

**Deer Management Action Plan
And Urban Wildlife Control Plan
City of Geraldine, Montana**

OVERVIEW:

A wild deer population is important to the people Geraldine. There were residents that presented their frustration at the council meeting dated February 14th, 2023. This document was read and approved by the town council on March 14th, 2023. All council meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted following Montana Code Annotated guidelines.

Wildlife viewing is an esthetic value that will be preserved. However, high deer numbers and the habits of some individual animals within the town can create situations that threaten human safety, health and damage property. This is not conducive to the long-term health of the deer population or its habitat.

HISTORY:

A number of Geraldine residents have complained that the risk of human safety and potential for property damage have reach unacceptable levels. This issue has been addressed in the past with very little results.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE of the Action Plan:

1. To reduce the negative impacts to people caused by deer in the town of Geraldine, Montana.
2. Work with adjacent landowners and FWP to manage deer populations near Geraldine to reduce the potential of those deer from moving into Geraldine and becoming year-round resident deer.

GOALS:

1. Eliminate individual deer within town limits that threaten human safety and property damage.
2. To reduce the potential for human-deer interactions and conflicts by lowering resident deer numbers in the Town of Geraldine.
3. Respond to seasonal deer population increases from wild deer.

DEER POPULATIONS:

The deer population has two components: Deer that are year-round residents within the town limits and transient deer which generally inhabit land immediately adjacent to Geraldine but move in and out of town. These wild deer numbers increase during certain periods of the year.

ACTIONS TO MEET GOALS:

Aggressive deer that threaten human safety will be dispatched as soon as possible after verification there is an actual threat. Geraldine's designated sharpshooter will be the only person authorized to use firearms to dispatch animals within town limits. Complaints need to be directed to Geraldine Town Hall (406)737-4361 or Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Region 4 Wildlife or Enforcement. All deer removed under this plan must be documented. A record to maintain by the Geraldine Town Hall and reported directly to FWP. An annual report will be included and will be provided to FWP documenting each event. The report will include the date of the complaint, nature of complaint, name of designated sharpshooter responding, number of deer dispatched, method of removal (lethal control) and the disposition of the deer removed. Carcasses of deer that must be killed will be disposed of in accordance with FWP rules and statues. Deer that have been killed due to vehicle deer collision in town limits will be removed by the town maintenance team.

Diamond D Bar Processing, the local butcher shop, has agreed to assist with the program and will save deer heads for CWD testing by FWP. The meat will be donated to local residents via community food bank list.

1. Residents and wild deer threatening the safety of pets confined to yards, and those creating traffic hazards may be dispatched when necessary. All FWP, Montana Statutes and ARM rules apply. The intent is to minimize human/deer conflict and damage caused by resident deer.
2. Citizens of Geraldine must refrain from artificially feeding resident and wild deer Pursuant to MCA 87-3-130.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Town of Geraldine and its citizens recognize Montana’s heritage is based in an urban setting that has the presence of many wild species of wildlife. State law recognizes that importance of Montana’s Public Wildlife Legacy. Minor or occasional property damage caused by wildlife is an acceptable circumstance Montanans have chosen to accept. This is in accord with the expressed wishes of the citizens of Geraldine.

MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY:

The Town of Geraldine and FWP will jointly monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this action plan.

The Towns’ designated person will accept and respond to complaints about aggressive deer. The number and type of complaints received, as well as the action taken will be recorded and provided to MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office in Great Falls in an annual report on or about December 31st of each year.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks will assist the Town of Geraldine in determining the deer population within the town and structuring an effective management strategy.

PROGRAM LONGEVITY:

Consensus of the Town of Geraldine and the approval of FWP may modify the “ACTION PLAN” in writing.

The “Action Plan” is effective upon authorization from Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Town of Geraldine, and it will remain in effect until modified or terminated by the Town of Geraldine or Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

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 City of Geraldine, Montana
 SIGNATURE PAGE:

REPRESENTING OFFICIALS:

For Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For The Town of Geraldine:

Name: Kathy L. Bond - Mayor Date: 4/18/2023

Signature: Kathy L. Bond Date: 4/18/2023

Date ACTION PLAN Authorize: _____