

Implementation of SB 280: Public Comment on 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Licenses and Training Season Proposal (Combination of Alternative A and B)

We, the undersigned, offer the following comments for consideration by the FWP Commission pertaining to the implementation of SB 280 dog training rules for public land.

Background: The upland game bird resources of Montana represent an important public trust that is highly valued. Using trained gun dogs for hunting upland game birds is both a time-honored tradition and an ethical conservation tool for Montana citizens and visitors to the state. The level of interest in upland game bird hunting continues to increase and the reputation of Montana as a bird hunting destination continues to grow. For years, Montanans have raised, trained, hunted, and tested their dogs as individuals, members of clubs, and as professional trainers.

That has changed within the last 5 years as nonresident trainers with large numbers of dogs have begun concentrating during the late summer period on certain public lands. That level of use has become problematic for leaseholders, adjacent landowners, and hunters. Lack of enforcement of existing land use permit requirements is also a problem. In addition, the expanded use of online apps, including mapping services and video footage, have contributed to an increasing crowding issue for hunters on public lands and lands accessed through programs like Block Management or Open Fields.

Goal: To meet the intent of SB 280 and implement short-term regulations that allow for licensing of residents and nonresidents interested in training bird dogs on wild birds to:

- ascertain current levels of use and the distribution of that use,
- establish season dates for that training that provide protection for wild bird resources during the nesting and brood-rearing period,
- recognize and deal with differences between public and private land use,
- offer relief for areas experiencing increased levels of use during the late summer period, and
- provide differential opportunities for residents and nonresidents on public land.

Issue: implement over-the-counter *D5 Resident* and *D5 NonResident Dog Training Licenses* to train on wild birds in Montana. Training on birds raised in captivity does not require licensing. This helps the department collect and quantify current levels of use by resident and nonresident dog trainers to inform management decisions, including rule-making by the FWP Commission.

Position: Required by Statute - Support

Issue: Establish a bird dog training season on public lands to manage the impacts of dog training on wild birds, particularly during the nesting and brood-rearing periods for multiple species of upland game birds. Create differential training opportunities for Residents and NonResidents on public lands during the late summer period.

Position: Support

Issue: Both resident and nonresident bird dog training may potentially contribute to impacts on wild birds. However, the use and intensity of training at dispersed levels is likely not an issue, while areas being subjected to higher intensity of training and use do become problematic, particularly on blocks of accessible public land.

Position: Concur

Issue: The department developed:

Alternative A: The commission may vote to establish a bird dog training season on wild birds on public land that runs from August 1 through the last day of February. A dog trainer may not train on public lands if additional land use regulations prohibit access during all or part of this training window. A training license will be required by anyone training bird dogs using wild birds regardless of land ownership, although season dates only apply to public lands.

Alternative B: The commission may vote to select different start or end dates for a public land bird dog training season or for training prohibitions on public land.

Position: Support creating a bird dog training season on wild birds on public land (to include State School Trust Lands, Bureau of Land Management Lands, and U.S. Forest Service Lands and other lands managed by federal land management agencies). A dog trainer may not train on additional public lands (MFWP WMAs and USFWS WPAs) if other land use regulations prohibit access during all or part of this period. If additional land use permits are required by the managing agency for commercial activities, a trainer is responsible for acquiring these agency-specific permits or licenses. A D5 dog training license will be required by anyone training bird dogs using wild birds regardless of land ownership, although season dates only apply to public lands. Both residents and nonresidents, if properly licensed with a D5 dog training license, may train on wild birds on private lands with the permission of the landowner(s) under dates permitted by that landowner. It is recommended that landowners consider utilizing

timeframes that offer protection for nesting and brood-rearing periods. Training season dates for public land:

Resident D5 dog training dates for public land: August 1 - March 31

NonResident D5 dog training dates for public land: August 25 - March 31

Issue: To meet the intent of SB 280 to create opportunities to train bird dogs on wild birds and manage impacts relative to licensing of residents and non-residents, providing protection for wild bird resources during the nesting and brood-rearing period, recognizing and dealing with differences between public and private land use, and offering relief for areas experiencing increased levels of use during the late summer period requires ongoing management oversight and likely the need for additional rule-making by the FWP Commission.

Position: FWP to establish a Bird Dog Training Working Group involving individuals from major stakeholder groups to identify issues and make recommendations to regulations based on information that better informs management recommendations and commission decisions over time.

The following individuals and organizations support the comment letter:

Andrew McKean, Glasgow

Big Sky Upland Bird Association, Ben Deeble

Craig Roberts, Lewistown

Dale Spartas, Bozeman

Daniels County Conservation District, Alycia Nathe

Helena Valley Gun Dog Club, Britt Anderson

Jay Hanson, Lewistown

Jeff Herbert, Helena

Justin Trout, East Helena

Kerri Payne, Gallatin Gatewa

Mike Getman, Lewistown

Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Thomas Baumeister

Montana Sportsmen Alliance, Greg Munther

Pat Howe, East Helena

Phil Madison, Cascade

Trent Kleppen, Plentywood

True Grit Brit's Kennel, Tana Kradolfer, Belgrade

Rick Sojda, Bozeman

Robert Jeffrey, Helena



Protecting Montana's wildlife, land, waters, and
hunting & fishing heritage for future generations.

10 May 2023

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Wildlife Division
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Re: 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands

Dear Acting Director Temple,

Founded in 1936, the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is the state's largest hunter advocacy organization consisting of thousands of Montanans who value sound wildlife and wildlife habitat management and our storied hunting and outdoor legacy. Together with our members and affiliated organizations, we ensure that wildlife conservation dollars are efficiently spent on wildlife-related activities, promote sound biology in managing our state's wildlife, and safeguard our hunting heritage. Our wildlife populations, specifically our upland bird populations, are the envy of the county due to a history of sound and innovative management practices. Therefore, MWF is grateful for the opportunity to formally comment on the **2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands**.

During the 2023 Montana Legislature, Senate Bill 280 was introduced and passed with broad support. This bill established bird dog trainers' need for a D-5 license. In addition, it directed the commission to set rules to better regulate the growing practice of large groups of dogs being trained on public land, specifically in eastern Montana.

MWF appreciates the Department's work with the legislature to protect our wildlife populations, and we recommend the department adopt **Alternative B: The commission may vote to select different start or end dates for a public land bird dog training season or for training prohibitions on public land**. We heartily support the proposed end date of the last day of February and the moratorium on training from March 1 through the start of the season. We would recommend a compromised state date of September 1st.

As noted in the cover letter provided by FWP, we know that the timing of many of our upland hatches means that birds will still be very immature come the beginning and middle of August. We are interested in chick mortality data associated with early training. The data provided by the Department would suggest that if we were to begin training in August, we would run a high risk of displacing young from their mothers, stressing them to the point of increased mortality rates. While delaying the start of the training season by a month appears to ask a lot of dog trainers who wish to use public resources to operate their businesses, we must always balance entrepreneurial and recreational use with the impact to the resource. We fear the potential adverse effects on our upland populations are too significant to justify starting in August. For this reason, we **request that the Department approve Alternative B** and delay the start date until September 1st.

Sincerely,

Frank Szollosi
Executive Director

#1

COMPLETE

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Started: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:18:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:41:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:16
IP Address: 47.45.238.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: William McGregor
City/Town: Red Lodge
State/Province: MT
Email Address: burro981chawk@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I would like to train my new GWP on public lands without any issues from other people that may be in the area during the training. Protecting the Brooding Hens and Chicks is paramount and should be enforced. Using live pen raised birds on public land should be available if no damage to the wildlife is not damaged.

#2

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Time Spent: 00:04:35
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Andrew Oestreich**
City/Town: **LEWISTOWN**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **OESTREICH.ANDREW@GMAIL.COM**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I support limiting bird dog training. Only allowing bird dog training between August 1st to March 1st. would allow birds to breed, nest, and raise chicks. I support this proposal.

#3

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Laurien Riehl |
| City/Town: | missoula |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | riehl36@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

We really don't need a bird dog training season. I really can't believe this is a request. As a bird dog owner for 25 years I have more than enough opportunity to run my dogs. We have 5 months of hunting. That is a ton of pressure on birds.

If we start a training season people will be running birds for no reason and stressing birds when they need rest and time for raising young birds.

The other part is how do you separate bird dog training season and me walking my dogs? I run my dogs every night in fields and now someone will try saying I am not supposed to be out walking it is not bird dog training season. It is a ridiculous season please do not adopt this.

#4

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Time Spent: 00:03:50
IP Address: 216.14.237.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Timothy Mitchell
City/Town: Saint Ignatius
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sti2866@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

woderfull idea

#5

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:34:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:21
IP Address: 174.45.50.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bruce Baumgart
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brucebaumgart@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I strongly approve the commission to regulate the training of dogs on wild birds in Montana to begin no sooner than August 1. The number of out of state trainers and dogs increases every year and the disruption to young brood stock is terrible. The loss of young birds has been shown to me while attending training sessions of young dogs that capture birds and break up and disperse young birds that don't survive. Would consider starting training even later ie August 15th or more THX

#6

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:03:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:41
IP Address: 184.166.73.9

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Greg Munther**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gmunther12@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

There is no biological rationale for allowing bird dog training on wild birds on public land before individual birds are capable of surviving on their own separate from a brood. Repeated flushing can displace young birds from their parent hen beyond distances where vocal recommunication signals facilitate reconnecting to the brood. Predation losses likely increase. Resident bird dog trainers can likely find private land for training. Non resident bird dog trainers (often displaced from other states prohibiting such training) can not only damage native bird populations but also displace birds to private lands before opening day of hunting seasons.

1) There should be no D-5 licenses issued for training of dogs on native birds on public lands before September 1. Personally I have had hungarian partridge and sharptails that could barely fly 100 feet on Sept 1.

2) No D-5 licenses should be issued to non residents

3) D-5 licenses should be issued to RESIDENT ONLY dog trainers beginning August 15 for use on private lands.

#7

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Last Modified: Friday, April 14, 2023 7:02:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:01
IP Address: 38.44.97.122

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Robert Slone**
City/Town: **Eureka**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Rmtslone@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Where did these proposals come from?? There are more predators at large than dog trainers. Wildlife is always under assault.

No to any additional liscense requirements. I purchase a hunting liscence, that is enough.

I believe your intention is to limit professional trainers, but I do not see this in this proposal?

Your proposal would not allow me to walk on any public lands during a closed period with my dogs? Your proposal would be an issue just going unlicensed to waterways for water training..

I am retired and walk most days on public lands with my hunting dogs. 500 miles a month on our feet during summer easily. My dogs are there for our safety. Big predators we run into several times a year in the field in NW. Montana.

No way will I purchase an extra liscence or stop walking my dogs or for my health on public lands.

I do understand this rule intended!

When new born's are on the landscape, we work retrieving, and water work. Any trainer of dogs understands the implications.

Sincerely,

Robert.

#8

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:06:42
IP Address: 67.44.224.22

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name: | Stephen J Christian |
| City/Town: | Colstrip |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | mtduckhunter@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear MTFWP Commissioners,
Please set up a dog training season and licensing as established by the MT Legislature.
Thank you

#9

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, April 17, 2023 2:58:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:06
IP Address: 174.198.141.236

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dale Spartas
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sparky@spartasphoto.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I think not allowing people and particularly professional dog trainers to train on public lands when upland birds are nesting and fledging is the right thing to do. The birds are too young and can barely fly much before August 1.

These thoughts do not apply to private lands!

Sincerely yours,

Dale C. Spartas

#10

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:37:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:04
IP Address: 174.234.4.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alan Jensen
City/Town: Whitehall
State/Province: MT
Email Address: arj2@netzero.net

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

This is a crazy idea ! Why should we have bird dogs chasing and pointing on game birds 6 months out of the year. Most important is it will just conflict with trapping season. More dogs will be out and if they get caught in a trap, the trapper will get the bad name. I strongly oppose this and will inform Montana trappers Association about this. Thank you for letting me comment.

#11

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Last Modified: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:10:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:04
IP Address: 98.127.124.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Carman
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: carman.chad@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I support this proposal to limit training on wildlife outside of the normal hunting season. Continued pressure on wild birds will end with no wild birds to pressure. I fully support training during the off-season, as the owner and trainer of labs myself, but not at the expense of the wildlife we are training for. There are plenty of training aids that can be used during the off-season and dogs can get their real world experience during hunting season.

#12

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Time Spent: 00:09:42
IP Address: 192.161.70.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Gary Jagodzinski**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **gjagodzins@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am in favor of the recommendation that there be no dog training on public land from March 1 through July 31.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, April 21, 2023 9:38:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:41
IP Address: 72.250.157.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jay Hanson**
City/Town: **Lewistown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jayhansonoutdoors@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am concerned that this may take a growing problem (nonresident dog trainers traveling to Montana) and exacerbate it. The August 1st date is simply too early for a mass entry into the public land uplands and this is in effect, creating a new "Opening Day" increasing interest and traffic.

Other suggestions are:

- A) nonresidents must wait until the September 1st upland bird opener to train dogs on public land.
- B) A training season on public lands to commence Aug 15th

Keep in mind that State DNRC lands already forbid commercial use. A professional dog trainer from out of state, would often fall under this commercial designation.

Jay Hanson
Citizens Upland Bird Program Advisory Council
Region 4, Lewistown

#14

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Saturday, April 22, 2023 3:00:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:59
IP Address: 47.45.186.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Frank Hecker
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: gravitysport1@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

First let me say I've been an avid bird hunter for more than 45 years and I train my own dogs almost daily when not hunting them. When I need birds for training, I use a combination of pigeons and pen raised game birds I purchase. I fully support a ban on training bird dogs on wild birds from March 1 thru July 31 each year, on all public lands. The birds come directly from the stress of the Winter into nesting season. As we know, Spring can be wet and windy forcing the birds to re-nest sometimes more than once, meaning there are often very young offspring well into the Summer months: or Spring can be hot and dry limiting bug hatches essential to brood survival. It is foolish to think that running bird dogs on on them at this time won't have a negative effect on game bird populations. As the hunting pressure increases and the number of people using our public land to train their dogs increases, it becomes vitally important Montana FWP be given the tools and regulations necessary to protect what we all cherish in Montana. Sincerely, Frank Hecker 406-594-1184

#15

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Last Modified: Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:42:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:53
IP Address: 207.225.0.183

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Christopher M Hyle**
City/Town: **Butte**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **chrishyle55@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I strongly recommend the bird dog training season on public lands start on August 15. These young birds are under enough stress as it is, including drought in many areas at that time and need all the breaks they can get. I have bird dogs myself and believe the resource is more important than getting in some extra training time for the dogs. By September first the birds are so jostled and harassed they will hardly hold for a pointing dog. I believe the mortality on these young birds is higher than the researchers know, and I have been hunting birds here for 40 years.

#16

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Last Modified: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:16:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:28
IP Address: 206.255.211.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jonathan Windley
City/Town: Searcy
State/Province: AR
Email Address: jwindley@cablelynx.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I fully support the proposed agency recommendation to allow no bird dog training on public grounds from March 1 - July 31.

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:52:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:01
IP Address: 72.36.1.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Josh Tatman
City/Town: Sheridan
State/Province: WY
Email Address: 82801

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

As an upland hunter and recreational dog trainer, I would like to voice my support of the proposed training seasons, presented as 'Alternative A'. These proposed regulations are in keeping with the best available science on minimizing impact to nests and young broods. I also like the license requirement, as this will allow for more accurate data on training impacts in the future. Thanks for considering my comments.

#18

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Time Spent: 00:06:01
IP Address: 208.184.22.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Faw**
City/Town: **Dillon**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mikefaw@earthlink.net**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

While I find this interesting and I hunt upland and waterfowl with dogs, I would be in favor of scraping this because there are places to train better with pen-raised birds and upland bird populations have enough pressure already. There were sharp declines of pheasants last hunting season and the FWP publication Montana Outdoors reports hungarian partridges are also declining. Young grouse (late hatched) can also be overtaken by dogs in late summer. I VOTE NO.

#19

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Last Modified: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:25:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:33
IP Address: 98.125.197.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Whitney Shanks**
City/Town: **Kalispell**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Strongly against a bird dog training season on public ground! It might not interrupt the nesting period as they say, but it will stress out enough birds “ and young birds” . Within a few years their will be a noticeable decline in population. This isn't Texas!

#20

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:42:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:02
IP Address: 71.15.216.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lisa Noble
City/Town: East Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: blakdgz@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Fish Wildlife and Parks is proposing shutting down any form of bird dog training in the State of Montana. This idea is counter productive to the philosophy of conservation through a trained retriever! We buy pen raised game birds, use bumpers, shed horns to teach a dog to pick up downed birds. I have seen what happens when lack of time spent in the field results in waste of our resources. Please reconsider this!!!! HVGDC president

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Time Spent: 00:03:20
IP Address: 98.97.13.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Stephen Blankenship |
| City/Town: | Billings |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | quackhead71@hotmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Opposed to this rule simply because anyone who values the resources will do the right thing and avoid nesting habitat until clutches are hatched. Placing a season on dog training should not even be considered. Shed hunting places more pressure on wildlife and allows animals zero recovery time after hard winters. Season on dog training should be matched with a season and permit for shed hunting on public lands.

#22

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:04:43
IP Address: 216.146.96.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | Thomas K Quinn |
| City/Town: | East Helena |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | tkquinn1919@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I strongly oppose this bill. Man and his best friend deserve to train, recreate, and use public lands during all days of the year. This bill not only seems extremely difficult to enforce, but also pulls resources and focus away from other more pressing issues.

#23

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:56:05
IP Address: 47.44.112.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert B. Morton
City/Town: Helena, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bobsportin@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear FWP. Are you kidding me? So, I can't throw a training dummy or stick to my dog on my national forest, grassland, or lake, but I can take her for a hike or swim? Talk about government overreach. Is there a documented problem you're taking care of? Are you coming up with worst case "might happen" scenarios to create regulation? Do you have any data on negative affects to bird populations from "evil" dog owners training on any of our public land? If you did it would be 0.000000001% of impact compared to agriculture practices or vehicles. Maybe one overly sensitive bird watcher has more rights and didn't like someone's dog? You already have rules against harassment of wildlife, just enforce that if there is some problem somewhere. The hunters that you will be affecting by this are the ones that know and have a vested interest in a good bird population come hunting time. You are scheming to regulate a group of the most responsible outdoors persons in Montana - way to alienate your constituency. The "evil" group you are proposing to regulate would be happy to obtain a \$5 tag to register to own a bird dog, we already spend way more benefiting Montana's outdoor recreation. If you feel it's important require the potential tag holders, us, to read about the affect (worse hunting, etc.) of just being in prime nesting areas. Spring and summer is prime time to train dogs so they know how when bird season starts in the fall. I totally disagree with this flawed Agency Recommendation and lack of Rationale. This potential regulation is embarrassing to even consider, don't.

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, April 27, 2023 12:31:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, April 27, 2023 12:36:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:22
IP Address: 47.44.112.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | Kelly Quinn |
| City/Town: | Helena |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | kquinn@kellyquinn.net |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed motion by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the bird dog training season on wild birds on open public land in Montana during August 1, 2023, through the last day of February 2024, with no training on public land from March 1 through July 31, 2024, as presented by the department.

I OPPOSE HAVING THE MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS APPROVE THE BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON.

There is absolutely no scientific evidence or data available that suggests bird dog training on public lands has a negative impact on the survival of wild birds. If the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks does have data available that shows how bird dog training on public lands impacts wild bird populations, it should be presented at the June 8th Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting prior to the commissioners voting on the proposed motion.

I OPPOSE HAVING THE MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS APPROVE THE BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON.

There are hundreds of factors that impact the mortality rates of wild birds on public lands. It is absolutely ridiculous to single out bird dog training as a contributing factor for wild bird mortality and make it a crime to access our public lands for five months of the year!

I OPPOSE HAVING THE MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS APPROVE THE BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON.

I have trained retrievers on public land in Montana for over thirty-five years and think it is an egregious overreach of government authority to create a bird dog training season without any scientific evidence to backup the policy. The proposed bird dog training season is nothing more than a politically motivated attempt to deny bird hunting dog trainers access to public land in Montana!

I OPPOSE HAVING THE MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE AND PARKS APPROVE THE BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON.

Thank you for your consideration.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 01, 2023 2:25:42 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 01, 2023 2:31:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:03
IP Address: 104.28.116.31

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **James Tayer**
City/Town: **Yakima**
State/Province: **WA**
Email Address: **tayerbloomfield@charter.net**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Support banning training during nesting and early brood period. Only suggest going further by licensing non resident trainers and keeping them off Public land.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 02, 2023 9:31:00 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 02, 2023 9:31:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:53
IP Address: 65.158.198.4

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brian
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: shark006.875@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

While I think that this proposal is done in good faith and with good intentions, I can see this unfortunately becoming a problem. It is possible for dog trainers to accidentally encounter wild birds while training, and those who own bird dogs (or versatile breeds) could be targeted for prosecution if they're in an area with nesting birds even if their dogs were not harassing birds. As the owner of a versatile breed, I use pigeons and rabbits for drags, but we occasionally encounter game birds in the off season. We then avoid these areas during the off season especially during the nesting months. I believe that there is an ethical use policy that supports recreation and public use without negatively impacting bird populations. There are many breeds of dogs other than bird dogs that may pressure wild birds even more by those. Additionally, licenses may not actually prevent people from pressuring birds (those who travel to Montana to train their dogs on our birds are probably going to be able to pay whatever licensing fee), they can instead be an undue financial burden on those less fortunate. As such, perhaps additional signage on certain state lands that are likely to hold nesting populations would help users and trainers avoid areas that hold nesting birds/areas likely to contain nesting birds, and no license/permit would be required for lands not marked with said signage.

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 08, 2023 7:20:51 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 08, 2023 7:34:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:37
IP Address: 166.137.115.16

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Michael Nathe |
| City/Town: | Redstone |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | nathe27@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I have been farming, ranching, and hunting in Montana since I was a child. I've seen a lot of changes in agriculture over those years, but even more in hunting and outdoor recreation. I never thought I would have to explain why bird dog training on State land is detrimental to agriculture and to wildlife, but here we are. I run cattle, and trainers running one to a dozen dogs through the state land pastures my cows are in not only disrupts their grazing, but it affects their behavior and movement from water to feed to shade. Often time cows bunch up and become defensive around dogs. This creates numerous problems. It's difficult to move cows from pasture to pasture when they are defensive. Actually, they are harder to handle in all situations when dogs and people are blowing whistles and moving through them. Save those negative impacts from recreation for the hunting season. It's long enough.. too long to be honest. And if I have to explain the negative impacts of busting up coveys of immature birds well before season, then I want my money back on the taxes I pay for FWP biologists.

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, May 08, 2023 7:13:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, May 08, 2023 7:52:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:05
IP Address: 45.42.30.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Curtis Arlian**
City/Town: **Flaxville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **olazyy@outlook.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

All bird dog training on state lands should not open until September 1st. This prevents all wildlife from being harassed.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 6:04:51 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 6:14:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:34
IP Address: 162.244.232.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Name: | David |
| City/Town: | Plentywood |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | wolddavid@live.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

The season for bird hunting in Montana is 4 months long. This should give people training bird dogs plenty of opportunity to train their dogs. Making a special season for training dogs should not be needed. The birds are still young when you want to do this season & it puts unnecessary stress on the young birds. In NE Montana we already have the most bird hunting pressure in the state. We don't need more pressure when the hunting season is not even open.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 8:28:48 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 8:54:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:37
IP Address: 67.143.192.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | JIM HOMISON |
| City/Town: | STANFORD |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jim.homison@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

May 9, 2023

Commissioners,

I recommend the commission adopt a form of Alternative B, by establishing a dog training season on public lands only from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15 except in elk hunting districts that have early shoulder seasons on public land. Dog training on public land would be banned in these elk hunting districts and these districts would be expected to vary from year to year.

Department analysis of their proposal is remiss because it only addresses biological concerns of upland game birds while ignoring biological concerns of other wildlife especially ungulate big game animals.

Establishing a dog training season on public lands during January and February would be unwise because of disturbance to ungulate big game animals. For ungulate big game animals, January and February are usually the most critical months for survival. That's one reason our state's wildlife management areas are mostly closed to human activity in winter; so that wintering animals are not disturbed and needlessly wasting metabolic energy. Wintering animals on open public lands need to be considered.

Ungulate big game animals depend on thermal cover for winter survival because thermal cover helps conserve metabolic energy during a time of year when quality food sources are often limited. Game birds also utilize these thermal cover areas for the same reason. Dog trainers would focus their operations in and near thermal cover areas because that's where the birds concentrate along with ungulate big game. Neither ungulates nor game birds deserve canine disturbance in January and February.

Consistent with current department policy their proposal ignores any social/human elements of concern. So, I will provide some concerns.

Training bird dogs on public lands during late August just prior to September's upland bird opener and big game archery opener would likely haze game birds and animals to adjacent private properties closed to public hunting such as hunting leases and hobby ranches further reducing quality public land hunting opportunities. Elk displacement could further complicate elk management where public land borders closed private property. In districts where early elk shoulder seasons occur on public land, dog training could help defeat the purpose of shoulder seasons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jim Homison
R4 FWP CAC Member

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 6:43:37 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 6:59:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:55
IP Address: 76.75.23.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alycia Nathe
City/Town: Flaxville
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alycianathe@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

As a land owner, state land lease holder, and lifelong resident of Daniels County, the pressure we are experiencing is crushing for those farming and ranching. Pre Season Non Resident bird dog trainers arrive in early July with campers and tents, GoPro cameras, instant uploads to Instagram, web sites, pod casts, while dropping Onyx pin points until mid October when we finally get a bit too cold for the 50+ pups on 3 feet of chain under a tin roof shed.

Honestly, our Daniels County area doesn't want any pre season training on state land... County Commissioners recently told me that requests to run water lines to abandoned house site has quadrupled as interest in buying a house/camper site in the heart of the greatest amount of state land in MT has some scrambling to sell an acre or two.

This means "resident" distinction will become tricky.

We urge for NO PERMIT because it creates another whole season our 1 game warden must monitor & also sends the message that we are willing to sell out for \$10 the dearest and most sacred land that belongs to all MT residents... at a time when all wildlife and cattle and horses are at their youngest and most vulnerable to unethical practices by way ward "smash and grab" trainers.

We urge NO TRAINING by residents until August 1st... and no training by non residents until Sept 1st.

Montana's state land hunting heritage is at stake. We cannot become a playground during agriculture's heaviest work load: haying and harvest. The traffic is always almost unbearable: a school bus tipped over due to a training/hunting rig parked in the middle of the road.... We need help immediately.

If nothing else, shut down Daniels County State Land to all training. Sharp Tail Grouse are the target and are primarily in this northeast corner. Our quantity of State Land makes us an advertised target. We need your help, please.

Montana stands alone in having no protection (a Quiet Season) for wildlife during their most vulnerable.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 7:38:30 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 09, 2023 7:41:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:59
IP Address: 63.153.88.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Laurien Riehl |
| City/Town: | Missoula |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | riehl36@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please don't start a bird dog training season. This will have way too many people pressuring birds for no reason. If they want to train they can get their own birds.

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:19:19 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:27:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:33
IP Address: 162.213.185.59

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jay Crandell**
City/Town: **Scobey**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jac@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am against any pre season dog training on State Land. It disrupts Wildlife and Human Life. We deal with hunters for months and there has been many conflicts during seasons, it affects everything and everyone who lives in Northeast Montana from stress on livestock, wildlife, tore up roads and people. Another, longer season for training will only drive a bigger wedge between the residents and sportsmen and women. Please vote against this training season. Thank you.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:31:24 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:36:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:36
IP Address: 199.168.108.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Troy Larson**
City/Town: **Peerless**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **plranch9@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am against this season. As a land owner and a person who leases state land in MT, there is so much pressure on birds already. Not to mention that it makes the season longer and it's bad enough having people parked on the road while we are trying to farm with big equipment. Troy Larson

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:52:11 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:20:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:28:14
IP Address: 174.231.85.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Bryce Daviess**
City/Town: **Helena**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bryce.daviess@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please consider adjusting dates to MAY 1st-August 1st.

As Wing shooting guide I rely on the ability to train young dogs in the spring and then condition dogs in August for the clients that will be hunting with me in September and October. It's in my best interest to protect birds for the coming season. Training pointers is very low impact as the dogs do not flush the birds. Furthermore when birds are found once we don't go after them again.

Thank you for the consideration

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:28:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:33:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:32
IP Address: 63.239.65.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **D.J. Clark**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dclark@sandersonstewart.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am just a weekend bird hunter that loves owning, training, and hunting with my dogs. Anymore, the training I do with my dogs is more so for their continued health and enjoyment, because I don't get out hunting all that much anymore. It is imperative to the sport we love that the D5 training licenses be unlimited for Montana residents and that we can purchase them over-the-counter.

Please also strongly consider adjusting the date range for the public land closure to be from April 15 to July 31, which will stil negate impacts to nesting birds, while still allowing for spring season training to occur in the short window after the snow is gone and nesting season begins. Thank you for your consideration!

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:33:34 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:37:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:27
IP Address: 174.45.89.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Anthony Finissi
City/Town: Manhattan
State/Province: MT
Email Address: abfinissi@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please consider D5 training license to be unlimited and available to all Montana residents.

Please consider that the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:34:18 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:37:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:31
IP Address: 174.45.68.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Amanda Drysdale
City/Town: Bzn
State/Province: MT
Email Address: amanda_drysdale@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

- 1) pls make licenses available to all
 - 2) pls close training season for a shorter duration ie April 15- July 31
- Thank you for this consideration!
-

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:51:16 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:54:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:20
IP Address: 174.234.6.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Andrew Elser
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: elser.onthefly@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I cannot see a need for this in any way! It's another thing being taken away from Montana residents. If this is to go through all MT residents need to be allowed to purchase a pass. Also we should be allowed to run dogs except in the months of June and July when young birds are on the ground. Again I wholeheartedly disagree with this bill being passed

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 1:40:13 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:23:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:27
IP Address: 174.45.64.129

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Daniel Lohmiller**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **danlohmillergmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I would like to see the closure date of the Dog Training Season moved from the proposed March 1st date to April 15th. The research clearly shows that the April 15th closure would be well before the majority of nesting occurs so it should have very little impact on the majority of nesting game birds.

Also, I would like the D-5 permits to be available over the counter to Montana residents through the ALS system. It is a very gray area between who is simply exercising their bird dogs on public land and who is dog training. I cannot imagine how FWP would go about deciding who is doing what in most situations. An unlimited Montana Resident license for dog training would allow someone like me to continue to exercise my birddogs on public land, during the Dog Training season, without fear that the dogs will encounter wild birds and it will be perceived as "dog training" and not just exercise.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:33:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:07
IP Address: 216.228.45.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Todd Lehner
City/Town: Circle
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tlkennels@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I would like to request that as FWP moves forward with regulation on dog training that it would adhere to the two following stipulations: first, please clarify that the D-5 permits are a "shall issue" and unlimited to residents, second, please only close public lands to dog owners from April 15 to July 31. Thank you for your consideration.

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:12:26 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:36:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:23
IP Address: 72.175.195.50

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Here, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a classic example of a solution in search of a problem. I can not believe you are wasting time on this. Can't you find anything to work on that might actually impact populations of game animals? How on God's green earth can me running a couple of birds dogs have on game birds as long as it is outside of nesting season? How can 1000 people? It can't. Period. PLEASE adopt Alternative C! One more specific concern I have with the motion. I am a falconer. My hunting season ends on March 31st each year. Does this mean that I would no longer be able to use my bird dogs during a legal hunting season? Your nesting dates cited essentially all begin after March 31st, yet your proposal would end dog training the last day of February. Running dogs in March will not impact nesting. This season is not justified. How much money will this cost and for what benefit? Please adopt Alternative C and move on to something worth your time. Long time hunter from Montana.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:42:45 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:51:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:17
IP Address: 47.44.117.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Barrett Adams**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **biggsy@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Fish and Wildlife Commission:

In Regards to the D-5 permit legislation recently passed, I advocate that permits be over-the counter and freely available to all qualified Montana residents without a quota. As well I would request that the bird dog training season be extended until April 15th, before typical wild bird nesting, to allow for spring training before the summer season.
Thank you for your consideration

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:52:38 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:01:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:23
IP Address: 172.221.78.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trevor Walz
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: walztw@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Hello,

Please take the time to read and consider my suggested updates. Allowing these updates will accomplish the goals of limiting out of state training on wild birds during sensitive times of the nesting cycle and allow Montana residents the ability to continue doing what we love.

First, I ask that the D5 training license be unlimited and available to all Montana residents. The FWP is asking the Commission to make training permits available on a limited basis; this means that many of us who run dogs could be denied a permit. Please make D5 permits available over-the-counter – much like a fishing license –and unlimited to Montana residents. I want to make sure all Montana residents will be able to purchase a permit.

Second, I ask for the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. The date restriction being proposed by FWP is March 1 – July 31. Updating these dates will allow for more training opportunities in the spring before the nesting season starts. FWP states certain nesting dates in their cover sheet that clearly support setting the beginning of the closure on April 15, rather than March 1.

Thank you for your time on these matters,

Trevor

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:56:58 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:01:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:28
IP Address: 98.97.9.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Terry Wink
City/Town: Huntley
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rimrocklighting@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please make the D5 License available to all Montanans, make the season closure from April 15th to July 31st. Thank You

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:05:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:06:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 174.255.0.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Trisha**
City/Town: **Eureka**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **trishalea@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

First, request that the D5 training license be unlimited and available to all Montana residents. FWP is asking the Commission to make training permits available on a limited basis; this means that many of us who run dogs may be denied a permit. Please ask the Commission to make the D5 permits available over-the-counter – much like a fishing license –and unlimited to Montana residents. We want to make sure all Montana residents will be able to purchase a permit.

Second, request that the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. The date restriction being proposed by FWP is March 1 – July 31. We would like to change those dates to allow for more training opportunities in the spring before the nesting season starts. FWP states certain nesting dates in their cover sheet that clearly support setting the beginning of the closure on April 15, rather than March 1.

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:06:20 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:11:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:55
IP Address: 174.212.228.78

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Steve Holton
City/Town: Ledger
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sdholton1975@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please make permits available over the counter to all Mt. residents. Please allow Dog training April 15 to July 31.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:46:55 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:26:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:05
IP Address: 76.75.23.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Willie Bernard**
City/Town: **Scobey**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **2willie@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

As a third generation farmer in Daniels County I'd ask that you consider a few points when dealing with this matter.

1. Agriculture is a very large part of the county's economy. The last time I checked production agriculture pays 70% of the property taxes.
2. In the past some Bird Dog Trainers have not been all the respectful of farmers/ranchers during busy times in the ag season. Their activities have posed a fire danger as well as some dangerous scenarios on our roadways. These are only two that I am personally aware of, although I have heard others have experienced other problems.
3. It's come to my attention that these people are using social media to get the word out to others that this is the place to come as it's sparsely populated and an abundance of open areas. We have no idea how many people this reaches out to and how many we may see come to our area in the future.
4. Agriculture is here for the long haul. People have invested their lives in this area, unfortunately these trainers are here for what can benefit them now without investing in the county's future!

Please please keep our long time citizens in mind when making any decisions.

Thanks so much for any consideration you can give us.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:23:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:31:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:33
IP Address: 194.60.86.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Engman
City/Town: Cascade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: stnfly@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I wish to make comments on the new rulings for early dog training.

Please consider issuing these permits over the counter to ALL Montana residents.

Also make the permit good from April 15th to July 31

Sincerely Robert Engman

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:42:03 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:51:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:10
IP Address: 155.254.9.111

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Todd A. Breitenfeldt
City/Town: Whitehall
State/Province: MT
Email Address: toddb8877@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please use the dates April 15 to July 15th. Only on public lands, not private. Stay away from private lands!

license to all residents, just like a fishing lic.

License out of states unlimited until you can ascertain if/where there are problems. If so, then and only then, limit out of state licenses in specific areas. Use data, rather than blanket rules!

Please don't make this to restrictive!! We need good, well-trained (on wild birds) dogs so that birds are not lost during hunting season.

I am the Pres. of the Montana Brittany Club.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 3:40:41 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:28:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:47:32
IP Address: 174.231.86.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Anthony Grimaldi**
City/Town: **Joliet**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **grimaldi.anthony@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I, Anthony Grimaldi, find this legislation to be completely arbitrary, utterly unnecessary, and severely detrimental to countless small communities throughout the state of Montana. Fish Wildlife and Parks will receive an insignificant financial benefit from the sale of dog training licenses, while forcing countless trainers from across the the country operating on both large and small scales to move their operations to North Dakota and/or South Dakota. The communities of the Dakotas will see the greatest benefit from this legislation. Neither wild game birds nor Montana residents will benefit from SB280 in any way, making this legislation borderline comical. If one wishes to improve upon wild game bird populations, improve upon the habitat in which they reside. If Fish Wildlife and Parks is in such desperate need of funding, raise the price of non-resident big game tags or raffle off another sheep tag for the Breaks.

While pursuing my degree in Wildlife Biology from Oregon State University, I studied every game bird from bobwhite quail to greater sage grouse extensively. At no point did I discover scientific literature suggesting that dog trainers are responsible for population declines in any game bird species. The loss, degradation, or conversion of habitat is almost always to blame for a decline in wild game bird populations (as well as ungulate populations), with mortality from disease being a minimal and cyclical risk factor.

I agree that it is easier to bully dog trainers than it is the land barons subdividing the state at an astonishing rate or the agricultural practitioners putting food on the table, but it does not make it right or just. Shame on each of you who voted in favor of SB280 for such trivial financial gain. Shame on those of you who voted in favor with little to no understanding of biological or ecological principles. And to the state and/or federal biologists who favored politics to science, shame on you. Those who vote in favor of SB280 or similar unnecessary legislation will continue to jeopardize the health of Montana's wildlife far more than any dog trainer will.

Anthony Grimaldi

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:45:40 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:53:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:26
IP Address: 137.26.80.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Name: | Marcos Puiggari |
| City/Town: | Missoula |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | mlp@mpuiggari.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear Sirs. I would like to see the restricted time of the year amended to April 30th till July 15

Also, I think permits should be available to all Montana residents by over the counter or online sales. Please do not have us submit an application subject to approval each year.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:23:03 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 5:21:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:58:13
IP Address: 174.198.128.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ryan Flair**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **ryanflair@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am requesting that the D5 training license be unlimited and available to all Montana residents. I also ask the Commission to make the D5 permits available over-the-counter – much like a fishing license –and unlimited to Montana residents, want to make sure all Montana residents will be able to purchase a permit.

Second, I request that the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. from the current proposed closure dates of is March 1 – July 31.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,
Ryan Flair- Long time Montana resident, avid bird hunter and dog trainer.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:04:38 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 6:08:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:13
IP Address: 184.166.236.214

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Alex Burks
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: alexredlegs28@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Senate Bill 280, please move the start date of the restrictions back to as late a date as biologically possible, say April 15th of each year as some of us like to run our dogs in the Spring if the weather permits.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:03:27 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:26:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:22:52
IP Address: 154.27.106.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Tana Lynette Kradolfer
City/Town: BELGRADE
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tanabanana.k@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Hello Commissioners, This is Tana Kradolfer in Belgrade. I have raised and trained Brittany bird dogs for almost 30 years. I have been a member of the working group representing trainers, dog clubs and interested stakeholders on the subject of legislation pertaining to upland bird hunting since 2019. Recently the upland bird dog working group has gotten together again to make recommendations on the rule making process in regard to SB280. I support the recommendations made by the working group and a lot of thought and work went into the recommendations. I support a dog training season from August 1 to March 31 for public land bird dog training. Unfortunately the license requirement in SB280 for training on wild birds has opened a big can of worms depending on the season dates that are associated with it and will bring some unintended consequences for land owners in places like Daniels County since it could act like an invitation to out of state trainers to come to Montana and train on wild birds for just \$10. Please consider reading the recommendations of the dog clubs working group before you make a decision about the rules for SB280. I am happy to speak privately to any of you that may have questions about this issue and how it might affect folks like me who have trained dogs in Montana for many years. Having been raised on a farm east of Billings I also understand a little bit about how the landowner may think about this issue. Please choose an option that helps out Daniels County and still allows dog trainers to make a living. Best regards, Tana Kradolfer, True Grit Brits, Belgrade 406-539-3163.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:25:29 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:29:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:43
IP Address: 192.161.70.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stuart Smithers**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **smithers@pugetsound.edu**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please don't do this! I'm a hunter, a Republican, and I simply don't understand, still don't see the need for this government intervention. I'm a life long bird hunter – love Montana, love birds and pointing dogs. Most of my hunting friends feel the same way. Why have a license to train your dog? What is the point? We all respect birds, love Huns and grouse. We keep our dogs close in the nesting season, and watch closely to see how the weather impacts the hatches. Have you read Ben Williams? Please, please, don't do this.
Stuart Smithers

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:37:35 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:04:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:27:19
IP Address: 174.198.141.251

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Holt
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT
Email Address: john@jhhop.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I would propose that the licenses are available over the counter and to both non residents and residents. I live in Montana 6 months of the year but a Florida resident. I train my own pointers and am not a professional. Its my hobby. Also i would propose that the closure be changed to april 15- july 15. Thanks for listening to my opinions. This is the second comment i e made but i think the first went to the wrong bill
Jh

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:19:20 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 9:28:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:12
IP Address: 37.19.200.20

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Richard Poore
City/Town: Red Lodge
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 2riggermt@protonmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please have D5 training licenses be unlimited and available to all Montana residents. Please make the D5 permits available over-the-counter like a fishing or upland bird license; and unlimited to Montana residents. It's important that all Montana residents are be able to purchase a permit. Also, please consider having the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. It's important to have training opportunities in the spring before the nesting season starts.

Thank You

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:42:52 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:45:49 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:57
IP Address: 64.99.249.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Custis Coleman |
| City/Town: | Charlottesville |
| State/Province: | VA |
| Email Address: | colemancustis@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Thank you for hearing public comments, I as a bird dog owner and trainer who has lived in Montana and am now in Virginia that:

D5 permits are available over-the-counter – much like a fishing license –and unlimited to Montana residents. And available to non-residents through a lottery or licensing system.

Additionally, I will ask that the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. This will still ensure that birds aren't being trained on during the nesting season and still provide adequate opportunities for public lands training.

Thank you,

Custis Coleman.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:11:16 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:28:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:35
IP Address: 162.244.232.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Name: | Strauss Boshoff |
| City/Town: | Whitetail |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jfsbos@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am a landowner and I put part of it in block management every year. I am not trying to people from enjoying the outdoors and all the good hunting Montana has to offer, but it needs to be done RESPONSIBLY and SUSTAINABLE. It seems like the north eastern part of Montana is getting overrun by out of state hunters. They don't care about the land and the future conditions of the wildlife in the area, and are rather just trying to get as much as they can while they can. The bird dog trainers seem to get away with whatever they want to do. They might start out on state land but eventually the pack of 50 dogs goes running through private land scattering all the wildlife and livestock. It is too big an area for the game wardens to continuously police and babysit the trainers. This is not a local bird hunter training his 3 dogs, these guys come up here with 100+ dogs and run them constantly. These practices have a negative impact on not only the birds and other wildlife but also on landowners feelings towards hunters.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:55:12 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:02:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:52
IP Address: 174.231.85.90

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Larry Brutger**
City/Town: **Bozemsn**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lbrutger@brutgerequities.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I am a MT resident and I own 2 bird dogs and plan on bringing up a new puppy when my older dog retires. I understand I must now purchase a license to train my dog on public land . While I do not support that requirement I will abide by it. I encourage you to make the training license available to all. After all it's public land. Why should I be denied the right to train my young dogs on public land. In addition the training dates should be consistent with the dates adopted by many states. April 15 to July 31. This coincides with the birds nesting season and is supported by science. Thank you.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:24:22 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:28:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:51
IP Address: 144.86.213.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Name: | Mark Thibeault |
| City/Town: | Lewistown |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | mark@tbohq.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I have two comments that I suggest be changed to this bill:

First, the D5 training license be unlimited and available to all Montana residents. FWP is asking the Commission to make training permits available on a limited basis; this means that many of us who run dogs may be denied a permit. Please ask the Commission to make the D5 permits available over-the-counter – much like a fishing license –and unlimited to Montana residents. We want to make sure all Montana residents will be able to purchase a permit.

Second, the season closure on public lands be changed to April 15 – July 31. The date restriction being proposed by FWP is March 1 – July 31. We would like to change those dates to allow for more training opportunities in the spring before the nesting season starts. FWP states certain nesting dates in their cover sheet that clearly support setting the beginning of the closure on April 15, rather than March 1.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:48:33 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:12:14 AM
Time Spent: 02:23:41
IP Address: 104.28.48.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Hollister
City/Town: Ballantine
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bhollistermt@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear FWP and Commissioners:

I am a biologist, landowner, hunter and bird dog owner. I do not train dogs professionally.

I oppose the current FWP recommendation to establish a bird dog training season for residents and non-residents beginning August 1 to February 28. The biggest problem we have in the field is the massive increase in non-resident hunters and bird dog trainers using our public hunting areas, including DNRC lands and Block Management areas.

It is my view that no commercial, professional dog trainers or dog training outfits should be allowed to use our public hunting areas at all. This is commercializing our publicly owned bird and wildlife populations at the expense of Montana citizen's access and enjoyment of OUR resource. I recommend the following:

- 1) Please consider setting separate seasons for residents and non-residents. Also, please consider making a distinction between professional and non-professional dog trainers.
- 2) Resident non-professional dog training season should be August 15th to March 31. This allows resident dog owners two weeks prior to the season to train their dogs and prepare for the upcoming bird season.
- 3) PROFESSIONAL bird dog trainers should NOT be allowed to train dogs on land open for public hunting AT ANY TIME. This should apply to resident or non-resident Professional trainers.
- 4) Resident professional dog training season should be August 15 to March 31, Non- resident professional dog training season should be the same, and both should ONLY BE ALLOWED ON PRIVATE LAND.
5. The fee for a dog training permit for residents, should be \$10. The fee for non-resident professional bird dog trainers should be \$100.

I feel this simple season structure places Montana residents first, protects the resource from commercial use, and protects the wild birds from disturbance during breeding season and other sensitive periods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Bob Hollister
Ballantine, MT

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:45:45 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:29:07 AM
Time Spent: 01:43:22
IP Address: 98.127.253.167

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: David Kirkland
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: davidandjuliek@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please change the date of the training restriction to April 15 thru Aug 1.

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:24:33 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:36:27 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:53
IP Address: 69.146.76.92

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | John Junnila |
| City/Town: | Billings |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jbjunnila@bresnan.net |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I would like to know how you are going to distribute the D5 licenses. They should be sold to anyone that is a resident of Montana. In other words over the counter would be my suggestion.

The training dates should be April 15th to July 31. This would not interfere with the nesting season of the birds.

Last, I would like to see something for the resident hunter. That is nonresidents can not hunt the block management parcels the first week of the season. It is frustrating to see how the nonresidents have over run the block management units the first week of the bird seasons. I am 75 years old, and it would be something the state could do for the Montana residents. Please give this some thought. It would very appreciated by all Montana's.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:55:08 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:00:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:33
IP Address: 174.45.65.218

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Hudgens
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: johnkylehudgens@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please amend the bird training season closure dates to April 15th - July 31st. We need a little more time in the field and data suggests these dates won't have an impact on nesting birds.

Pease allow for all Montana residents the opportunity to purchase the new dog training license. Limit those licenses for non-residents only.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:59:13 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:10:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:02
IP Address: 107.122.173.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John McIltrout
City/Town: Roundup
State/Province: MT
Email Address: johnmciltrot@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

As a full time resident of Montana, a professional pointing dog trainer, and president of the Big Sky Field Trial Club, I ask that the Commission take the following points into consideration:

The push to limit bird dog training activities began a few years ago due to a seasonal influx of nonresident dog owners in Daniels County. Some of these individuals were training, others were scouting in anticipation of the start of bird hunting season.

To address this problem, and to provide Montana's nesting gamebirds with a quiet season for nesting and brooding, I propose the following:

1. Establish the requirement for a D5 license, which would be available for purchase over the counter, for training on wild birds
2. Close bird dog training on public lands from April 21 - July 31 each year
3. Close bird dog training on established BLM critical sage grouse habitat areas from daylight until 12pm each day, from March 1 - April 21
4. Close bird dog training on public lands for nonresident D5 license holders from April 21 - August 25.

Thank you,

John McIltrout

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:10:12 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:17:55 AM
Time Spent: 04:07:43
IP Address: 144.86.219.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike Getman
City/Town: Lewistown
State/Province: MT
Email Address: mhg4556@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear Commissioners,

I have reviewed SB 280 and have read FWP's cover sheet prepared for you. I am in support of additional restrictions on dog trainers to reduce the adverse impacts of this activity on wildlife especially young upland gamebirds.

I believe FWP's Proposed Motion to "approve the bird dog training season on wild birds on open public land in Montana during August 1, 2023, through the last day of February 2024, with no training on public land from March 1 through July 31, 2024, as presented by the department" is a start, but falls short of really addressing this issue.

The following are my concerns that I hope you will consider for incorporation in your decision and final rule making -

1. Does FWP have a definition for "dog trainer"? There is not one in the 2023 Upland Gamebird Regulations nor online. Does this apply to commercial trainers only or does it include a person who wants to take his dog out for exercise and hunting practice? As a resident will I now be required to obtain a D-5 license just in case my dog finds an upland gamebird while we hike on public ground? Will this prevent me from hiking with my dog on public land from March 1 through July 31?
2. End this season on December 31 to avoid stressing upland gamebirds and other wildlife during their critical winter period. This was the predominate reason why a recent proposal to extend the upland gamebird season through January was defeated.
3. Ideally this restriction should also apply to private lands too. Restricting this to only public lands may drive dog trainers to use private lands. This is a benefit for public hunters, but doesn't fully manage the resource. The increased mortality of dog training on young birds occurs regardless of land ownership.
4. This regulation doesn't need to apply to commercial trainers who use non-wild birds for their training.
5. North Dakota has already established dog training rules which seem reasonable. Please check them out at <https://gf.nd.gov/gnf/licensing/docs/dog-train-permit.pdf>.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will incorporate addition concerns into your rulemaking to make this a better effort.

Sincerely,

Mike Getman
Lewistown, MT 59457

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:55:20 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:23:06 AM
Time Spent: 01:27:45
IP Address: 47.47.152.97

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Shawn Keefer
City/Town: Bigfork
State/Province: MT
Email Address: keefershawn@netscape.net

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please do not limit the number of licenses available to MT residents. The license should be available to all Montanan's. Restricting training to essentially 1 month before the hunting season will only create dog nuisance and more conflict in the Fall. The dates provided in your research does not show a scientific reason to close training in early spring. Training should also be allowed in March if not further into the season.

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:14:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 12:16:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 69.145.231.49

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

You find a way to differentiate between the commercial dog trainers that are training multiple dogs and an individual biking/walking/camping on public lands with their dog(s).

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 3:26:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 4:01:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:35:02
IP Address: 45.42.31.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Barbi Riggs**
City/Town: **Outlook**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kbriggs@nemont.net**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Dear Members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Please consider a restricted season for Bird Dog Training on Public Montana Lands. As a tenant of public lands myself and as a private landowner, I have great concern over a fast expanding of “mob” style bird-dog training on both public and private land. This type of activity is harmful to our precious native species of upland bird as documented in the white paper. I believe in conservation of native species and protection of both the animals and the habitat so that generations of future Montanas can enjoy their beauty and sport of hunting them. These dates also co-inside with peak livestock grazing seasons. These two actives do NOT work well together. Mob of dogs working a field, learning to hunt upland birds is a fast paced activity with running barking dogs followed by horsemen in chase is disruptive to not only upland birds, but deer, and livestock. As a public land lessor, we pay a rent to access peaceful grazing. Activities such as described is a great stress that results in livestock escaping and damaging fences, loss of weight and reproduction and lots of time that the lessor is financially responsible for.

Upland birds are wildlife species that are protected by hunting regulations to preserve their numbers. Bird dog training is should be regulated also as a sport. Licensing fees should be high enough to not only keep control of the number of dogs and trainers, but should also provide enough revenue to support FWP environmental assessment of such activity. Of particular concern; non-resident trainers should not be able to overrun public lands with such an intrusive sport at the expense of private Montana citizens and public land tenants. Our state should protect our citizens, our native species and our peaceful way of life.

Sincerely,
Barbi Riggs

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:20:44 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:29:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:27
IP Address: 65.121.114.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chad Hanson
City/Town: Lockwood
State/Province: MT
Email Address: wirehairman@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

I have owned and trained bird dogs for my personal enjoyment and hunting since 1993. I regularly exercise and train my dogs on public land but have always refrained from running them on wild birds from April 15th through the end of July to avoid the nesting and brood season.

Access to public lands for non-pro bird dog owners with one or two dogs like myself is very important as we often don't have access to large chunks of private land. March is an important month for getting dogs ready for spring hunt tests or trials after the off season. Likewise, August is an important time period to get our dogs in shape for the hunting season.

Consequently, I would urge the Commission to only limit training on public lands from April 15 to July 31. This would protect our birds during the nesting and early brood raising periods while still providing access for many non-pro bird dog owners during some critical training periods.

Thank you.

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:10:03 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:16:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:51
IP Address: 174.45.241.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Name: | Todd Baier |
| City/Town: | Billings |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | windysagepp@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

Please make a distinction between bird dog trainers that train on wild birds and those that don't train on wild birds. I see no reason to keep trainers off of public land that don't train on wild birds.

If you feel you need to keep those training on wild birds off of the land during nesting, the dates of closure should be April 15-July 31. Again this should have no bearing on trainers that don't train on wild birds.

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:18:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:35:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:31
IP Address: 63.153.109.21

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: Taylor Todd
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: taylorjtodd@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

As a Montana resident and upland hunting guide it is important for me to be able to train my dogs outside of the hunting season. There are two things that I think are important to protect Montana dog trainers and allow us to continue doing what we have been doing while regulating the influx of non-resident dog trainers that have raised this issue in the first place.

First, it needs to be guaranteed that MT residents can obtain this license over the counter to have the ability to train their dogs.

Second, based on the cover sheet recommendations provided by FWP to the commission I think the season closure on public lands that is recommended should be from April 15th until August 1st.

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:22:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 11, 2023 10:27:05 PM
Time Spent: 01:04:31
IP Address: 69.145.60.45

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: **RICKY HOLLAND**
City/Town: **BOZEMAN**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Carrieholly@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on the 2023–2024 Bird Dog Training Seasons on Open Public Lands.

First, if you are going to be requiring the D-5 license for MT residents to train their bird dogs they should be available with no restrictions for all MT residents. The training dates should also be a little more flexible. March 1st. though July 1st really doesn't give much time for training your dog or dogs in the spring. Sometime in the middle of April would truly be better just because of weather conditions in this state. Thank You Ricky Holland

To: Brian Wakeling, Game Bureau Chief - Brian.Wakeling@mt.gov

Subject: Proposed Motion in the June 8 FW Commission Agenda Item Cover Sheet 'Bird Dog Training Seasons'

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this agenda item. To prevent possible future misinterpretation of the Proposed Motion, we request the following revisions.

Proposed Motion as Circulated by Fish, Wildlife and Parks:

"I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve a bird dog training season on wild birds on open public land in Montana during August 1, 2023 through the last day of February 2024, with no training on public land from March 1 through July 31, 2024, as presented by the department."

Requested Revisions - In order to stay in conformance with SB 280 and not lose the intent of said revisions, we respectfully request the following:

1. **Add:** Bird dog training over birds raised in captivity will be allowed year-round.
2. **Add:** with **no wild bird** training on public land in Montana during August 1, 2023 through..... (Comment: Wasn't SB 280 passed with an immediate effective date?)
3. **Clarify:** How is a member of the public or enforcement officer going to determine what is and is not 'bird dog training over wild birds'. This needs clarification. For instance, is taking your dog for a conditioning run on public land in July considered 'training over wild birds'.

Rationale:

The Big Sky Chapter of North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, NAVDA, has 135 members that travel from the Missoula, Great Falls, Helena and Bozeman to participate in club activities. The group's purpose is to teach members how to train their bird dogs and train bird hunters in ethical and safe hunting practice. Ethical hunting practice includes training dogs so they do not waste game as well as observing common sense during nesting season.

Please consider the following:

- Big Sky NAVHDA is currently lucky to have access to private property for organized activities. That has not always been the case and might not be at some time in the future. In addition, members practice what they learn close to their homes, often on public land.
- As a group, Big Sky NAVHDA trains exclusively over birds raised in captivity and makes those birds available to members for their personal training. Our training routines and drills are limited to areas where wild birds are unlikely to be encountered or have been cleared. To produce dogs that meet our expectations, this training must be allowed to happen year-round.

- Montana Fish and Wildlife promotes programs to recruit and retain hunters. A key to recruitment and retention of bird hunters, is establishing a bond between human and the hunting dog. That happens best during training and before the hunting season.
- Bird dog training encompasses a wide variety of activities including pointing, retrieving, coming when called, not chasing game, leaving something alone on command, hunting for/with the human and not for themselves, and conditioning for 15 mile plus days during long walks with the handler. These hunting dog skills are key to ethical hunting. For those of us who do not own large properties and want to train our own dogs, we need the option to train on public land year round.

So Big Sky NAVHDA can accomplish these goals, the above revisions to the agenda proposal are necessary. It is hard to say who might pick up the proposed motion and consider it the comprehensive rule on bird dog training or construe any dog activity on public land to be 'training over wild birds' in the future

Sincerely,
Big Sky NAVHDA
Jason Rice, President, Board Member
William Bastian, Vice President, Board Member
Lonnie Meyer, Board Member
Jason Mann, Board Member
Adam Goodover, Board Member

Email: Bigskynavhda406@gmail.com