, inhumane and unnecessary method in controlling wildlife populations. The only time live trapping should be allowed on public lands is when controlling predators ("repeat offenders") done by state and federal agencies not the public. If someone wants to trap then they should get permission from private land owners.

Susan P. Lanning Clyde Park, MT

91. s of our private property. The trapper never reported and knew us and our dogs. It needs to end. Our wildlife in this state are our greatest resource. Wildlife viewing alone is the largest income for the state of Montana. It is time that we act responsibly and represent all the people that live here felt is time to eliminate trapping all together. It is inhumane and indiscriminate. I live and vote in Montana and have two dogs that could easily become victims I have already lost a valuable guardian dog to a snare trap that was baited on the boundarier the wildlife. **Ren**

Evanoff Livingston, MT

92. Please stop the barbarism of trapping. It's archaic and cruel and we as humans are better than that. Thank you.

Sheryl Noethe Missoula, MT

93. Worst wildlife management idea I've heard of. Anti-public, anti-pets, anti-children, anti-wildlife including non-target species like bears, wolverines, lynx. This plan needs to be abandoned.

Mike Bader Missoula, MT

94. I am adamantly opposed to trapping, setbacks or not. It's an inhumane form of hunting and not very sportsmanlike at all. I've hunted in Montana for over 40 years and feel wolves are an important part of the ecosystem and should be allowed to thrive. Wolves in Yellowstone bring millions of dollars into the state and some people are doing their utmost to rid the state of wolves entirely. I think we should be doing what we can to protect them, not eliminate them.

Marvin Smith Missoula, MT

95. I am opposed to any setbacks less than 500 feet from public roads and trails, regardless of their "closed" or "open" status at the time. I am very concerned about non-target animals, dogs, caught in traps. I support your designation of no-trapping areas in Regions 1 and 3.

Joseph W Kipphut MISSOULA, MT

96. As a native Montanan I wish to comment on trapping proposals. Please continue the maximum setback of 500 feet and better yet I fully endorse the NO TRAPPING proposal. I am especially concerned about the trapping of river otters and beavers.

james chenoweth Missoula, MT

97. Do not eliminate setbacks anywhere on our public lands! Public lands are heavily use by people on horseback and with dogs and children who can easily be injured or killed by a trap or snare! This is a higher order of insanity!

Kate Miller Helena, MT

98. I want the FREEDOM to be in the wilderness without fear of traps. I want the Tourism dollars for Montana that being in our wilderness provides. Less than 20% of Montana's tourism dollars can be attributed to hunting, a miniscule proportion to trapping. Less than 1% of the population of Montana are trappers. I want the FREEDOM for 99% of Montana's population and visitors. Having no setbacks is dangerous. Having decreased setbacks is dangerous. If trapping for this miniscule proportion of the population must be continued, then it should be made safer for the vast majority of the population, not less safe.

Scharyn Way Victor, MT

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Pat Bartholomew Hamilton, MT

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Sterling Way Victor, MT

101. Dear, Commissioners, The new proposal that eliminates trapping setbacks on some public lands in Montana is unacceptable. In effect, the practice would create vast trapping free-for-all zones for trappers (as if they don't have enough trapping opportunities already), while keeping nonconsumptive users out of entire counties that have no setbacks. This is just more evidence that FWP does not understand nor care about nonconsumptive users, fueling a reputation that FWP (once called "Fish and Game") has had for decades. I have attended hearings with Commissioners in the past and know that some members are sympathetic with nonconsumptive users' desires. Walk that talk! This is a prime opportunity to show us you really care. Require setbacks everywhere in Montana. It's the decent thing to do for wildlife and for the huge majority of users who are not trappers. Thank you. Deborah Slicer, PhD

Deborah Slicer Huson, MT

102. Please do not increase the trapping and killing of these wonderful animals. If the Montana Fish and wildlife dept. would allow wildlife to increase their numbers, the state would benefit more off of nature by tourism.

Mike Shields Henderson, KY

103. I propose Expanding trap setbacks to a minimum of 500 feet from any trail or road, both public or private on any public lands.

Arnold Sowa Helena, MT

104. I hunt and fish as do many Montanans. When I hunt I am targeting a particular species and sex. Trapping on the other hand is very indiscriminate. Any animal that wanders by can fall prey to a steel trap. It could be a pet, an immature animal or even a child. If I had my way trapping would be outlawed in the state. Trapping is cruel and is only practiced by less than 1% of the state residents. Outdoor recreation on the other hand is practiced by a large percentage of people in the state. Most of this activity occurs on public land. Setbacks for trapping were instituted in an effort to keep pets and children from falling victim to a trap. The idea of having areas where there are no setbacks from trails and roads is ludicrous and will only fuel more anti trapping sentiment as the inevitable happens and pets and children are harmed. As an active outdoorsman who adheres to all game regulations I am appalled that a no setback proposal is even on the table. We all own these public lands and should be able to recreate with our children and pets without fear of traps. All trapping should be done only with significant setbacks. We the people own public lands not just we the trappers. If FWP is going to continue to allow the archaic and brutal "sport" of trapping then protect the rest of us by at least stipulating significant setbacks. Where is this no setback proposal coming from? Are trappers too lazy to wander a few hundred yards from a trail to set their traps? WTF

Chris Scranton Stevensville, MT

105. Please do not eliminate trap setbacks! I have already had my dogs trapped twice. This is such overreach by trappers, at the expense of the vast majority of the public. In fact, trapping setbacks should be lengthened!

Michael Koeppen Florence, MT

106. No, to killing 50% more of the River Otters. Thank you, Jane Collins

Jane Collins Amenia, NY

107. I think proposing No Setbacks in Paul Fielder and Bob Browns county is an excellent idea!
Please approve!

Carla Bonetti Missoula, MT

108. Please dont kill anymore otters or beavers!

Sandy E Perry Inverness, FL

109. All setbacks should be 1,000 fet

Chester Watson Missoula, MT

110. What are you thinking?! No setbacks---what the heck!!! That is blatant disregard for the public who want to recreate with their families and pets. Shame on you. You want to implement more snares and baiting and night hunting for wolves and you don't even enforce the "SUGGESTION" to have the trappers check their traps every 48 hours. That is irresponsible and disrespectful of

life. Especially if a non-target animal, i.e., an endangered or threatened species or family pet is the victim. We all have a right to enjoy nature and recreate without fear. As a taxpayer and constituent it is my wildlife to enjoy and I urge you to protect and manage it responsibly.

Thank you for your time.

AMY GREER CORVALLIS, MT

111. I implore you to further restrict the placement of traps on public lands and/or deny any proposal for less restrictive set backs. Changing the setback to a less restrictive requirement further jeopardizes the ability of hikers and their children and pets to enjoy public trails without the fear of coming upon a trap. The thought that my dog or one of my grandchildren could be killed or maimed because they explored a few feet off the trail or played along a creek virtually ruins the outdoor experience. I hope you will take into consideration the fact that our outdoor spaces are becoming increasingly used by families and their pets. There is no place for trapping in a state experiencing this level of growth much less fewer restrictions regarding the placement of traps. **jennifer p Monroe Livingston, MT**

112. I support reducing set back requirements for wolf trapping. 50 feet should be the required setback requirements the same for all species. In many areas where wolf trapping occurs there is very little public use. People need to take responsibility for their pets when on public lands.

Tom Radandt Libby, MT

113. I oppose ending trapping set backs. WE MUST HAVE SETBACKS TO PROTECT DOGS!!!! Do NOT end setbacks in the areas on the map indicated

Michael R Kantor Missoula, MT

114. I strongly oppose eliminating trap set back in Sanders, Lincoln and every additional county in Montana. I urge lawmakers and the FWP to ban trapping all together as a matter of public safety. As a matter of principle, trapping is a barbaric form of animal cruelty. People who engage in trapping are themselves despicable.

jeff Meide BILLINGS, MT

115. Just consider yourself, your loved ones, pets and wildlife suffering as a result of this Setback Proposal.

JOE PETRO BUTTE, MT

116. trapping is so wrong in the first place. it's unbelievable cruel. maybe we should video the experience of these animals caught in these traps and share it with our dear governor. there is no need for trapping in this day and age. these people don't want it for the food and dam well don't need it for their furs, and as far as population control there are other ways. it's a sport continued from the dark ages. i like to walk the lands of montana with my dogs and it is sad we have to be on the lookout for these traps. it hasn't happened to me yet, but it has happened to others. recently, in a trapping area, a friend of mine posted a sign on how to release your pet if caught in a trap. the sign was torn down several times. i've wondered who would do such a

thing. these public lands are meant for all. maybe someone should be thinking about the rest of us.

Donna Zatorowski Helena, MT

117. Please do not allow for the elimination of setbacks. This would completely eliminate any safe access to public lands. The proposal would also set precedent for the privatization of public lands. Finally, the proposal would increase exponentially the indiscriminate killing of a public resource—Montana’s wildlife—in unlimited, unmonitored numbers on one trapping license.

Arman Kline Big Sky, MT

118. No trapping and setbacks are too restrictive. Need to be able to remove with trapping as close to problems as possible and maintain population as low as possible since natural reproduction is so efficient. Also maintains healthy fear of people by the animals.

David Janssen Hastings , NE

119. We are retired Montanans and avid hikers who spend almost every day that weather permits exploring the public lands and backwoods, logging woods and trails. Our dog got trapped in a foot hold trap this year along the beach of the Kookanusa. She has sniffed at another on a logging road but we got to her before she could get harmed. We now carry heavy tools on all our hikes so we can release her if she were to get trapped again. Trappers seem to like to put traps out in places that are easiest and convenient to get to. Places where people recreate, camp, walk and park their cars. We already have to be watchful and prepared for bears and mountain lions, now we are more worried about our dog getting maimed or killed in a trap because most of the traps we have run across have been on the side of the road. Trappers seem to be kinda lazy. Why should so many have to suffer for few guys' out-dated and cruel murder-hobby? We all know this is also an attempt to privatize more public lands. This is a scheme and an attack on our public lands and our wildlife. So many other animals are killed by trapping. Please Do NOT eliminate trap setbacks. Hunters and trappers already rule supreme in this area. Everyone who is out in the woods for the love of nature, exercise and personal enjoyment instead of killing things are treated like second class citizens.

Deanna Murphy Eureka , MT

120. I oppose a proposal to eliminate trap setbacks in Sanders and Lincoln Counties. This is a underhanded attempt to take over public lands to satisfy the demands of the 1% of Montanans who are trappers at the expense of the other 99% of Montanans who use public lands who are NOT trappers. I am an active outdoor person in all seasons and I like to take my dogs with me. They are well trained but do not know how to avoid traps and snares. I fear for my safe access to OUR public lands. Eliminating trap set backs is an attempt to privatize OUR public lands and if done in these two counties, where next? It could lead to a takeover of all of Montana's public lands and increase indiscriminate killing of a public resource - Montana's wildlife that belongs to ALL Montanans, not just the 1% who are trappers. I spend a lot of time in the Cabinet Wilderness and do not want to fear for my safety or that of my pets when I choose to recreate on these PUBLIC lands. The MT Fish & Wildlife Commissioners must uphold the mission of MDFWP that "provides for the stewardship of fish, wildlife, parks, and recreation resources of

Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations." Please stop the political pandering to Rep Fielder and Sen. Brown's agenda derived from the American Lands Council to privatize OUR public lands. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Kari Gunderson, PhD.

Kari Gunderson Swan Lake, MT

121. Dear Commissioners: Well, isn't this a Paul Fielder Special!! I am absolutely against changing existing trapping setbacks. Fielder just wants his backyard unencumbered by legal restrictions. This is a laughably bad idea and self serving to one trapping enthusiast who happens to be a Rep. Thank you.

Michael Stoerger Livingston, MT

122. Setbacks, IMO, should be infinite. Except for Native Americans, trapping should be illegal in MT. Trapping is cruel and immoral.

Larry Robins Bozeman, MT

123. This proposal is the downhill slide to privatizing our public lands. What is the ultimate motive? To make our public lands and game only available to the wealthy? To make Montana a getaway for the elite? There will be tourists-adult and children and their pets who will be caught in these traps. You and I both know it's a matter of time. So when a child/adult is maimed in a trap, the public will pay the costs of your poor decision making by letting this ludicrous proposal happen. I am very tired of the privatizing of profits and socializing the costs of short sighted greedy decisions by government officials who are supposedly making these decisions for the benefit of the public. Enough of the poorly thought out and ham handed cons, like this proposal.

Rebecca Blend Helena, MT

124. Don't allow increased trapping on public lands. As someone who hunts and cherishes our public lands, traps put protected wildlife in danger, kill inhumanly and put pets and children at risk

Jake Peruzzi Missoula, MT

125. Dear Commissions, PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS PROPOSAL!! It would seriously undermine the mission of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, which "provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations." Please consider the impact the setbacks proposal would have in the areas below: Public Safety—this would completely eliminate any safe access to public lands. • Private control of public lands—by default, public lands would be privatized. • Precedent-setting—this could lead to a takeover of all Montana's public lands. • This would increase exponentially the indiscriminate killing of a public resource—Montana's wildlife—in unlimited, unmonitored numbers on one trapping license. PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS PROPOSAL. Montana's wildlife and all of our residents deserve better. THANK YOU!!! Joann (Jody) Pavilack

Joann Pavilack Missoula, MT

126. I am opposed to the no setback area 9. The 500' setback is very important to protect against conflicts between recreationists, their dogs while on public land. I am not opposed to trapping, but to minimize the conflict between trappers and other recreationists it is important to create some separation, I used to live and work in Sanders Co. and there are millions of acres beyond the 500' setback for trappers to use, maintaining a buffer is important.

David Atkins Missoula, MT

127. Please do not allow more trapping of wolves or other animals!!! There are only 6,000 people in Montana who like torturing animals this way, much less than 1% of our population. END TRAPPING! It's barbaric and sick. Do not allow less than 1% of Montanas inflict this needless torture for whatever sick pleasure they get from this horrid practice. Bring Montana into the modern era...PLEASE!

Jerri Swenson Kalispell, MT

128. Please do not allow the setbacks to be reduced. It is unacceptable that private traps should be placed on public lands where they can interfere with everyone's access to public lands. Additionally, these traps will indiscriminately affect Montana's wildlife and catch and kill a wide array of species including pets and domestic animals.

Dustin Eldridge Darby, MT

129. I am all for the set back proposal. I would also be in favor of expanding it. Location is key and in most cases 150 ft is to far to be on location. Many of the rds in the areas described are not traveled regularly and the chances of human conflict minimal.

Josh Jurek Plains, MT

130. I am for reducing the number of set backs and the distance of set backs from roads. I am against any increases. Thank you

Rick Hawk Kalispell, MT

131. I am an avid hiker accompanied typically by two dogs. With the existing set backs my dogs have been caught in traps. It would be extremely irresponsible for all outdoor enthusiasts to reduce the current set backs. Montana outdoors should be available to all without fear of loosing a pet or having a child injured. If you have any respect or concern for residents or non residents who currently enjoy the "wilderness" of Montana and these individuals are tax payers and voters, you will not consider eliminating setbacks or reducing the current setbacks.

Geri Semmens Helena, MT

132. Please do not pass the portion of this proposal allowing for no setbacks. We're going to see more house pets, hunting dogs, and potentially kids getting trapped. Not opposed to trapping, but let's be sensible about this. Thx!

Michael Karls Helena, MT

133. Expand to 500 foot set back or No trapping

Dorian Boling Libby, MT

134. I am 100% against ANY measure that expands trapping in any form. Until we can get rid of the archaic, brutal form of torturing animals please do NOT expand the practice. Wolves, and every animal, is an important part of our ecosystem. If you want to manage their numbers, use hunters with bows and rifles - not traps.

Joan Hoedel Missoula, MT

135. Quit the endless trapping. It's inhumane, it endangers ALL animals including pets & humans. Just STOP!

Carol Sims Clancy, MT

136. Expand all trapping setbacks to 500 feet. If trappers are so fat and lazy that they can't walk 500 feet from their snowmobiles then do they really need to be terrorizing the rest of the state for profit? I'm sure that the trappers will whine, complain, and scream about their rights and freedom!! Followed by an immediate playing the victim card....it is all Paul Fielder knows how to do. FWP is bought and paid for, congrats to Giantfart for continuing the decline of this once great state by idiots like Paul Fielder. Dick B.

Dick Britzman Glasgow, MT

137. To the Commission, I encourage you to oppose removing setbacks from trails and roads, especially in areas known to be used for hiking, skiing, and other trail-based recreation. It is not equitable to prioritize the wishes of a small minority of the population over the the freedom of the rest of us to recreate without fear of our pets or children getting harmed by traps. Many of us recreate in areas away from other concentrated recreation and we should not be kept from being able to use large areas of public land safely.

Amy Chadwick Livingston, MT

138. I am against expanded setbacks and no trapping areas. We need more trapping to manage animal populations. Every year I see more and more regulations hindering ones rights to trap. This needs to stop!

Cody White Eureka, MT

139. The proposal to eliminate trapping setbacks is redicuous! Do you want to kill even more domestic animals, and non-target species. Get real. DO NOT ELIMINATE SETBACKS! National Forest roads and trails should be safe for EVERYONE, not just for trappers, whose activities are not compatible with many recreational activities.

Charles McLeod MISSOULA, MT

140. Whereas MTFWP needs to be sensitive to desires of the MT state residents, regulatory decisions and regulations should not be allowed to be used as "political pawns" for special interest groups to restrict or regulate traditional activities of Montana residents. This is particularly the case when these regulations are not based on sound scientific data for animal and ecosystem management. Trapping is a traditional activity that raises strong emotional responses in many people. Unfortunately, trapping regulations are being targeted under the

guise of "ecosystem management" to diminish trapping opportunities and activities. Similar regulation in many states has resulted in ecological crises - e.g., due to excessive beaver-induced flooding. I ask that FWP diligently manage our animal populations to maintain the health of our wild ecosystems, and not allow political or emotional influences distract from responsible management.

Ed Schmidt Bozeman, MT

141. No setbacks.

Paul Martin Kalispell, MT

142. Trapping should be banned. At least regulated. Montanans are 100 years behind the times.

S velaski Helena, MT

143. Please don't allow this barbaric practice continue

Any MacConnell Wellfleet, MA

144. I do NOT support any proposed "no setback" areas. Trapping is dangerous to other outdoor enthusiasts who like to recreate with their pets. Trapping is a fringe "sport" pursued by small fraction of Montanans and public lands and public policies should NOT grant trappers any special concessions on our public lands. Such proposals would effectively exclude persons such as me from those public lands with no trapping setbacks out of fear of harming my pet. Public lands are for ALL of us to enjoy and should not to be controlled by a small, vocal, politically-powerful minority aiming to advance their own selfish ends.

Brian Kerns Missoula, MT

145. This is a disgusting practice that should not be allowed at ALL in Montana. It's an antiquated, inhumane practice that ruins the trails and natural areas for most of Montana's to feel safe to peruse. The amount of folks that benefit from this is a tiny percentage of the recreational population that would like to safely walk around Montana without fear of being hurt, maimed and death. It is absolutely selfish to let a small percentage ruin the beauty of our state for something to unnecessary and cruel. Unacceptable leadership and does not reflect the will of the people to enjoy our beautiful natural landscape, without fear.

Tessa Thompson Billings, MT

146. I am opposed to the elimination of setbacks for trapping on public lands in Montana .This proposal puts public safety at high risk and gives trappers control over our public lands. Recreationists should feel safe on our public lands and not be at risk for our children or pets being harmed or killed by traps. Please keep our public lands safe!

Jane Yungmeyer Missoula, MT

147. I am horrified at proposals to trap wolves. I am especially concerned that the efforts to place wolves back in Montana are all for naught. Wolves are necessary to maintain healthy populations of game animals like elk and deer. I do not like trapping....especially trapping on public lands in the middle of trails where dogs and kids are hiking . The leadership in Montana is

misguided. I do not understand how we have a FWP leader who is not a biologist or a person with a wildlife background. I understand he just listens to our wildlife trapping, trophy hunting governor. I am a 74 year old Montana born retired teacher. Please listen to the hunters who love wildlife and want to see wildlife flourish in our state with the help of predators.

Marilyn Blakely-Hayes Helena, MT

148. Regarding proposed trapping setbacks, this is another ill-conceived notion offered by the uninformed public and also the anti-trapping community. This proposal is a solution in search of a problem. The number of incidental/accidental "captures" of dogs, livestock, pets, etc. is statistically insignificant and based only on anecdotal evidence. Trappers need to have the ability to make their trapsets in some of these corridors because these are where the furbearers and predators travel. Again, a solution in search of a problem. Director and FWP Commissioners, do not approve of any trapping setbacks in any FWP Regions.

Jeff Rader Livingston, MT, USA, MT

149. I vehemently object to the proposal to do away with trapping set backs in Region 1 or any region in Montana. This is a ludicrous proposal and will result in countless trapped dogs.

Joane Bayer Canyon Creek, MT

150. Setbacks are common-sense regulations that protect people, pets and wildlife. Weakening them is extremism and indicates just how far the current administration is from sensible good government that reflects the long-time values of Montanans.

Kristine Ellis Helena, MT

151. I am appalled that FWP would even consider removing trapping setback requirements. Montana's economy relies on outdoor recreation and it would be a sad day indeed if locals and tourists alike have to start considering whether or not they can bring their dog or children on a hike. I am adamantly opposed to any reductions or eliminations of trapping setbacks and would support increasing them to 500' or more throughout the entire state. Walking 500' off of the trail is not difficult and I'm sure the small number of trappers in our state are more than capable of doing so.

Jake Gunther Helena, MT

152. Public lands are just as much for trapping as hiking or letting your dog run loose, just because stupid liberals dont like trapping doesnt mean they can tell everyone else how to use public land. Like no traps within a leash length of designated trails seems pretty reasonable.

Chad Missoula, MT

153. Please let people trap where ever they want, including in city parks and popular hiking trails. Gianforte will not be happy until he has a human head on his wall of shame. Keep selling out Montana for your own personal gain.

eric missoula, MT

154. No to any required setbacks for trapping. Almost all public lands have a leash requirement for pets but yet nothing is done to curb dogs running at large that are not hunting dogs. Many dogs are not under immediate control as required nor do pet owners keep them under control as required by law. Look at your own reports from your wardens who handle these problems and you will see that dogs running at large are the problem not the trapper. The trapper keeps on losing ground and it is time to stop that and it is time to make dog owners responsible for their dogs running at large and give them the citation. The public has access with their pets to all public lands 12 months of the year while the trapper only has it for a few months perhaps it is time to restrict the pet owners for those few months sounds only fair don't you think?

Ron Smith STEVENSVILLE, MT

155. I propose that there be no setbacks on trails on public lands.

Jeff Darrah Stevensville, MT

156. Please get rid of the setback or make it half of what it is

Levi M Carlberg Libby, MT

157. The 500' set back is totally ridiculous we know that wolves travel main roads and pass we need to have zero setbacks we need to be able to track these things so that we can lower their numbers to a manageable pack number also the steering is a great idea Idaho has been doing it since the beginning of wolf hunting and trapping with no incidents people of stare coyotes in Montana for centuries we have hunted coyotes over bait and at night with no incidents hunting at night over bait is way safer than trying to take a crack shot an animal running across the field we need to have these tools in place so that we can get a handle on these wolf numbers because they are out-of-control they are wiping out our moose sheep mule deer Whitetail elk they are killing everything they have decimated it since the re-introduction of these things we have got to get a handle on these snaring night hunting baiting no setbacks extended seasons larger limit numbers or no limit numbers so that we can get these things under control or fish and wildlife and park need to stand behind ours they need to support us they need to get Wolf numbers under control

Jason Williams Libby, MT

158. There are a lot of roads that are closed to vehicles that are not used by recreationalists that have restricted setbacks year around because they are open to vehicles at some point of the year. That makes no sense. If the road is open, then have set backs. If the road is closed, there are no setbacks until the road is opened again. If someone is too mentally challenged to understand this then they should not be out without supervision anyway. I don't have a problem with increasing setbacks in high usage area such as ski resorts and hiking trails. Mostly because no one is trapping there anyway. We do not want to catch someone's dog. We need to stop catering to the most vocal people and start using science to manage our wildlife.

Larry D Rattray Proctor, MT

159. Just keep setbacks as they currently are. Stop the unnecessary changes what seems to happen every year. The anti trapping agenda is always trying to eliminate trapping. That's their goal. They will never be satisfied. Thank you

Kip Knapstad Lolo, MT

160. Please do impose any more set back regulations. If anything make it a standard 75ft for both furbearers and Wolves. Have FWP put signs out with their logo on all trailheads and all read boards located in the mouth of most drainages. The sign should state that traps might be in the area, 75ft off open roads. If you have to tell recreationist to watch out for bears, release bull trout, you might as well tell them that traps might be in the area. There is not enough conflicts and incidental catches to require more rules for setbacks. Thanks Wilson

John R Wilson Bonner, MT

161. Fully support expanding setbacks.

Mark Johnstad Bozeman, MT

162. I am writing to oppose the setback rule pending for any region in Montana. I hike and ski with my dogs on trails and forest service roads. With the new snare rules and leg traps, all of our family pets are in danger of being tortured and possibly killed. The public lands are public not to be taken hostage by trappers. Please do not let this setback proposal become adopted.

Lisa R Schweigert Huson, MT

163. Get rid of the ridiculous set backs in all regions everyone knows predators travel the easiet root

Thomas Jackson Stevensville, MT

164. I own property and hunt in MT. I oppose trapping or snaring wolves. This is because traps and snares are indiscriminate and kill other species. If trapping must occur, significant setbacks from roads and trails to protect humans and pets should be mandatory along with visible signage warning that that traps are in the area. Snaring should be outlawed. Period.

John Carter Versailles, KY

165. That 500' is totally asinine 150' is way more then enough who are you the mtfwp working for is it the sportsman that pay your salary's or is it footloose keep that in mind when your eating dinner driving you car you work for Us now do your job let's get these Predators under control

Jason wise Libby, MT

166. Hello, Contrary to our representatives efforts and proposals, we do not support having no setbacks in Sanders County (with the proposed minor exceptions). This bloodlust for killing is insane and we ask FWP to exercise the common sense they have shown in the past in limiting their efforts to indiscriminately kill wolves, wildlife and unintentional pets by trapping. That industry does not represent the majority of Montanans or their best interests. Thank you for standing up to their pressure and attempts to railroad through this and current legislation.

Gunner & Beth Junge Thompson Falls, MT

167. No setbacks. Keep all laws the way they are.

Laurien Riehl Missoula, MT

168. I oppose the expanded setbacks on trapping. Regards,

Robert Kayser Billings, MT

169. The Fish and Game has to be very careful of setback arrangements. The animal rights organizations are opposed to all trapping and hunting activities and will want setbacks everywhere they can get them regardless of use by people. In my opinion setbacks are not needed. This has already been addressed with trapper education. Adding more regulations to the many we now have leads to more confusion and is not the answer. Education is the answer.

Harold Johnson Plentywood, MT, MT

170. As a Montana resident and licensed furbearer/wolf trapper I FULLY SUPPORT the proposed setback and no trapping areas in the Libby area. This will go a long way in reducing or preventing conflicts with recreationists and their loose dogs. Thank you very much for your consideration on this topic.

Jay Sheffield Libby, MT

171. I disagree with any proposal that eliminates trapping on any public land in Montana.

Joel Lindenmuth Cascade, MT

172. No trapping of any kind !

Jon Jeffries Bonner, MT

173. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed trapping setbacks. As a resident of Montana for over 19 years, I strongly disagree with the proposal for additional trapping setbacks. No new setbacks should be established. Also, I strongly support wolf trapping, hunting, and snaring on public lands, and the science supports how these methods of take are useful and necessary management tools for wolves on public lands in the present environment. While elk hunting, I continue to see plenty of wolf tracks in the areas that I frequent. I strongly encourage you to refrain from establishing any new setbacks or establishing any new areas that restrict or eliminate trapping as a management tool. Furthermore, I support an increase to the otter harvest, as I continue to see increased otter within and around region 2. Respectfully, D. Steintl Montana Resident

D. Steintl Missoula, MT

174. **From: michele dieterich <telechele@hotmail.com>**

Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 7:04 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Removing setbacks in Sanders and Lincoln Counties

July 30, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks so much for the opportunity to comment. I recreate in the forest and am very concerned at the idea of no setbacks for trapping in Sanders and Lincoln Counties. I enjoy walking trails and roads in the forest. It is fearful to hike where traps are a possibility. It makes no sense to remove setbacks from trails and roads. When I have to go to the restroom, I do not stay on the trail. I need a bit of privacy. I cannot imagine getting caught in a trap or snare trying to pee in the woods. I am surprised this has even come up. Why would you put the majority of users at risk in order to create convenience for less than 5% of the population of Montana?

This will make people think twice about recreating in those areas. There are beautiful places that would be less attractive to the majority of public land users. The Jocko River is a great place to hike as is the Chain of lakes and Bull Lake. Why would you put people at risk who would like to enjoy these places and others?

Public safety should be your number one priority. Removing setbacks puts the public at risk.

Please do not approve this proposal.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Dieterich

Hamilton, MT

175. From: Ann Lauer <ann@grizzlygulchgallery.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:11 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Eliminations of set backs for wolves and their regulations

If expanding trapping seasons, offering bounties, gunning down wolves from the air, night shooting and snares are not enough, now you are removing setbacks in some areas? This is outrageous! Is the risk to the public and our pets of no concern? Trappers are less than 1/2 % of our population so why are they being prioritized over the rest of us? Now the public is at risk for our children and our pets. Not to mention other innocent animals that will be killed in snares.

These new reckless policies will set back what has been accomplished over decades of careful management.

Please do not eliminate set back, and stop the bounties, aerial & night shooting as well as remove snares as a possibility.

Ann Lauer

4974 Prospector Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
443-2694

176. From: Cathy Alger <cathyjalger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:16 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] trap setbacks proposal

Trappers are about 1% of the population of MT. Recreationists: hikers, horse riders, dog walkers, fishermen, campers, hunters, rock hounds, etc are all put in danger by loosening trapping regs, especially the elimination of setbacks that Fielder is proposing.

I understand the political arena is pro trophy hunting and trapping, including shooting animals in traps and calling it "hunting." Please do not bow to the barbaric and dangerous proposals by Fielder, his wife or our governor. There are many many more citizens in our state that use our public lands, because after all, they are PUBLIC lands, not trapper lands.

Sincerely,

Cathy Alger

Livingston, MT

177. From: stephen b <stephen@wildgriz.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:49 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for wolves and wildlife hunting and trapping changes

Dear Commissioners, please accept these comments for changes to Montana hunting and trapping rules.

Dear Commissioners,
please accept these comments on the draconian hunting and trapping rules that you will be deciding soon.

The legislature gave you the power and tools to choose to institute, reel in or stop the hunting and trapping legislation passed during the last session.

Let me start with reminding you that our Governor has shown his disregard of the hunting laws in our state. He also assaulted a reporter, which he admitted to doing. Due to his financial power he was treated differently than other citizens as well as native Americans in the state.

Please use your power to reel in these new terrible laws on hunting and trapping.

Trapping needs to have setbacks from trails and water ways. In high use areas, people need to be informed of trapping. This way they can decide to recreate or not around traps that will harm their pets and children.

No night time hunting should be allowed.

Bear hunting with dogs must not be allowed. This has a high potential to "harm" grizzly. A dog will not be able to tell the difference between a black bear and a grizzly.

Dogs can not tell when they are on private lands that do not allow hunting. I have in the past had a radio collared dog jump at me when I walked our my door. This is a safety and private property issue. It is also an endangered species act violation to "harm" harass or chase a listed species with stiff fines.

Incidental take through trapping and snares

Traps and snares cannot tell if they are catching a non-target animal. There are many non-targeted animals, including pets, that are trapped in these devices. Traps and snares are not a quick death for trapped and snared animals. Traps can be left unchecked due to....for days at a time, leaving animals to suffer needlessly.

Wolves provide an economic benefit.

Tourists flock to Yellowstone to see wolves generating millions of dollars into the local economies. They have also changed elk from becoming elk again, in that they do not graze like cows and over graze areas. They move more improving all wildlife, plants and even soils.

The legislature decided to erase wolves from the state of Montana with all of the new laws are instituted. If this happens, it shows that Montana is not capable to manage wildlife and this should be turned over to the feds. You should really think about this.

Please do not implement draconian rules that allow for night hunting, multiple wolf takes per tag, expand the seasons, allow for hunters and trappers to pull wolf pups out of dens, lower the price of wolf permits (a funder for hunting and fish wildlife and parks) and the host of other roll backs.

No hunting of wolves should be allowed near national parks. They are adored by people in the parks and as soon as they leave these arbitrary bounds, they are hunted and trapped...this is not fair.

178. **From:** *Montana Backcountry* <montanabackcountry@gmail.com>
Sent: *Monday, July 26, 2021 5:38 PM*
To: *FWP Commission* <FWComm@mt.gov>; *FWP Wildlife* <fwpwld@mt.gov>
Subject: *[EXTERNAL] Fwd: Region 2 Proposed Trap Setbacks and Closures*

Dear Commissioners and staff,

We are resubmitting our recommendations for trap setbacks to ensure they are included during the formal comment period.

We are disappointed not to see ANY expanded setbacks or areas closed to trapping in Region 2--one of the most popular regions in the state for backcountry skiing. Additionally, only one small area of our 36 recommended high-use road/areas to close trapping made it into the proposal for Regions 1 and 3, while vast expanses of Region 1 are proposed for elimination of all trap setbacks. Please see below and attached for details.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Montana Backcountry Alliance
Greg Peters, President
PO Box 8691, Missoula, MT 59807
<https://montanabackcountry.org/> [montanabackcountry.org]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Montana Backcountry** <montanabackcountry@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 14, 2021 at 3:55 PM
Subject: Region 2 Proposed Trap Setbacks and Closures
To: <fwcomm@mt.gov>, Thompson, Michael <mthompson@mt.gov>, <rarnold@mt.gov>, <bobinman@mt.gov>, <tylerparks@mt.gov>

Region 2 Proposed Trap Setbacks and Closures

Furbearer, Wolf Hunting and Trapping Seasons
May 14, 2021

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Parks Staff and Commissioners,

The Montana Backcountry is proposing additional trap setbacks and area closures for Region 2 for inclusion in the draft regulations for 2021-22 wolf and furbearer seasons, in the interest of reducing and preventing user conflict between trappers and backcountry skiers.

The Montana Backcountry Alliance (MBA) is a statewide group formed in 2005 representing the backcountry ski, snowboard, Nordic ski and snowshoe community. Our mission is to preserve quality traditional human-powered winter recreation experiences, reduce conflict, improve opportunity, and promote safety among backcountry winter users in Montana. We have over 1,000 members and supporters in (mostly) western Montana.

Background

Our members downhill ski, snowboard or snowshoe with their dogs in the winter, and we typically use trails and open or closed (administratively, or closed by snow) roads to access the higher backcountry terrain. “Climbing skins,” “split snowboards,” and advancements in ski technology in recent years enable an increasing number of downhill skiers to access the backcountry. Traps placed directly upon a road or trail, or with only a minimal setback, places our dogs – and potentially even our youngest skiers – at risk of serious injury in a trap.

In the spring of 2020, in response to previous direction from the Commission, we submitted a list of some of the highest-use areas where our members and public enjoy backcountry skiing. (see attached supporting documents). Those recommendations ultimately did not make it into the proposed rules for 2020-2021.

This spring, FWP Region 2 staff reached out to us and invited us to join a subcommittee of the regional Citizens Advisory Committee to work on the issue of setbacks. Four types of areas were proposed by FWP staff for consideration by our subcommittee:

- 1) Normal Setbacks (No change from current regulations)
- 2) Expanded Setbacks (500 ft. from edges of trails and roads)
- 3) No trapping (High-use recreation area with potential for conflict)
- 4) No setbacks required (Low-use recreation area with little potential for conflict)

We submitted several areas (see attached) for inclusion under these categories, as did other members of the group. Ultimately, however, the group did not reach consensus on these areas. While our representative and others were willing to compromise and accept some areas of “no setbacks,” in our opinion, the trappers within the subcommittee were unwilling to allow some areas of high skier use to be proposed for closure or extended setbacks. As a result, Region 2 staff will be submitting an official proposal for no changes to setbacks in 2021-2022.

Therefore, the Montana Backcountry Alliance is requesting that the Commission consider our proposed areas for extended setbacks and area closures (as supplemental to the official Region 2 proposal):

A) Recommended Closed to Trapping—

- The sections we indicated on the enclosed map off of US Hwy 12 (on the Montana side, just below Lolo pass), incl. backcountry skiing areas known as the “the-spot”, Crystal Theater, NASCAR & Lee Creek. Three areas off Lolo Pass are some of the most accessible, popular backcountry and cross-country skiing spots near Missoula. On a daily basis, many folks are skiing and snowmobiling here with dogs. Lolo National Forest, Missoula Ranger District.
- The Deer Creek area. This area is just outside Missoula on the other side of the Pattee Canyon divide, and is very popular with cross-country skiers and backcountry skiers with dogs. Lolo National Forest, Missoula Ranger District.

- Wisherd Ridge/Twin Creeks area. An area of checkerboard where The Nature Conservancy, Mountain Bike Missoula and the Montana Backcountry Alliance have worked together to develop trails and fund winter plowing and grooming. Lolo National Forest, Missoula Ranger District.

B). Recommended for Expanded Setbacks—500 feet—

- Upper St. Regis River – Upper St. Regis Basin adjacent to Lookout Pass Ski Area. Lolo National Forest, Superior Ranger District.
- Upper Gash Creek Rd/Bear Cr. Overlook Rd. Bitterroot National Forest. We pay for the plowing of a parking area on Gash Creek Rd, to resolve conflict over parking with an adjacent property owner.

Please see the attached maps for clarifications on exact locations, or feel free to contact us for further details.

Our intent with these proposed setbacks and closures is to prevent user conflict in the increasingly-crowded backcountry. In submitting this request, we recognize that virtually the entire public domain in western Montana is available for trapping, yet there are only a handful of areas that are suitable and accessible for backcountry downhill skiing in the winter. So, in the interest of reducing user-conflict on our public lands, we urge the Department to incorporate our requested setbacks and closures into the trapping regulations as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Montana Backcountry Alliance
Greg Peters, President
PO Box 8691, Missoula, MT 59807
montanabackcountry@gmail.com

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Montana Backcountry Alliance

P.O. Box 8691
Missoula, MT 59807



Region 2 Proposed Trap Setbacks and Closures

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May 14, 2021

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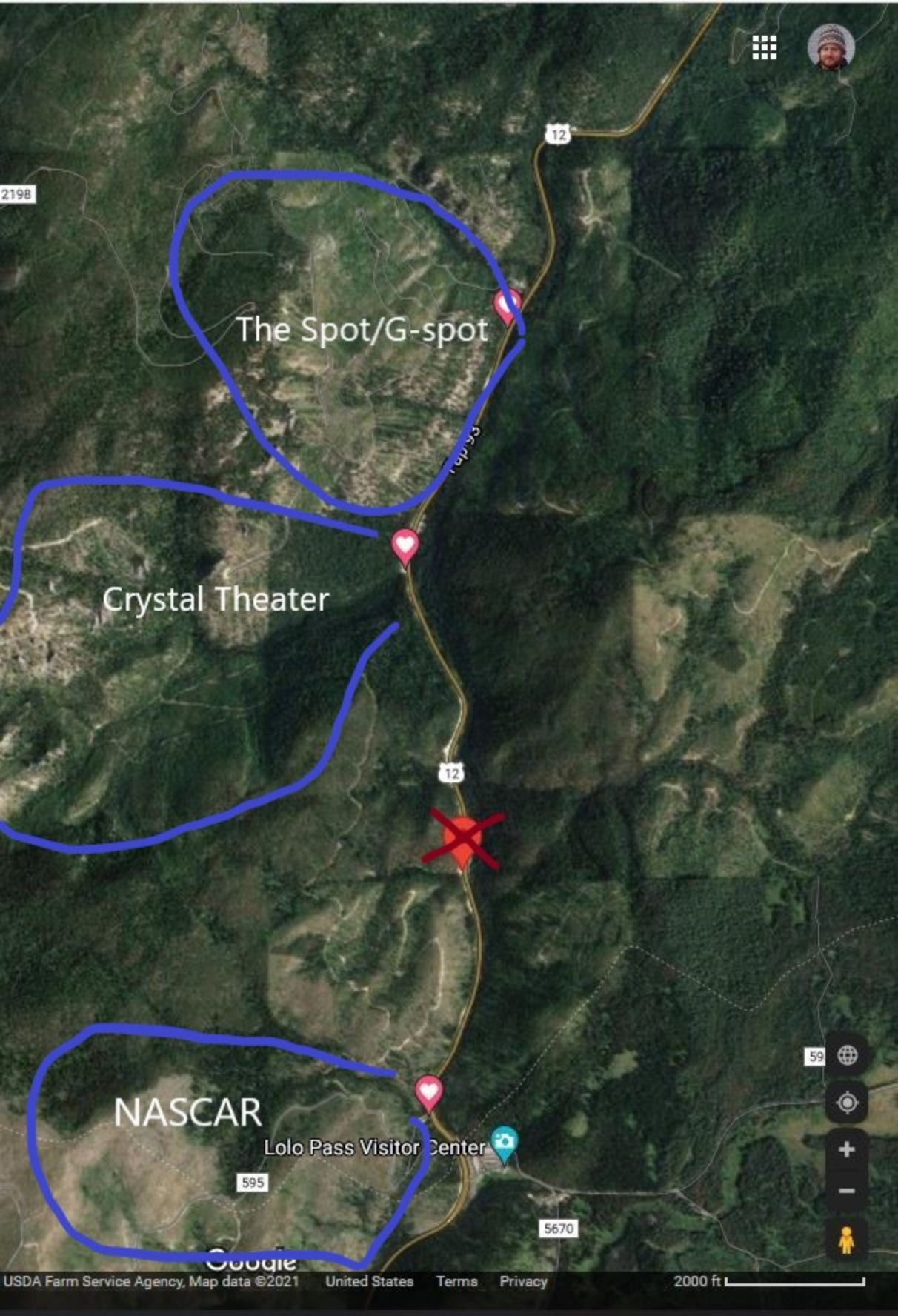
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Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Montana Backcountry Alliance
Greg Peters, President
PO Box 8691, Missoula, MT 59807
montanabackcountry@gmail.com



2198

The Spot/G-spot

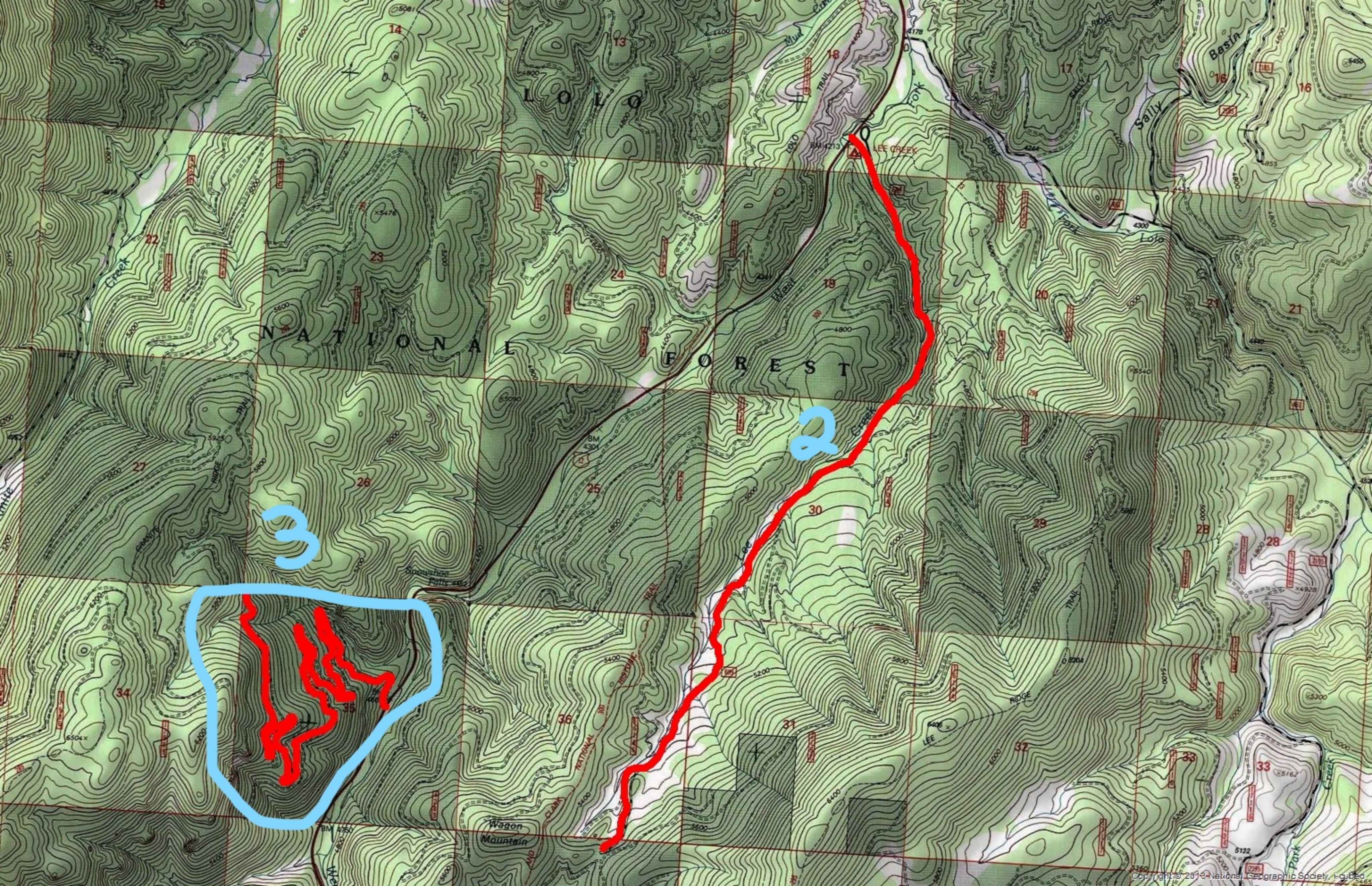
Crystal Theater

NASCAR

Lolo Pass Visitor Center

595

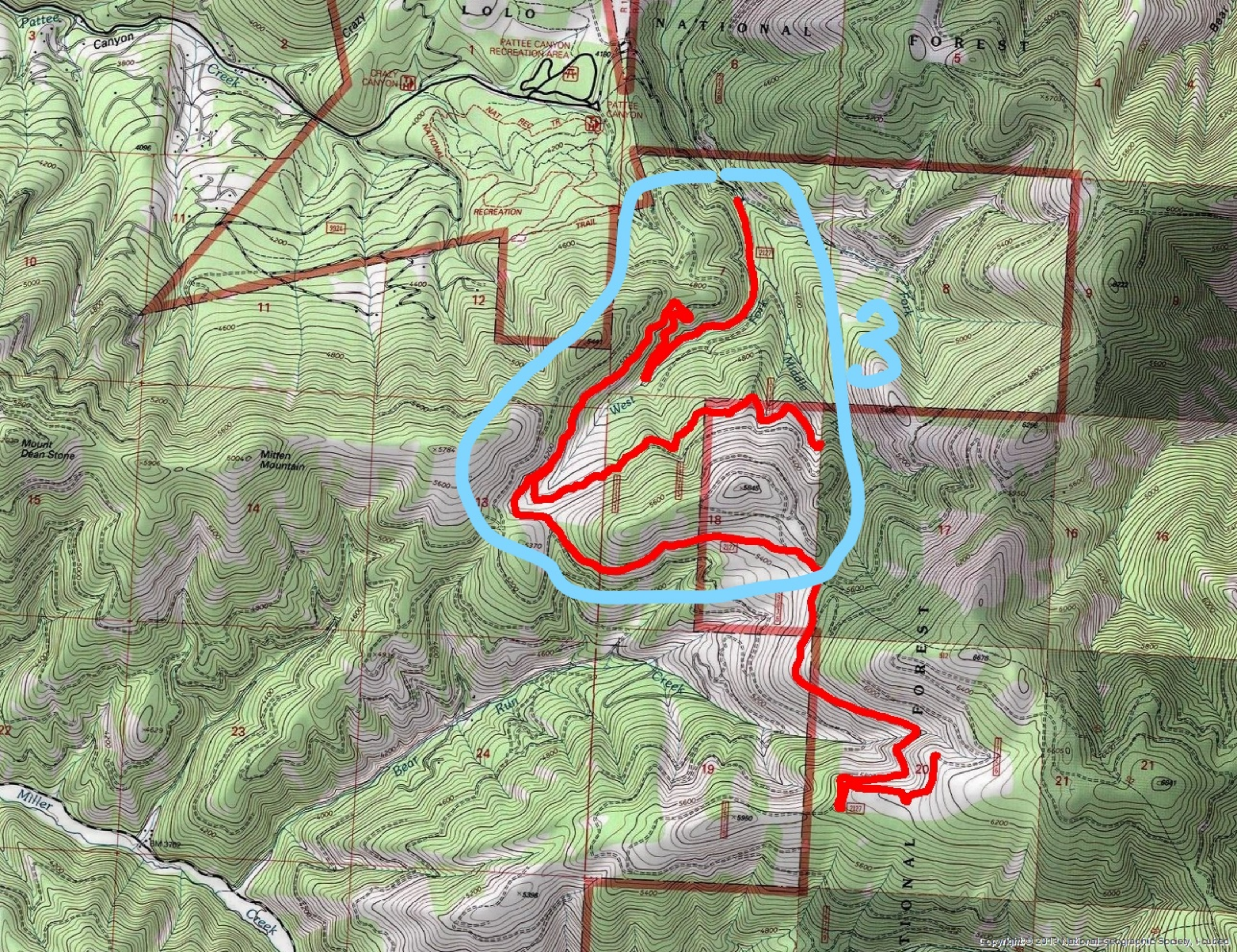
5670



NATIONAL FOREST

2

3



Pattee

LOLO

NATIONAL

FOREST

Canyon

Creek

PATTEE CANYON RECREATION AREA

CRAZY CANYON

PATTEE CANYON

RECREATION

TRAIL

West

Middle

Mount Dean Stone

Mitten Mountain

Run

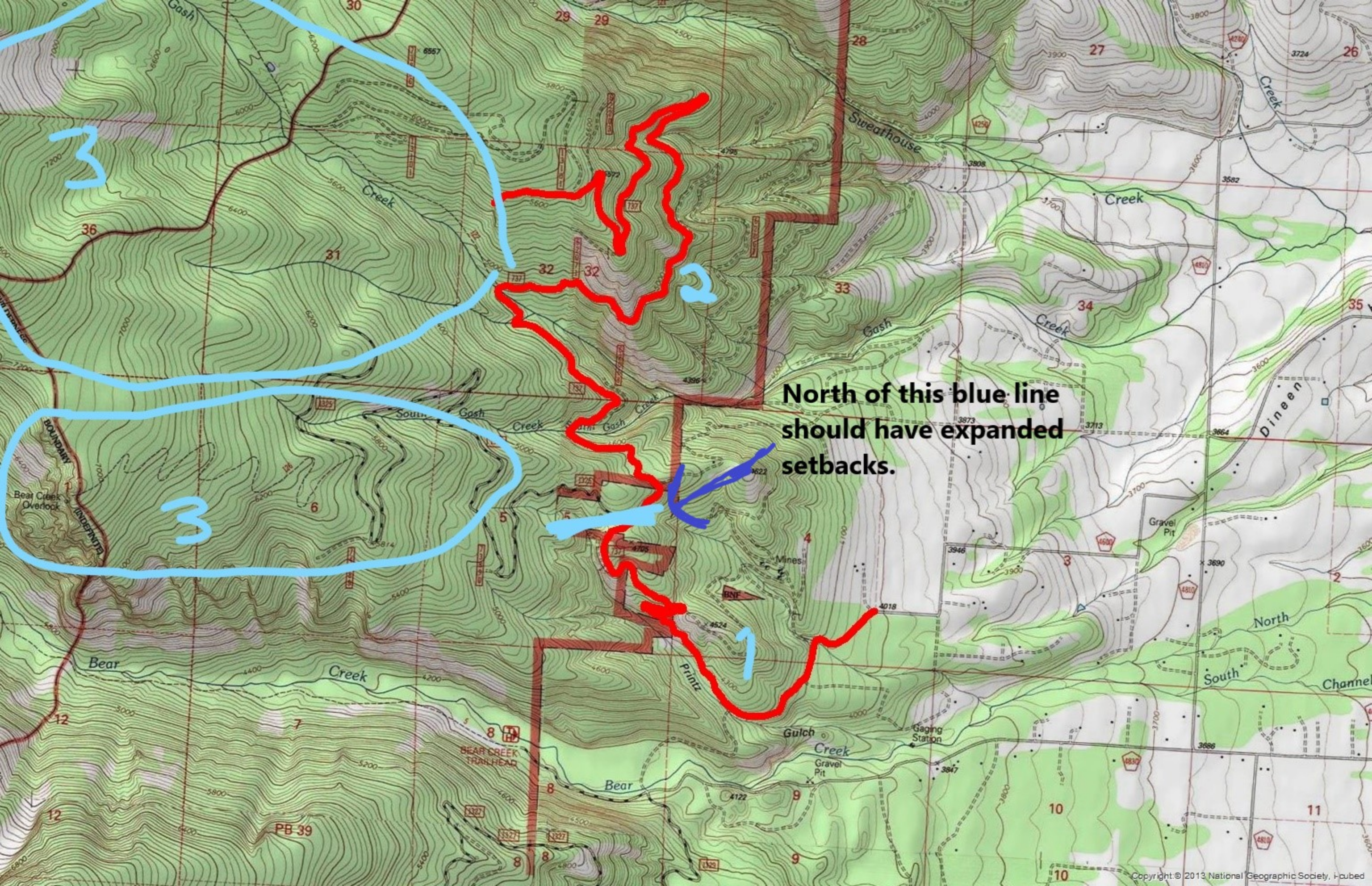
Creek

Miller

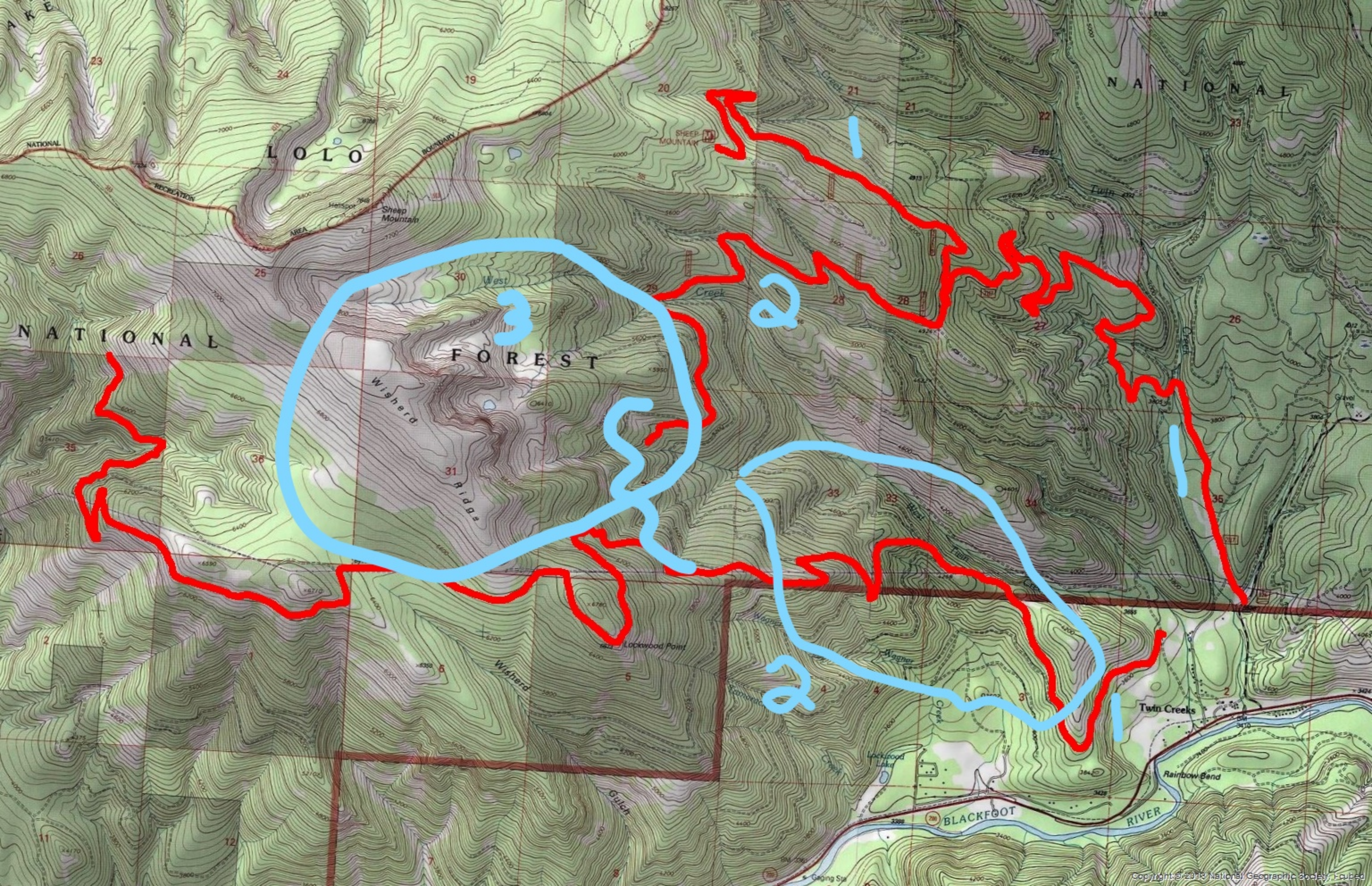
Creek

FOREST

NATIONAL



**North of this blue line
should have expanded
setbacks.**



LOLO

FOREST

BLACKFOOT RIVER

Twin Creeks

Rainbow Bend

SHEEP MOUNTAIN

Wishard

Lockwood Point

Lockwood Lake

Gulch

Wishard

Wagner

West Creek

Creek 21

NATIONAL

NATIONAL

NATIONAL



Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-0701

June 20, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Montana Backcountry Alliance, we are responding to your directive of October 17, 2019 pertaining to **trapping setbacks** on closed roads, and specifically, your request for explicit areas where trapping without a significant setback may result in increased conflict with other winter recreationists. (See enclosed cover sheet.) We appreciate your willingness to revisit the issue.

The Montana Backcountry Alliance (MBA) is a statewide group formed in 2005 representing the backcountry ski, snowboard, Nordic ski and snowshoe community. Our mission is to preserve quality traditional human-powered winter recreation experiences, reduce conflict, improve opportunity, and promote safety among backcountry winter users in Montana. We have over 1,000 members and supporters in (mostly) western Montana.

Many of our members like to ski, snowboard or snowshoe with their dogs in the winter, and we typically use trails and open or closed (administratively, or closed by snow) roads to access the backcountry. Traps placed directly upon a road or trail, or with only a minimal setback, places our dogs – and potentially even our youngest skiers – at risk of serious injury in a trap.

In response to your request at the October 2019 meeting, we have consulted some of our organizational leaders and backcountry skiers in the Flathead, Missoula and Bozeman areas, and we have compiled a list of some of the most frequently and regularly skied roads, trails and areas in western Montana. For each area, we have suggested a larger, more appropriate setback. In many cases where recreational use is extremely high, and where road densities are so high as to preclude setbacks, we have suggested the road or area be closed to trapping entirely in order to reduce conflict between winter recreationists.

In addition, we are urging the Department to retain the Bozeman area setbacks that were previously adopted and which are currently part of the trapping regulations.

Our list of requested closures and setbacks is attached for your review, along with a copy of our previous comment to the Commission last August.

In submitting this request, we recognize that virtually the entire public domain in western Montana is available for trapping, yet there are only a handful of areas that are suitable and accessible for backcountry skiing in the winter. So, in the interest of reducing user-conflict on our public lands, we urge the Department to incorporate our requested setbacks and closures into the trapping regulations as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

Montana Backcountry Alliance
Greg Peters, President
PO Box 8691, Missoula, MT 59807
montanabackcountry@gmail.com

TRAPPING SETBACKS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGH-USE WINTER RECREATION ROADS, TRAILS & AREAS

Current regs:

A road that has an administrative sign and/or road number, either on the ground or on an agency map, requires a setback unless it is closed year-round.

Setbacks: ground sets require a 50-foot setback (150-foot for wolf traps) from the edge of roads and hiking trails that are designated by administrative signs or numbers.

Exception: Roads closed year-round to motor vehicle and OHV use are NOT subject to these setbacks, for instance, kelly-humped roads that are inaccessible to motor vehicle and OHV use but are lawfully accessible by snowmobile.

Region	Road/Trail Number	Name	Forest	Ranger District	Status	Winter Use Type	Current Setback	MBA Recommendation
2 Area	43320	"G-spot"	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C ski	none	Closed to trapping
2 Area	16675	Crystal Theater	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C ski	none	Closed to trapping
2 Road	595	Crooked Fork	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	Closed to trapping
2 Road	53441	(n/a)	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski	none	Closed to trapping
2 Road	737	Gash Creek	Bitterroot	Stevensville	Open year-round	B/C ski	50/150	500 feet
2 Trail	122	Gash Creek	Bitterroot	Stevensville	Trail--N/A	B/C ski	50/150	Closed to trapping
2 Road	21271	Skyline Dr.	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure	X/C ski	unknown	500 feet
2 Road	17121	Deer Cr.	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure		unknown	Closed to trapping
2 Road	17121	W. Fk. Deer Cr	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure	X/C ski	unknown	500 feet
2 Road	17121	Middle Fk. Deer Cr.	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C and X/C ski	none	500 feet
3 Area		Hyalite	Custer	Bozeman		B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
3 Area		East Bridgers	Custer	Bozeman		B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
3 Road	3272	Emigrant Cr.	Custer	Bozeman		B/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
3 Road	3273	Emigrant Peak	Custer	Bozeman		B/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
3 Road	3272-B	E. Fork Emigrant Pk.	Custer	Yellowstone		B/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
3 Area		Beehive/Middle Basins	Custer	Bozeman		B/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
			Gallatin					
2 Road	439	Howard Ck Rd.	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure	X/C Ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Road	699	Lee Ck. Rd.	Lolo	Missoula	Partial-year closure	X/C Ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Trail	18591	St. Regis River Trail	Lolo	Superior	Trail--N/A	B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Road	53027	Wisherd Ridge Rd.	Nature Conservancy		Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Road	2117	Twin Cr. Rd	Nature Conservancy		Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Road	2119	Upper Twin Cr. Rd	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Area		Marshall Canyon	Lolo	Missoula	Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski, hiking, sledding	unknown	closed to trapping
2 Road	250	Trout Creek / Hoodoo Pass	Lolo	Superior	Open year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski & sledding	unknown	500 feet, closed on the pass
1 Road	1690	Upper Cedar Flats	Flathead	Glacier View	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	5241	Hay Creek	Flathead	Glacier View	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Area	10372	Sondreson Meadow/Schnaus Cabin	Flathead	Glacier View	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	5311	North Lion Lake	Flathead	Spotted Bear	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	497	Coram Experimental Forest	Flathead	Spotted Bear	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping

1 Road	590A Coram Experimental Forest	Flathead	Spotted Bear	Open year-round	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	11011 Green Gates/West Glacier	Flathead	Spotted Bear	Trail--N/A	X/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	1637 Pinnacle/Tunnel Creek Access	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	499 Crystal Creek/Garry Lookout	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Closed year-round	B/C Ski & X/C ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	1639 Dicky Creek	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski & X/C ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	1640 Essex Creek	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski & X/C ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	569 Skyland Road	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski & X/C ski	Unknown	closed to trapping
1 Road	1651 Challenge Cabin/Baldhead Mtn.	Flathead	Hungry Horse	Partial-year closure	B/C Ski & X/C ski	Unknown	closed to trapping

Existing FWP setbacks from regulations (retain these, but close Hyalite):

Region/Trapping District (TD)					
TD1	TD 3				
	Hyalite Area	Bozeman Face Trails	West Bridger Mountains	Gallatin Canyon	Paradise Valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blacktail Nordic Trail • Big Fork Nordic Trail • Round Meadow Nordic Trail • Whitefish Legacy Trail • Eureka Rails to Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lick Creek/Wildhorse trail #452 • History Rock loops trail #424 • Blackmore loops trail #423 • Crescent Lake trail #213 • West Shore trail #431 • E. Fork Road/Palisade trail #433 • Grotto Falls trail #432 • Moser/Buckskin Road Loop • Maxy Loop trail #62 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bozeman Creek/Moser winter trail #850 & #851 • South Cottonwood winter trail #852 • Bear Canyon winter trail #848 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "M" trails #538, #511, #512 and #513 in Sec 27 T1S, R6E • Sypes trail #531 • Middle Cottonwood trail #586 • Truman Gulch trail #535 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porcupine trail #34 • Beehive Basin winter trail #861 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Creek trail #945 • Suce Creek trail #44