

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 28, 2024 11:26:17 AM
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IP Address: 65.100.75.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brooke Shifrin
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bshifrin@greateryellowstone.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please see the email dated 6/28/2024 (11:57 am) to all Commissioners (cc dtemple@mt.gov and Warren.Hansen@mt.gov) for comments regarding WMU 313 from Bear Creek Council, In Our Nature Guiding Services LLC, Douglas Smith, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Park County Environmental Council, National Parks Conservation Association, Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition, Shauna Baron Guiding Services LLC, Montana Wildlife Federation, Gallatin Wildlife Association, Large Carnivore Fund, and Explore Livingston Coalition.

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 30, 2024 2:08:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 30, 2024 2:20:55 PM
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IP Address: 72.255.191.32

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Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bruce Duncan
City/Town:	Big Timber
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	duncanwreaths@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Regarding Region 5 with a quota of 11 wolves is reasonably acceptable but could be increased more according to the sign and tracks I have seen last fall and this spring. I trap wolves to help the ranchers with livestock problems. I caught one last year but there are many more packs than you people even know about. The predation problems on livestock that is going to increase unless you up the quota manage the predators in Region 5. Do not combine Region 5 with any other areas again to keep in good standing with ranchers in Sweet Grass Co. Thank you for your time and I hope you make better decisions than you have in the past. Any questions please call me on my cell - 406-930-0439.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 09, 2024 2:00:51 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 72.255.191.65

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Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sweet Grass Wildlife Working Group**
City/Town: **BIG TIMBER**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sweetgrasscd@macdnet.org**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The Sweet Grass Wildlife Working group was formed in 2020 consisting of approximately 18 members including local landowners, sportsmen, and outfitters. The group works proactively with FWP staff to address wildlife issues in and around Sweet Grass County and across FWP Region 5.

In 2021, wolf activity increased in Region 5 along the east slope of the Crazy Mountains and the Beartooth Mountain face. Wolf numbers have continued to grow and expand into new parts of the Region through 2024. Increasing wolf numbers have brought increased conflicts with livestock and changes in big game distributions.

In 2023, the wolf harvest quota was reduced from 11 wolves in R5 to a quota of 5 wolves for Regions 5, 6, and 7 combined. This winter, the wolf harvest quota was reached and the season closed on January 21, 2024. All harvested wolves came from Region 5. No harvest occurred in Regions 6 or 7.

In the spring of 2024, FWP Wolf Specialists confirmed four established packs within Region 5 as well as one transboundary pack that moves between Region 3 and Region 5. The most conservative counts put the R5 wolf population at 32 confirmed wolves. The average pack size is currently 6 wolves. The largest pack contains at least 10 wolves. In addition, single wolves or pairs are occasionally observed. These animals may, or may not, be part of an established pack.

The 2023 MT FWP Wolf Management Plan states: "Established wolf populations can withstand human-caused mortality rates ranging from 15–48% of the mid-winter population. Through modeling exercises, FWP has estimated that a reduction in population growth rate and abundance will occur when harvest is greater than 25–30% of the previous year population estimate."

For the 2024/25 wolf hunting and trapping season the Working Group is asking FWP and the FWP Commission to recommend and approve a quota similar to the 2022 levels. This includes splitting the eastern Montana Wolf Management Unit back into three separate areas to increase management flexibility for each FWP Region. We recommend a quota of at least 11 wolves for Region 5. According to the management plan this level of harvest would stabilize the growing wolf population in R5. The increase brings improved flexibility for landowners and increases opportunity for hunters and trappers.

The Working Group supports the 2024-2025 Wolf season recommendation as proposed by FWP.

Thank you for your consideration.

#4

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, July 09, 2024 3:10:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:11
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bev Perez
City/Town:	Cincinnati
State/Province:	OH
Email Address:	bev.marie56@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

There is so much killing of these beautiful wolves. I would ask you to please consider lowering the quota from 6 wolves to 3 in Unit WMU 313, and when the quotas have been reached same day closure, especially in Unit 313. I would also like you to consider a 24 hour trap check for wolf trapping and snaring, it hurts my heart knowing that whatever is trapped is suffering until its checked or the animal dies. I feel a better way of counting the wolves needs to be put in place, people on your field staff need to physically count to prove how many wolves have been killed, the wolf population is declining, and all goes against what the science says.. Thank you for your time. I'm just one Voice trying to make a difference..

#5

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 74.142.96.26

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Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Donna Logsdon
City/Town:	Turners Station
State/Province:	KY
Email Address:	racindog1299@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The first thing I ask for is a 24 hour trap check requirement for trapping & snaring. I can't believe this hasn't been done already. Decency and common sense make it evident that intentionally allowing a creature to SUFFER a long painful death should not be being endorsed by the law. 2nd, when the quota is pending or has been achieved then the season should be immediately closed-especially in WMU 313. History shows us what happens when you just indiscriminately lose genetics FOREVER because of nothing more than blood lust. And lastly please reduce the quota to 4 wolves for WMU 313. People- the public that owns the public land- LOVE the wolves and recognize how they are an important part of not only the ecosystem but they frankly bring in a quite significant amount of money from people visiting them and hoping to see them. Please pull back on the reins before it is too late. These 3 things alone would make a difference in the health of the entire ecosystem they are in because the genetic diversity would be better preserved. Please. It won't hurt a thing to do this for the wolves but it could make all the difference between a flourishing wildlife community and a sad remnant of what once was. Thank You for your consideration.

#6

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: RR Mier
City/Town: Muskegon
State/Province: MI
Email Address: r_meier_2000@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Reduce the quota with 2/3 rd of Montana being federal lands Im surprised cattle are allowed to graze change has to occur and it will...
reduce the kill quota

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Betsy Leslie
City/Town: Middletown
State/Province: RI
Email Address: leslie.betsy77@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To all Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to please consider amending the Wolf Management Plan as it is currently proposed. There are three specific points I would make:

Discussion of Wolf management unit 313 has been contentious. During the pandemic there was a terrible year where far too many valuable wolves wandered from the park and were harvested. I appreciate that the number was lowered but 6 is still too high. Ideally it might go back to 3 again but realistically I would meet consumers part way and agree that 4 is doable.

Second, setting traps and not checking them daily is bad practice. Please require that those who use such tools check them daily.

Third, I do not live in Montana currently but I AM a member of the MAJORITY of US citizens who would seek better approaches to the harvesting of wolves. In fact, I helped manage livestock on the Anderson Ranch in the Tom Miner Basin for a year and I KNOW that it is possible for humans [and livestock] and apex predators like the wolf [and grizzly] to coexist.

Please consider the voices of the many of us who do not harvest wolves but do contribute a whole lot to the economy of your beautiful state of Montana!

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Leslie
Middletown, Rhode Island

#8

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 12:38:10 PM
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IP Address: 174.234.5.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **L.E. Johnson**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **not@provided.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The reality of the wolf situation in MT is this; the hunting public is getting the shaft while the wolf advocacy groups continue to be disingenuous, untruthful, and say whatever they want in order to invoke emotion and further their agenda. They like to cherry pick data that makes it seem as if wolf numbers don't have an effect on elk populations, as if wolves eat grass or something. Elk numbers in areas inhabited by wolves are at criminally low levels. How anyone can push a narrative that is counter to this reality is beyond comprehension. We need to take the gloves off. There should be no quota anywhere in the state, even if this occurred we wouldn't come anywhere close to putting a dent in wolf populations. Look no further than our neighbors in ID and the lengths they have had to go to in order to control wolf populations. What are we afraid of? Yes, the wolf groups will cry over every wolf that meets its end due to a bullet, so let's just do what needs to be done. Take the emotion out of the decision. For starters the following ideas should be considered:

- No units and no quota.
 - A season from 1 Sept - 30 April.
 - Thermal scopes legal again. If night vision is legal it makes no sense to not allow thermal scopes.
 - Night hunting on all lands, not just private property.
-

#9

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 10, 2024 7:38:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:00
IP Address: 96.241.113.48

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeanne Chisholm**
City/Town: **Bethesda**
State/Province: **MD**
Email Address: **ahableg@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please stop trapping and killing wolves in Area WMU 313. Thank You for listening.

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 11, 2024 9:21:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:31
IP Address: 174.198.130.127

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	William Leno
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	piperrroad.wl@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

In my opinion it is time to stop all trapping. It is ancient and unnecessary means where a minority of people to be cruel to animals. Wolves need be be left alone. If there are depredation problems it's up to the ranchers to find ways other than deadly to protect their stock. Many are using dogs to keep the wolves away. It works!

#11

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Beal Families
City/Town:	Charlottesville
State/Province:	VA
Email Address:	Dbeal12862gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As families that take our yearly extended vacations to Yellowstone and the surrounding areas, we ask the following:

- Reduce Yellowstone wolf killing quota in wolf management Area WMU 313 from 6 to 4 wolves.
- Same-day closure (12 hours) when quota is pending or has been achieved. Especially Yellowstone area WMU 313.
- Implement a 24-hour trap check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring.

PLEASE START LISTENING TO US, THE NON-CONSUMPTIVE COMMUNITY. WE ARE THE MAJORITY and these are our public lands too.

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 66.9.181.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linette Ratay**
City/Town: **Gulfport**
State/Province: **FL**
Email Address: **linetteratay@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

I am respectfully asking that you consider the wishes of those of us in the non-consumptive community. We are the majority and would like our voices heard. After all public lands belong to all Americans therefore we have a say in how wolves and other wildlife are managed.

We ask that you reduce the wolf killing quota in Wildlife Management Area 313 from 6-4. This is a compromise for us because as you are aware we prefer zero wolves be killed.

We also kindly ask that there is same day closure when the wolf kill quota is pending or has been achieved.

Finally please implement a 24 hour trap check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring.

Thank you for all you do for the beautiful state of Montana. Because if your contribution it is truly the "Treasure State"

Sincerely,
Linette Ratay

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, July 12, 2024 8:20:43 PM
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IP Address: 149.137.169.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Gail Brewer
City/Town: Yachats
State/Province: OR
Email Address: brewerg@peak.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear MFWP Commission,

I am writing about the 2023-2024 wolf hunting season. Even though I am from Oregon, I have strong ties to the Rocky Mountain States having lived in Wyoming for almost 20 years and now returning to the area almost yearly for the last several years. Moreover many of the wolves that will be taken are found on public lands which belong to all Americans.

First of all I am again saddened by the fact that MFWP still is not advocating any non lethal measures for helping to keep wolves away from ranches and farms. I realize that if wolves are habituated to killing cattle they should be dealt with accordingly. However it is very narrow minded in my opinion to only have one way to manage wolves.

Also again this year there is no voice for the non consumptive community when it comes to wolves. I am not anti hunting to put food on the table, but wolves do not decimated elk and deer and should not be killed just so a small group of people have more ungulates to kill. Many non consumptive people in the past have tried to have a voice in the decision making process and come up with ways to raise money, only to be turned away over and over.

Trappers make up a very small minority of people who have a say in the management of wolves and yet they are permitted to let the wolves suffer in traps and snares. Please implement at least a 24 hour period to check their traps and snares and end the suffering of these and other animals they catch.

Last year the manner in which areas are closed permitted an additional wolf if not more to be taken over the quota. Please implement a same day closure if an area is pending especially in WMU 313.

Which brings me to my last point. Yellowstone wolves are being targeted in my opinion because they are there and easy to find and kill. I continue to disagree with the idea that once they cross over the border they belong to Montana. These wolves belong to all Americans and bring joy to people all around the world, not to mention tourist dollars to your state. Please reduce the quota in this area. Moreover, WMU 313 is a very small area bordering the park. Region 3 also borders the park and several Yellowstone wolves have been killed in that Region adding to the of 6 in WMU 313. I am still asking for an explanation as to why these wolves must be hunted and killed as they do no damage to surrounding elk herds or ranches. It seems difficult to believe that you are unwilling to give up killing these wolves to please a few people who love to hunt these particular wolves just because they can. It seems more of a political move by those who never wanted wolves in the first place to hurt those who enjoy having wolves on the landscape.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. I mean no disrespect to the commission, but please listen to those of us who see no reason to kill a wolf just because he is a wolf. Our time in Montana is usually in the fall, and we stay fairly close to the Northern Range. Although I would love to see/and or hear a wolf while there, I hope I don't because I know that its life could be in danger.

Sincerely,
Gail Brewer

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 72.185.139.176

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dina Athanassie
City/Town:	Tampa
State/Province:	FL
Email Address:	dathanassie@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Approximately one-third of Montana is federal land, including Yellowstone National Park, National Forest, and BLM lands. These lands belong to every American, making it essential - and quite frankly, unethical - to ignore how ALL Americans want wolves and other wildlife to be managed.

Reducing the Yellowstone wolf killing quota in WMU 313 from 6 to 4 wolves is a necessary step to protect these iconic animals. Implementing a same-day closure (within 12 hours) when the quota is pending or has been achieved, particularly in Yellowstone area WMU 313, ensures more accurate management and prevents overkill. And though I strongly believe that traps should be banned completely, in lieu of that, establishing a 24-hour trap check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring is crucial for minimizing unnecessary suffering and maintaining ethical standards.

The non-consumptive community, representing the majority, values wildlife for its ecological, educational, and recreational significance. It's time to listen to this majority and take action to preserve our shared natural heritage.

#15

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 174.45.251.117

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nicholas Kovalcik
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	nick.kovalcik@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am writing today to request changes to the 2024-2025 wolf hunting and trapping regulations. I request that night hunting of wolves on private property not be allowed. I request that recreational trapping and snaring of wolves be discontinued immediately. Due to the high number of non-target captures, as well as the huge detriment to the captured animals welfare, trapping and snaring of wolves should be banned without question. I request that there be a non-hunting buffer zone outside of Yellowstone National Park in order to give wolves who primarily live inside YNP a chance of going back inside the park, instead of being shot immediately after crossing the boundary.

I also request that hunters not be compensated for harvesting wolves, and that the quota of 20 wolves per hunter/trapper be significantly reduced. Thank you.

#16

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Last Modified: Saturday, July 13, 2024 10:23:31 PM
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IP Address: 174.193.200.163

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Colette Pontecorvo
City/Town:	Los Angeles
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	pontecorvoc@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To begin, trapping live mammals in order to kill them for their is especially cruel and unnecessary.

- * please reduce the Yellowstone wolf killing quota in wolf management Area WMU 313 from 6 to 4 wolves.
 - * Same-day closure (12 hours) when quota is pending or has been achieved. Especially Yellowstone area WMU 313.
 - * Implement a 24-hour trap check requirement for wolf trapping and outlaw snaring.
-

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 14, 2024 5:15:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:10
IP Address: 174.249.152.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Debora Goebel, M.D.
City/Town: Omaha
State/Province: NE
Email Address: witiakdg@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I have significant concerns regarding the way Montana wolves and wildlife are being treated. Regarding wolves, I would like to see NONE killed in the name of wildlife "management" until true numbers of wolf and prey populations are discerned, meaning by unbiased review and reporting by true SCIENTISTS. Making excuses such as high livestock depredation rates should not enable wolf killing, given that the current numbers do not prove this and that there are NON-lethal ways to co-exist in the face of predator/livestock conflict.

Also, please completely outlaw trapping/snaring of wolves and all wildlife. The suffering endured by creatures - all of which do indeed experience pain and fear - is unacceptable, even with shortened trap check requirements. This practice is barbaric and depraved and quite frankly has no place in civilized society.

Wolves and wildlife are not simply "furbearers" for human consumption and greed. The term "furbearer" is offensive and devalues wildlife, in the way that humans are not simply "skinbearers." Animals are living creatures which do, again, experience pain and fear, have families, and are just trying to live out their natural lives. And very importantly, every wild animal has a critical role to play in healthy ecosystems, as science has proven.

Please bend an ear to my concerns - and to those of all of my fellow non-consumptive citizens who value wild lands and wildlife so very much. Thank you for your consideration.

#18

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, July 15, 2024 7:57:45 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Teresa
City/Town:	Van
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	vanshouse@comcast.net

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

July 15, 2024

I am submitting these comments on the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission's proposed Fall 2024– Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas.

Although I am not a resident of Montana, my family and I have visited your state frequently over the last few years. We have focused our travels in and around Yellowstone National Park, staying in the Montana communities and cities of Cooke City, Silver Gate, Gardiner, Livingston and Bozeman. Our visits contribute thousands of tourist dollars to your state. Our main reason for visiting Montana is to observe the amazing wildlife that inhabits the beautiful, unique places found in the state. Our most cherished experiences were being able to see an animal that is incredibly rare in my home state of Colorado - wolves. This animal especially represents a wildness of both spirit and place, which is becoming scarcer in our modern world.

Yellowstone National Park is the best place in the world to see wild wolves. Over 4 million visitors come through the park every year—and many, like our family, go in hopes of seeing wolves. Especially since the reintroduction of wolves in 1995, a vibrant ecotourism industry has grown where many livelihoods are supported by watchable wildlife in the area. YNP and Federal lands belong to all Americans. Even though we don't live in Montana, we are stakeholders in how wolves are managed there.

After reviewing the proposed quotas, I have these comments:

Please reduce the killing quota in wolf management area WMU 313 from 6 to 4 wolves. Ideally, please reduce it to zero. This unit is adjacent to the park and is a natural migration corridor for many of the park's animals. YNP suffered heavy losses of its wolf population in recent years when they were killed by just crossing the border, resulting in the loss of 20% of the parks wolves in 2022. Although the limit has been reduced in this area since then, it is still too much. These wolves especially have so much more value alive than dead as they contribute millions of dollars to Montana's economy through eco-tourism.

Please require that wolf traps and snares are checked every 24 hours. It's bad enough that these animals suffer the excruciating pain of a trap, please limit this inhumane treatment as much as possible.

When a quota in unit has been met, please implement a same day (12 hour) closure. Extending the closure period beyond this may end up with more animals taken in a unit going above the limit established.

Please recognize the value of wildlife as a non-consumptive resource, especially wolves. Wolves are far more valuable to Montana alive instead of dead. YNP wolves help to provide over \$82 million dollars in sustainable revenue for Montana and gateway communities. Compare this to the numbers presented in the Montana Gray wolf Program 2023 Annual Report which indicates that the dollars generated from wolf licenses was less than \$300,000 each for years 2022 and 2023. The number of licenses sold for these two years was approximately 18,000, according to the graph in the report. This income from the wolf harvest report does not include money spent on guides, motels, food, etc., but when all that is factored in, the money spent by these hunters does not even come close to \$82 million spent by wildlife viewing visitors. Why does the state of Montana want to jeopardize this income stream by continuing to implement such a high kill wolf quota - especially the proposed 334 wolves for the upcoming season?

People from all over the country and around the world come to your state to see wildlife. Wolves, especially, are far more valuable to Montana alive than dead because they bring valuable tourist dollars. Based on this alone, they deserve better protection in the State of Montana.

Sincerely,
Teresa Van
Golden, CO

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 173.216.236.133

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Kirk Rhoads
City/Town:	Mountain Home
State/Province:	AR
Email Address:	kirkrhoads@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please set the quota to zero.

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Yvette Tapp
City/Town:	Santa Fe
State/Province:	NM
Email Address:	yvette@mountainairfilms.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

ERADICATE CATTLE, SHEEP AND DAIRY RANCHES, instead of the indigenous beings, our brothers & sisters, who are ONE WITH THIS LAND & SKY, THESE WATERS, OUR SPIRIT. Natural balance maintains life in balance for ALL, while human interference, importation of peaceful, herbivorous, artificially bred & raised animals, had imbalanced our atmosphere, lands, waters, spiritual path sadistically, unreasonable, meaninglessly, all for BLIND GREED. There was a time when, excluding our own species, the wolf was the most widely distributed land mammal in the world. Although we cannot say with certainty, there were at least 250,000, & perhaps as many as two million, wolves inhabiting what would become the continental United States. This relationship drastically changed as European colonization began. Through the systematic extermination of every wolf to be found, the U.S. appeared to have won its war against wild nature. Over the course of a few centuries, the wolf population was reduced from the millions to the hundreds, with the last few survivors in the lower 48 states retreating deep into the woods of present-day Michigan and Minnesota for safety.

The fanaticism and scope of the crusade against wolves by the U.S. cannot be overstated. Naturalist writer Barry Lopez asserts that Americans persecuted wolves almost pathologically, and that, "wolf killing goes much beyond predator control...the history of killing wolves shows far less restraint & far more perversity." <https://missionwolf.org/brief-history-of-wolves-in-the-wild> MT estimates there are 1,087 wolves in Montana, which is 44 fewer than the previous yr. The total # of packs in the state is 181 packs, down 10 packs from 2021. FWP says hunters harvested 248 wolves between the spring and fall hunting season.

A big spring snowstorm might kill hundreds of stock animals, but that's an act of God that the ranchers can't do much about. If a pack of wolves appears and begins to take livestock, there is something to do about it — kill them. Traditionally, settlers moving into America's frontier immediately began to exterminate local predators — varmints. The general opinion was that anything which made the business of farming or ranching more difficult — prairie dogs, buffalo, wolves, or coyotes — should be eliminated. [Yellowstone without Wolves](#)

As might be expected, after wolves were removed, elk herds increased in population, reaching new highs during the mid-1930's. The increased number of elk apparently resulted in overgrazing in parts of Yellowstone. Park officials decided that the elk herd should be "managed." This meant that for about thirty years the park elk herds were culled: Each year some were captured and shipped to other locations, a certain number were killed by park rangers, and hunters were allowed to take more elk that migrated outside the park. By the late 1960's the herd populations dropped to historic lows (less than 4,000 for the Northern Range herd). This caused outrage among both conservationists and hunters. The park service stopped culling elk in 1968. Then the elk population rebounded and twenty years later there were more elk in Yellowstone than ever (the Northern Range herd reached 19,000); overgrazing returned.

Meanwhile, other things happened: Coyotes survived the extermination programs and without the wolf competition, increased in numbers throughout Yellowstone and became the dominant predator. However, more coyotes meant fewer rodents and other small game, which reduced the population of foxes, hawks, and eagles. In periods where the elk flourished, the aspen trees in the park declined, which contributed to the disappearance of beaver that rely on aspen for a primary food source. Today we catalog these and many other similar effects, mostly in hindsight. What was missing in the 1940's and 50's was a sense of what we now call ecology. <https://yellowstoneinsider.com/2009/05/03/wolves-in-yellowstone-a-short-history/>

By the way, look into the facts re the diet of the man whom most in these regions call "Jesus" actually named Yeshua. He was Essene / Nazarene, obeyed the original Jewish plant-based dietary laws. Why ignore this?

#21

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:49:54 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:54:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:23
IP Address: 174.197.1.37

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jerry Prickett
City/Town:	Belton
State/Province:	TX
Email Address:	jerryptt@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Trapping is inhumane and dangerous to domestic animals, especially dogs. Animal fur is not necessary for anything not already available for humans.

#22

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:23:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:25:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:24
IP Address: 174.207.100.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sharon Jones
City/Town:	Hinckley
State/Province:	OH
Email Address:	wyldecat@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Leave the wolves alone.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:21:55 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:27:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:17
IP Address: 174.215.21.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Sarah Judson
City/Town:	Livermore
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	sarah@judsonsart.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves need to be protected. They are critical to a healthy ecosystem.
Predators are the only way to destroy the prions that cause CWD.
Wolves target the weaker prey, removing the sick and leaving the healthy ones (unlike human hunters)
CWD is spreading, and wolves can help control it.

#24

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:36:45 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:42:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:23
IP Address: 35.150.67.67

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sid Gustafson DVM
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: swgustafson@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are sentient beings. Trapping is animal cruelty, snaring likewise. Never in the history of humanity have wolves been killed for sport until their reintroduction. Wolf farming is not ethical biology, and you appear to be farming wolves. Clean kills are perhaps fair chase, but trapping and snaring are unethical hunting methodologies that have no place in contemporary society. If you want PETA, et al here, I can arrange that. Fair chase and ethics are your obligation, and these quotas are would abusive, and inappropriate. Thank you, Sid Gustafson DVM

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:10:52 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 9:22:15 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:22
IP Address: 174.231.84.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Nicholas Moody
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: nick.moody26@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Hello,

I am writing to oppose lowering the quota of wolves hunted and against splitting the hunting section 313 into two sections. In fact, I support raising the quota on wolves. I also would like to express my support for removing grizzly bears from protection and implementing a hunting season for them. I support an intelligent and thoughtful approach to hunting these predators, but I believe they need to be actively managed and I want less of these animals in the places that we recreate with our families.

Thank you,
Nick Moody

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:24:08 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 11:30:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:34
IP Address: 192.161.70.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kim Shotola**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **thelightfootway@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please reinstate Wolf Management Units 313 & 316 instead of just 313 and split the six wolf quota. It would be even better if you could do less than 6 like 4, making that 2 each. Yellowstone's wolves that are being killed affect the dynamics. Also, the wolves are more used to people which isn't really fair hunting. These are the most well-known wolves in the world and bring many tourists here which helps the economy. Please take all of this into consideration. Thank you for listening.

#27

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:01:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:14
IP Address: 72.175.50.195

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Matt Peters
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	peters.matt5@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Hello Everyone - Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Understanding wolf dynamics, 334 wolves presents a massive risk to the future of wolves in Montana. Wolves are pack animals that develop learned behavior from their elders. If the elder wolves are to be killed, the young wolves will look to other sources of food such as cattle. This negative feedback loop can be avoided if we focus on the benefits of wolves (such as the monetary benefit to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem). 334 wolves is too many.

Are we seriously considering 30% of our state's estimated population as 'up for grabs'? Haven't we learned our lesson by now?

I would personally be willing to donate to Montana FWP \$12 per wolf (the resident hunting rate) that is subtracted from that 334 after this meeting. Please feel free to send me a Venmo request @matt-peters-1.

#28

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:13:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:44
IP Address: 98.97.43.193

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kenny Pannell**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kzpannell@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

No Yellowstone wolves should be killed; but since current anti-wolf legislation prohibits a buffer around Yellowstone National Park, the Commission should limit the kill quota outside of Yellowstone in WMU 313 to one wolf, the lowest quota allowed under current legislation.

The model used to estimate the statewide wolf population (iPOM) is error-ridden and unreliable; until the Commission changes course and decides to use an accurate model, it should at the very least use the lowest population estimate provided by the faulty model's confidence intervals.

Wolf trapping and snaring imperils family pets, as well as federally-protected species including grizzly bears, Canada lynx, and wolverine, which will be especially attracted to baited traps and snares.

Wolves are highly social animals whose pack stability and resilience are highly dependent on individual wolves, meaning the death of a single wolf can have huge, negative implications.

Money generated by wolf license sales (around \$285,000) pales in comparison to money generated by wolf watching (\$82 million per year just to communities around Yellowstone).

Recent research shows that the current population size in the Northern Rockies (including Montana's population) is below the size needed to avoid the long-term risk of extinction, highlighting concerns with the genetic health of Montana's wolf population, especially in the face of continued annual mass killing of hundreds of wolves.

#29

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:24:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:19
IP Address: 35.150.124.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jake Davis
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 22jakedavis@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Keep killing wolves and keep making Montana more and more like California. Wolves are part of what make Montana unique and beautiful. This Commission is full of cowards and political agents, nothing more.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:52:33 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:54:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 172.221.107.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Liz Rau
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	liz@design-hound.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Revert Wolf Management Unit 313 to the historical boundaries of WMU 313 and WMU 316 with a harvest quota of 3 in each unit

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:08:35 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:21:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:55
IP Address: 69.145.56.215

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris Riti**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **christopher.riti@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Is there any scientific or other justification for setting the wolf quota at up to 20/person? Or allowing such poor methods of huntsmanship - such as trapping, baiting, night vision, artificial lights, etc.? What art or skill does that cherish and protect? This just seems purposely poorly informed to "send a message", but it's really just a ridiculous set of policies that fails to take into account in any way the extremely lucrative business value of wolf watching in the state (and especially around Yellowstone, for which there is no hunting buffer).

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:58:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 3:06:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:38
IP Address: 174.247.187.162

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Holly Manno**
City/Town: **Lake Oswego**
State/Province: **OR**
Email Address: **thefraudess@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The title alone traumatizes me. Wildlife is in peril and diminishing along with their habitat. Humans are not the only inhabitants, and in my lifetime I have observed at extreme decline in all wildlife. The excuses are livestock, which extraordinarily outnumbered even the humans on the planet, that wolves are somehow ferocious, or a danger to people, and they are not. we need to kill fewer animals. All animals. I have known many hunters who don't even eat the animals they kill, and they always say the meat is donated to the needy. I can tell you for a fact as a person who has been needy, no one has forced me to eat wild game meat because it isn't happening. This is propaganda . I don't know how to satisfy a hunters hunger to kill. It isn't because they are hungry. It is because they want to kill. Wolves kill for food, and then we kill wolves because they ate. So many people claim to have faith, and yet they think God failed when he created the animals, or that they were simply put here for us to extinct There is a population of this country who really likes weapons and sportsmanship has been thrown out the window by this generation. It would be wonderful to hike in the woods and see wild wolves or beaver or deer or goats but that's not possible because there are so few and they're scared of us. That's not possible because instead of honoring them, we hunt them down savagely, and often For only our entertainment. I certainly wish people could find better ways to be entertained than killing animals. How about making a wildlife calendar?

Please stop killing wolves and their food. The next generation deserves to know that there are wild animals, and not only as a fable or in a picture book, but living and thriving on the same planet we were all given to share.

Thank you.

#33

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 4:19:37 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 4:21:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:24
IP Address: 75.175.133.227

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mike Dee
City/Town: Las Vegas
State/Province: NV
Email Address: spector007@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

This disgusting and barbaric practice needs to be outlawed. It's time to evolve. We live here in America. We're not in the jungle....

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 18, 2024 6:49:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 18, 2024 6:52:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 70.122.133.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Harry M Cleaver
City/Town: Austin
State/Province: TX
Email Address: hmcleave@austin.utexas.edu

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Stop killing wolves.Period. Stop selling your souls to ranchers who don't want to pay the cost of alternatives to killing these apex predators so necessary for ecological balance. Stop also selling your souls to bloodthirsty hunters who love to kill, but really need therapists.

#35

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 18, 2024 7:25:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:54
IP Address: 170.144.199.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Melissa Nicolli
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mmnicolli1s@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support splitting unit 313 back into 313 & 316, and split the six wolf quota between the two units to better manage the wolf populations around Gardiner. Wolves leaving Yellowstone National Park are not wary of humans because they're exposed to humans year-round. When hunters near Yellowstone bait the wolves across the park's border, this is not fair chase hunting.

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:11:14 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:15:46 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:32
IP Address: 47.45.203.186

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Norman Bishop**
City/Town: **Bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **nabishop32@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a member of the Yellowstone Center for Resources team that worked for several years to carry out the direction of Congress to restore wolves to the park, I hoped to restore the ecological integrity of the park and central Idaho in perpetuity.

Legislation in the three Northern Rocky Mountain states has placed that goal in grave danger, and I look to FWP to comply with recent laws with the intent of the Endangered Species Act firmly in mind.

Recent research Bridgett M. vonHoldt et al. 2024 Demographic history shapes North American gray wolf genomic diversity and informs species' conservation. Molecular Biology 33(3) offers a scientific analysis of effective population sizes, and finds the Northern Rocky Mountain states falling short of maintaining minimum effective populations, and long-term persistence.

The effects of hunting on wolf packs was studied at length by Kira A Cassidy et al. Pages 336-362 in Human-caused mortality triggers pack instability in gray wolves. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment Volume 21, Issue 8. October 2023. Using 117 years of data from five national parks, they identified two gray wolf biological processes that differed from population size pack persistence and reproduction – and determined that human-caused mortality had negative effects on both.

They concluded: “Gray wolf management is rarely simple and transboundary wildlife issues are complicated by disparate management goals (Smith et al. 2016). Despite our study focusing on gray wolves that primarily lived within national parks and preserves, we documented high levels of human-caused mortality, most of which occurred outside protected-area boundaries. Of greater concern, these mortalities had detrimental effects on gray wolf pack-level biological processes.”

Those studies tell us that restraint is warranted along Yellowstone’s northern boundary, and that the harvest quota there should be one.

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 18, 2024 4:56:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:31
IP Address: 104.28.124.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Janet Lindow**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lindowj1@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am opposed to any hunting of wolves. If it must be continuous, then I support splitting section 313 back to 313 and 316. The merging of those sections has slaughtered an entire pack. Wolves and other large predators are critical components of healthy ecosystems. They are not hunted for their meat, but as trophies. Please end the hunting of animals we need to keep elk and deer herds healthy. At minimum, split the section to reduce further decimation of wolf packs in the Gardiner region. Thank you for considering my request.

#38

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 19, 2024 8:51:37 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 19, 2024 10:40:55 AM
Time Spent: 01:49:18
IP Address: 69.163.86.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Janice Bent
City/Town: Belgrade
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The introduction of wolves have changed the behavior of the elk herds, forcing them into towns and onto private land to survive. My family used to depend on hunting elk for meat on the table but that is not the case anymore. It seems that wolf lovers want to feed elk to wolves rather than people. I am for reducing the number of wolves in the area.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 19, 2024 10:56:11 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:00:32 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:21
IP Address: 172.221.106.102

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Meghann Nielsen
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: megh.maurer@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am writing to express my strong support for Commissioner Susan Kirby Brooke's proposed amendment to split Wolf Management Unit 313 back into separate units 313 and 316, and to divide the six-wolf quota between these two units.

This change is crucial for several reasons:

It would improve wolf management and reduce negative impacts on Yellowstone National Park's iconic wolf populations.

Wolf watching in Yellowstone brings significant economic benefits to surrounding communities, generating at least \$82 million annually and supporting numerous local businesses.

The current system has resulted in the elimination of multiple wolf packs that primarily reside within Yellowstone National Park. This is detrimental to both the park's ecosystem and the wildlife viewing opportunities that attract visitors.

The practice of hunting wolves as they cross park boundaries does not align with principles of fair chase hunting, as these wolves are accustomed to human presence and less wary.

Wolves play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Their presence helps control ungulate populations, which in turn benefits vegetation and other wildlife species. Preserving wolf packs is essential for ecological balance.

Tourism related to wildlife watching, particularly wolves, creates 3,270 jobs in Park County alone. This represents three out of five jobs in the area, underlining the economic importance of protecting these wolves.

Yellowstone is considered the best place in the world to observe wild wolves. This unique attribute should be preserved to maintain Montana's status as a premier wildlife viewing destination.

The current management approach disproportionately impacts wolves in a small area near Gardiner, potentially creating an ecological vacuum and disrupting established pack structures.

I believe this amendment strikes a better balance between wildlife conservation and hunting interests. It would help preserve the ecological and economic value of wolves while still allowing for regulated hunting.

Furthermore, I urge the Commission to consider further reducing the wolf quota to ensure the long-term sustainability of wolf populations in and around Yellowstone National Park. A lower quota would provide additional protection for these ecologically and economically valuable animals.

Thank you for considering my comment and for your efforts to improve wolf management in Montana.

#40

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 19, 2024 9:51:55 AM
Last Modified: Friday, July 19, 2024 11:58:55 AM
Time Spent: 02:07:00
IP Address: 136.33.234.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Christopher Tymeson
City/Town:	Overland Park
State/Province:	KS
Email Address:	ctymeson@scifirstforhunters.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

19 July 2024

Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue

P.O. Box 200701

Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners and Director Temple:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas.

The proposed Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of furbearers and wolves. Sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including wolves, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the FWP and the Commission. SCI is always first for hunters.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin

Chief Executive Officer

Safari Club International

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 19, 2024 12:50:51 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 19, 2024 12:55:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:41
IP Address: 76.132.118.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Colleen Cabot
City/Town:	San Jose
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	colleencabot@earthlink.net

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a fourth generation Wyomingite, I am very aware of the wolf dynamics in the Northern Rockies. I would like to suggest that in your proposed wolf trapping and hunting seasons, you disallow the use of telemetry and baiting, as a commitment to true fair-chase hunting, and adopt the NPS suggestions for spreading the take across hunting areas. Thank you.

#42

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 19, 2024 1:30:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 204.11.130.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Adam Russell
City/Town: Madison
State/Province: WI
Email Address: tightrun@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Allowing night hunting and telemetry equipment and hunting is cowardly and not hunting in any sense of the word. Put the cowardly hunters on the same level.as their prey, then it's hunting. Montana hunters and the nation deserve better than a bunch of cowardly ranchers running around slaughtering puppies in baited traps and using equipment specifically placed upon these wolves for SCIENTIFIC purposes. Let the wolves have a chance and keep the bloodthirsty ranchers at bay. It's the decent thing to do. Remember, the world is watching you..... make the right choice.

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 20, 2024 9:33:05 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 20, 2024 9:36:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 69.146.205.18

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kim Casper**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **tmberwlf@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please accept Commissioner Kirby Brooke's Amendment, and reinstatement of WMU's 313 & 316, and the splitting of the six wolf quota, or even lowering it further.

Or do better and do away with this grosse practice all together! The inhumane murder of trapping and baiting wild life is a disgusting abuse of wild life. It is not humans right to harm nature.

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 20, 2024 2:44:18 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 20, 2024 3:32:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:12
IP Address: 98.97.45.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sue Janssen
City/Town: Troy
State/Province: MT
Email Address: outyaak@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

My comments on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas are:

I feel Montana is killing way too many wolves and for no logical reason other than a portion of the population hates them. I have a non-consumptive interest in wolves. I think "hunting" them is quite a bizarre notion as they belong in nature - helping control deer and elk herds as an example. I don't have a problem with someone killing a wolf that is threatening them or their stock - but they should show they make every effort to prevent this problem from happening.

I like to hike and have experienced several wolf encounters. They have shown me they don't want anything to do with humans. I know there are rare exceptions where a person has a bad encounter with wolves, and I know I need to be very careful monitoring my 2 dogs when I have them with me as they would be in great danger if they encountered wolves. So far in my 40+ years of hiking on National Forest I have never had a bad experience with any wildlife, including wolves. And I don't know of anyone who has.

To go out and randomly kill wolves that are minding their business and not bothering anyone is wrong. From what I hear you need a better way to count them too. How can you manage a species when your techniques are unproven and not supported by the scientific community?

I support reducing the killing of wolves. The quota, sad as it is there is any killing at all, should be down to 4 in Yellowstone's WMU 313.

There should be same day closure when quota is reached, especially in WMU 313.

It's unbelievable there isn't a 24 hour trap check rule and that needs to change, please.

It would be nice, and oh so professional, to accurately report the depredation on livestock by wolves. It has been shown that a lot of livestock deaths attributed to wolves are in fact caused by something else like domestic dogs or illness. Integrity should be at the top of your list of achievements!

And please pay attention to the majority, non-consumptive community. We should have a say in how our wildlife is managed. This should not just be up to the people who want to kill animals because they don't like them, or because they want to make money off of their hides.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Sue Janssen

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 20, 2024 8:57:26 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 20, 2024 9:10:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:43
IP Address: 66.109.159.230

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michael Gullette
City/Town:	Superior
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mgullette@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support the new trapping regulations....I think tho we should have a longer wolf trapping season in Region 2 till at least april 1st

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 20, 2024 10:27:46 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 20, 2024 11:09:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:09
IP Address: 209.159.245.240

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Debra C Crawford
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	debraccrawford@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please your committee has to take into consideration the value that wolves provide in the state of Montana. They are worth protecting because they are deserving of our conservation. Wolves are an enduring symbol of Montana's wilderness heritage. Let's not take a careless course in our duty to preserve Montana's birthright.

Please look to accurate science, consider with numbers of wolves available to cull. Use the research regarding disruption of social units and the impacts that disruption has on wolf behavior. Finally I ask again when making your calculations, decisions and plans look to the future of our state, short term rewards should not out weight our legacy.

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 21, 2024 5:43:01 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 5:47:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:58
IP Address: 99.175.93.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Beth Phillips
City/Town: West Allis
State/Province: WI
Email Address: dogsrule.bp@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a regular visitor to the GYE ecosystem to watch live wolves, I sincerely request that the wolf shooting and snaring area around Yellowstone National Park be changed back to two units (313 and 316) and that a quota of 1 wolf in each unit be the limit. You do not comprehend the millions of dollars that watching live wolves brings into your state's economy.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 21, 2024 6:39:04 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 6:52:45 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:41
IP Address: 35.148.135.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mary Richardson
City/Town:	Carthage
State/Province:	NC
Email Address:	maryellen15400@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

There should be no open season on wolves. The overall living counts are just estimations. Inaccurate, by all accounts. The wolf population is at a historically low count. Trapping is also practice that needs to be eliminated in Montana. It was allowed at a time when men used the furs for survival. I have yet to see Kohls or Walmart sell a fur. Time to eliminate this archaic and disgusting practice. Trapping is literally torture. Continuing to allow these types of practices breeds the Cody Robert's of our world that have no respect or reverence for this beautiful and amazing world. Stop wolf hunting all together and no trapping on any animal. Why do med think we know better then God? Species are extinct due to our mismanagement. Our pollinators are also on the brink of extinction. Please stop allowing the killing of wolves! They are majestic and intelligent creature, that are being overestimated in population. Tourism dollars should not be a consideration in a decision. Thank you for reading.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 21, 2024 7:57:02 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 8:07:13 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:11
IP Address: 192.161.70.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mike Quesenberry
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mike@quesenberryagency.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support returning to the floating start date of Wolf trapping season in Grizzly Bear recovery zones. Mt. FWP in the past did a great job of determining what units could open to Wolf trapping due to Bear hibernation. I also support the March 15th. end to the trapping season on Wolf.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 21, 2024 9:14:53 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 9:18:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:31
IP Address: 24.113.172.166

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rachel Rockafellow
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: dave.rach13@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

PLEASE STOP killing Yellowstone wolves!! It you cannot stop all Yellowstone wolves from being killed, then please follow the request about dividing the area near the park and reducing the number of wolves allowed to be killed per YNP personnel request.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 21, 2024 2:24:54 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 2:26:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:54
IP Address: 67.80.103.21

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Amy Dozier
City/Town: Rocky Point
State/Province: NY
Email Address: kissyboots5983@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours to ensure animal welfare.

To better manage beaver populations, a reporting system and quotas should be implemented, along with a shorter trapping season.

Currently, there are no quotas or reporting requirements, and the season is very long.

To protect animals and public safety, snares should be banned on public lands.

To conserve sensitive species, swift fox and fisher trapping seasons should be closed.

Trapping should not be allowed in state parks for recreational purposes.

To minimize risks to people using public roads and trails, trap setbacks should be increased to 500 feet.

For public awareness, signs should be mandatory to indicate trapping activity on public lands.

To avoid conflicts with bird hunting, trapping seasons should end before upland game bird seasons begin.

To gather data for informed management, all trappers should be required to complete an annual survey.

To prevent overharvesting, animals trapped over quota should not count towards the following year's quota.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 3:14:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:20
IP Address: 73.114.111.223

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jon Way
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jw9802@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am like many people from all political stripes that spends lots of time in Montana to see wildlife including grizzly bears, wolves, and bison. The state should maximize opportunities to see these animals including expanding bison range to appropriate state and federal lands outside of the park.

As for wolves, please split back WMU 313 back into two separate WMUs (313 and 316) with a split quota - a quota of one wolf in 313 and a quota of one wolf in 316. The lowest legal quota is one and I highly recommend a low quota at the park boundary since these are internationally important wolves getting killed at the park boundary by a tiny minority of people.

I write extensively on the park and urge the state of MT to show good faith to all users of wildlife:

<https://www.myyellowstoneexperience.org/yellowstonebookseries/>

Thanks

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 8:02:58 PM
Time Spent: 03:20:55
IP Address: 63.153.0.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Noreen Breeding
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rog7nor@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

MCA 87-1-901, Gray wolf management -- rulemaking – reporting, has been declared as the basis the Commission uses for establishing wolf hunting and trapping seasons. The Commission and FWP Department have not applied the law correctly in rule making. The law contains so many unclear and undefined terms that it should be unenforceable. Sustainable level means “kept at a steady level that is not likely to damage the environment.” The wolf population in Montana is scientifically at a sustainable level now, so no reduction is needed.

The law gives the Commission discretion in authorizing various management techniques. The unethical practices, such as baiting, spotlighting, and snaring are not required. The Commission and Department have taken it upon themselves to use the most unethical techniques.

Who decides when “the wolf is a potential threat to human safety, livestock, or dogs”? This decision is arbitrary and therefore unenforceable.

There is no justification for reducing the wolf population in Montana, particularly in such barbaric ways as allowed by the hunting/trapping regulations. The number of livestock killed by wolves annually in Montana is so small as to be nearly undetectable.

Therefore, the current wolf hunting and trapping regulations should be scrapped and, if necessary, replaced by the former wolf hunting regulations in place before 2021.

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 21, 2024 8:20:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:49:38
IP Address: 66.9.182.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Cara L McGary
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cara.mcgary@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

1. Trapping season in grizzly habitat - as the language is now in the proposed regulations (a start date no earlier than Dec 2nd and no later than Dec 31) exposes the department to risk of being forced to open trapping in areas with grizzly activity before they den if bears remain active well into a mild winter. The start date should depend on the observations that the department's biologists are doing and should not set a no-later-than date. Furthermore, due to bears emerging as early as mid February, the end date for trapping in these areas should be set to Feb 15.
2. Regulations should be amended to prohibit use of telemetry in hunting and trapping, including for wolves and bobcats. Use of telemetry is unsporting and is contrary to fair chase ethics.
3. Language in the regulations about night hunting creates uncertainty in the intent and creates enforcement issues. "Wolves can be hunted on private lands outside of daylight hours with the use of artificial light and nightvision scopes. Infrared and thermal imaging technology are prohibited." There are other technologies (such as AI) that provide the same unsporting hunter advantages as infrared and thermal imaging. What is the intent here? Please clarify. It would be preferable to prohibit night hunting altogether to reduce ambiguity in what is and isn't allowed, efficacy of enforcement and to improve public safety. I do not like waking to gunshots on adjacent property. I am concerned for my safety and that of my neighbors.
4. I recommend keeping the 24 hour reporting for martens, which would be consistent with all the other furbearers and may reduce confusion.
5. I support either a reduction in the overall quota in WMU 313 or a return to the former boundaries of 313 and 316 with the current quota of 6 split between the two (3 wolves in each) as in Commissioner Kirby Brooke's amendment. Too many Yellowstone packs and groups are being eliminated in the Gardiner Basin and Jardine area. These are the same packs that I rely on for showing to my clients through my business. Pack elimination literally removes the very asset that my guests pay me to show them and it also cause disruptions in behavior and social structure of surviving packs within the park. My year-round business sustains me and my employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 6:38:12 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 6:46:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 184.166.97.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bonney Eken
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: bonneyeken@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Below are my requests regarding trapping/hunting. I often think I've become a scratched CD, same requests with negligible results.

24 hour trap checks.

Mandatory reporting of beaver trapped, quotas, and limited trapping season. Currently there is no quota and the beaver trapping season runs 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year with no reporting required!

Eliminate use of snares on public lands.

Closure of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons.

Prohibition of trapping in state parks.

Increased trap setbacks to 500' on all public roads and trails.

Require signage of trapping on public lands.

Close trapping seasons before upland game bird seasons.

Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Very sincerely
Bonney Eken

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 8:26:11 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 8:31:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:25
IP Address: 172.56.121.25

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Manuel Lopez
City/Town:	Palmdale
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	lopezmeno32@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I wanted to comment to ask if you guys can help to protect wolves and stop all hunts wolves are worth more alive and not hunted for wolves are ecosystem guardians and provide money for the states where they are located

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:22:45 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:39:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:27
IP Address: 207.210.137.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **A.M**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am very concerned about the immense suffering that occurs to these animals in traps. If cruel trapping is allowed there need to be some changes made to reduce the suffering.

- Require 24 hour trap checks
- Prohibit the use of bait.
- Snares should not be used on public land. This land belongs to the public not trappers.
- Reduce the wolf trapping season to Jan 1-Feb 15, and limit further due to weather conditions/ presence of Grizzlies.
- Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
- Provide the public with information on any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

I think the more people that know about wolves, other wildlife, or peoples pets caught in traps the better. This will, as it should, create public outrage and maybe changes will be made, when ethics and compassion are lacking by legislators and those in charge.

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:47:26 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:54:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:35
IP Address: 207.210.137.114

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lex

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
 - Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.
 - Close wolf hunting season Feb 15
 - Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
 - Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population.
 - Increase transparency- people have a right to know about the massacre of wolves
 - Be ethical and humane
-

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:14:18 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 12:26:23 PM
Time Spent: 01:12:04
IP Address: 206.168.176.226

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Angela James
City/Town: Great Falls
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trolln406@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a Montana resident who pays attention to wildlife management in the state, I would like to submit these suggestions regarding wolves:

- Ban the use of snares set for wolves on public land.
- Require 24-hour trap checks.
- Prohibit the use of bait.
- Any over quota kills should come off next year's quota.
- Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.
- Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
- Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
- Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units. Let them be part of the solution.
- Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.
- Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.
- Increase transparency, as the public has a right to know.

Regarding furbearers:

- Require 24-hour trap checks.
- Require mandatory reporting of beavers trapped, quotas, and limited trapping season. (Currently there is no quota and the beaver trapping season runs 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year with no reporting required!)
- Any over quota kills should come off next year's quota.
- Ban the use of snares set for wolves on public land.
- Closure of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons.
- Prohibition of trapping in state parks.
- Increased trap setbacks to 500' on all public roads and trails.
- Require signage of trapping on public lands.
- Close trapping seasons before upland game bird seasons.
- Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:31:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 3:19:01 PM
Time Spent: 01:47:58
IP Address: 64.25.135.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Representative Paul Fielder**
City/Town: **Thompson Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **pcffielder@blackfoot.net**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The statewide wolf population is NOT BEING REDUCED AS DIRECTED BY THE LEGISLATURE! The Legislature, during the 2021 and 2023 sessions, directed that the wolf population should be reduced so as to be closer to the population level of 282 wolves recommended in the 2003 Montana Wolf Management Plan.

That plan calls for maintaining a minimum population of 15 breeding pairs and 150 wolves. Historical information (used in the Montana Wolf Mgt. Plan) indicates 27% of packs meet the breeding pair definition, and pack size in 2019 averaged 5.08 wolves, the population should not fall below 56 packs, which equals a numerical estimate of 282 wolves.

Table 1 (in the information sheet) indicates that there have been about 1100 wolves during each of the last 3 years. That's about four times what the MT Wolf Management Plan recommended. If the Montana wolf population was "meaningfully reduced" as directed by the Legislature to about half of what it is now, it would still be about double what the Montana Wolf Management plan recommended.

The Legislature tried to provide MFW&P tools (snares, longer seasons, increased quotas, etc.) that would allow licensed and regulated hunters and trappers to reduce the wolf population. The Judicial system took away many of those wildlife management tools in the name of unlikely affects to grizzly bears, lynx and wolverine. However, the Legislative intent of reducing wolf populations, so that they are closer to the Montana Wolf Management Plan recommendations, is still something MFW&P should strive for.

There are other options for reducing wolf populations that would have zero impact on grizzly bears, wolverines or lynx. The USDA, Wildlife Services is an agency that has been contracted for decades to control and reduce predators. If meaningful wolf population reductions cannot and is not occurring with licensed and regulated hunters and trappers, MFW&P should look at other options to meet Legislative Intent.

When Montana Wolf Management Plan called for 282 wolves and the estimated Montana wolf population has remained between 1,191 and 1,096 for the last 10 years, don't say that the wolf population is being reduced as directed by the Legislature. The population is not being meaningfully reduced.

Respectfully, Montana State Representative Paul C Fielder

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:54:20 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:56:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: elsa knutson
City/Town: billings
State/Province: MT
Email Address: snobunnie1992@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Yellowstone National Park is requesting the Montana F&W Commission reduce the quota of the number of wolves just outside the park that hunters and trappers can kill. Yellowstone National Park superintendent, Cam Sholly, sent a letter to our Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter. Specifically, Sholly is asking to break unit 313 adjacent to the park into 2, e.g. back to 313 and 316, and split the 6 wolf quota between them or keep as just one current total unit, i.e. 313, which encompasses both units and reduce the quota to 4. We support the latter.

Key take aways from the Park's request are:

It was the 3rd deadliest winter for Yellowstone wolves since the 1995 wolf reintroduction.

13 Yellowstone wolves were killed by hunters, trappers, poachers or died of suspected hunting-related injuries this past season.

11 of the killings were in Montana. One known Yellowstone wolf each were in Wyoming and Idaho.

In response to the war declared on wolves in the Montana 2021-2022 legislative session, at least 25 Yellowstone wolves were then killed, the far majority in Montana, that season by hunters and trappers due to the removal of a quota.

Despite you and our allies successful efforts two years ago to get a 6 wolf quota just outside the park, 8 wolves were still reported legally killed by hunters and trappers in our state this past season!

The killings caused the dissolution of three of the park's 11 wolf packs.

Yellowstone wolves leaving the park are shown to be especially vulnerable to being killed by humans.

These are Yellowstone wolves as evidenced by radio collars that these packs are within the park at least 96 percent of the year.

Data shows that about 85% of all wolves killed in Montana's two wolf hunting units north of Yellowstone have been from packs that live primarily in the park.

This would " help Yellowstone achieve wildlife conservation and economic objective," wrote Cam Sholly. And, whose "mission is to protect and preserve natural processes - including natural social dynamics."

I strongly urge the following changes:

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:57:40 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:59:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:20
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: jesper christian
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:59:08 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:59:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Larson Sven**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:59:58 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:01:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:48
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Palle Kemper**
City/Town: **Pays**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
 - Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.
 - Require 24-hour trap checks.
 - Prohibit the use of bait.
 - Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
 - Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.
 - Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.
 - Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.
 - Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
 - Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.
 - Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.
 - Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.
-

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:01:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:02:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:25
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kane Haugen
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
 - Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.
 - Require 24-hour trap checks.
 - Prohibit the use of bait.
 - Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
 - Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.
 - Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.
 - Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.
 - Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
 - Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.
 - Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.
 - Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.
-

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:02:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:02:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:22
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kirill Knutson**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
 - Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.
 - Require 24-hour trap checks.
 - Prohibit the use of bait.
 - Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
 - Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.
 - Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.
 - Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.
 - Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
 - Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.
 - Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.
 - Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.
-

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:02:51 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:03:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Arne Christiansen**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

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 - Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.
-

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:03:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:03:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:23
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Axel Hengmen
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

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-

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:03:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:04:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:28
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Eva Martelle**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
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-

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:04:24 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:04:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:21
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris Leydiker**
City/Town: **Pays**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

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-

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:04:52 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:05:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:22
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Travis Kingston**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
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-

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:05:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:05:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:24
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Axel Richards**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

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-

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:05:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:06:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kellen Dunn**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
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 - Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.
-

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:06:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:06:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:22
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Neville Dunn**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

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-

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:06:49 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:07:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:19
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Thomas Bentley
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

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#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:07:13 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:07:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:19
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kayden Kingston
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

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#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:07:40 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:08:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:30
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Betsy Christian**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge these changes:

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge for the following changes:

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-

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:57:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 5:11:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:07
IP Address: 98.127.139.93

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Susan Kronenberger
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kronesue@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support the proposal by Yellowstone National Park superintendent, Cam Sholly, which was sent to you. Specifically, I agree that unit 313 be kept as just one current total unit with a reduced quota of 4. It was a deadly winter for the wolves and this protection is now needed to ensure their healthy continuance.

I know a balanced ecosystem - and thus a healthy ecosystem - is a goal and mission of our National Parks - please support Superintendent Sholly's proposal based on sound data.

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 6:59:42 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 22, 2024 7:41:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:06
IP Address: 51.89.165.188

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ayako K Moulton
City/Town: Sun City Center
State/Province: FL
Email Address: shouwa7nen@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Through human caused mortality 3 packs of Yellowstone National Park wolves are gone. 11 YNP wolves were killed in last hunting/trapping season. Please reduce quota for the regions 313 and 316 to 2 wolves for each region, total 4 wolves. People go to YNP expecting to see wolves frolicking, in case you have over looked their(wolves) contribution to your states' economic gain.

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:26:32 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 11:39:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:45
IP Address: 98.125.196.47

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Barbara Booher**
City/Town: **Lakeside**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **barbarabooher406@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support the following proposal to the seasons and quotas re furbearers and wolf trapping.

24 hour trap checks should be the minimum requirement to allow trapping.

Mandatory reporting of beaver trapped, quotas, and limited trapping season. Currently there is no quota and the beaver trapping season runs 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year with no reporting required! As a semi-arid state, Montana needs beavers and the aquifers they maintain and create!!

Eliminate use of snares on public lands for public safety. How can I take my granddaughters for a walk when unseen snares and traps are allowed without public information as to where they are located?

Closure of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons. They have been trapped to near extinction so please stop it!

Prohibition of trapping in state parks as a matter of public use and safety.

Increased trap setbacks to 500' on ALL public roads and trails.

Require signage of trapping on public lands.

Close trapping seasons before upland game bird seasons.

Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA! Setting quotas should mean something.

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:53:18 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:58:23 PM
Time Spent: 21:05:05
IP Address: 99.8.107.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dr. Allyson Dallmann
City/Town:	CAMBRIA
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	allysonrdallmann@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

Why do you continue to kill wolves when wildlife watching brings over \$236 million to Park County by out of state tourists? Tourist spending creates 3,270 jobs and contributes to local and state taxes. It is illogical to kill wolves when they are clearly a financial boon to the state. Wolf watching contributes at least \$82 million in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and this estimate excludes increased wolf watching interest, therefore, it is low. These facts were taken from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research. Even Cam Sholly, Yellowstone National Park's superintendent, is requesting a reprieve for these wolves who make Yellowstone the balanced ecosystem and tourist attraction that it is.

I am supporting superintendent Sholly's request to reset unit 313 to 313 and 316 and reduce the quota to 3 each OR leave 313 but lower quota to 4. These wolves have suffered unsustainable losses over the past 3 years most being killing by trappers, poachers and hunters. There is no logic or reason for this abusive attack on this keystone species who brought Yellowstone back from imbalance to balance AND who attracts so much money to the state. Even with the high quotas, hunters are killing more than the limit you set. You have given them free reign to annihilate the very species from whom you, wildlife, the ecosystem and Montana benefit.

Human-caused mortality of a family member decreases pack persistence by 27% and reproduction by 22%. The human-caused mortality of a pack leader decreased the odds of pack persistence by 73% and reproduction by 49%. Human-caused mortality triggers pack instability in gray wolves - Cassidy - Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment - Wiley Online Library

Even though wolves don't recognize the "boundary line" separating the Park from nonpark territory, they remain in the park 96% of the time which is quite remarkable. Breaking up families is cruel, unscientific and increases their chances of being killed. They haven't even killed livestock within or around units 313 or 316 for years! So, there is just no excuse for killing them. The killing quota should be decreased from 313 not increased.

Current rules that should be changed include balancing total kills. When wolves are killed beyond the quota, you aren't decreasing the quota for the following year, and this should be changed so going over means dropping the quota for the following year. Snares are not species specific and dangerous to all life including humans so they should be banned on public lands. When traps are permitted, they should be checked daily (no one should have to suffer in a trap; it's inhumane). Since wolves seek ill and weak prey, they are a natural reducer of CWD so they should not be killed in areas where elk and deer are dying from and exposed to CWD. You have created shoulder seasons to kill more elk so clearly wolves don't need to be killed to help the elk population. The fact is that wolves selecting ill elk, reduces the length of time the rest of the herd is exposed to the sick elk, thus increasing herd health and survivability. The wolf trapping season is too long and should be set to January 1 to February 15 and decreased depending in grizzly bear appearances. Wolves should not be hunted, so at least stop the season on February 15. All wolves are vital, but at least stop wolf hunting within 12 hours of hitting quota in units by Yellowstone. It still makes no sense to kill wolves when IPOM is inaccurate, so you don't even know how many are left. These lands belong to all beings and we the public should know when lynx, wolverine and grizzly bears are trapped.

Sincerely,

Dr. Allyson Dallmann

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:11:38 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:16:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 47.232.162.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Armond Matevosian
City/Town:	Burbank
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	amatevosian@outlook.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I think it's a disgrace in how the Fish and Wildlife Commission is handling the population of bears and wolves...particularly wolves. It's ridiculous to think a few hundred wolves are doing damage to the environment and livestock as much as human activity. Can none of you imagine how it must be to know there are only a few hundred of you left in entirety?

I'm not writing this to be polite or cordial...those times have past given how these beautiful animals are being butchered and treated. Nothing happened to that psychopath who tortured that gray wolf some months back. What have you all become as a society? It speaks volumes about who we have become.

Take a hard look at what direction you're heading and what you represent for future generations.

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:35:53 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:41:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:45
IP Address: 72.207.148.63

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Carol Nelson
City/Town: Las Vegas
State/Province: NV
Email Address: carolrhae@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I was born, and raised in Montana. I had just learned of your decision to further eliminate wolves in Montana. I know this is due to pressure from cattlemen. Please, please stop this cruel, shameful practice. Wolves are a precious part of Montana, and I can still hear them howl in my memories.

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:23:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:30:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: 216.131.122.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bob
City/Town:	Placerville
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	fordwolf2005@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To read this story is truly gut-wrenching. I don't understand how this can happen to a man's best friend. In the old days, wolves helped man, not these modern mixes. Wolves are the ancestors of dogs and should be treated as such. Their loyalty and family bonds are something these sadistic bastards can learn from. I read that I can send a letter, but sometimes I am not the best writer and I want to make an impact rather than coming off as complaining. I hate to hear stories like these, but public awareness is needed and hopefully, the majority will stop this meaningless harm to the wildlife. To protect one's livelihood is one thing, but to hunt a dog for sport? Get real, the only thing these people are proving is how worthless they are as "supposed" human beings. These "antagonists" need a lesson about the ecosystem and how the wolf population has helped. It seems counterproductive that wolves were re-introduced just to be hunted by blind ignorance. I'm upset this is still happening in today's culture, as most know it's wrong. Hopefully, a law can be passed to prevent this negligence from happening in the future. A law or Bill to protect what wildlife remains, for the ecosystem and for future generations to appreciate.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 5:59:51 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 23, 2024 6:09:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:35
IP Address: 66.9.182.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Helena Edelson
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: helena@largecarnivorefund.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear FWP Director Temple, Chair Robinson, Vice Chair Tabor, and Commissioners,

Thank you for the work you do and for the opportunity to submit comments on the 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas. Large Carnivore Fund is headquartered in Region 3 WMU 313, Gardiner, Montana.

I. Revert back to two separate WMUs (313 and 316 previous boundaries) with a quota of no more than three wolves per unit. We support FWP Region 3 Commissioner Brooke's amendment and Yellowstone National Park's June 26, 2024 (N1615/1.A.2.(YELL) recommendations, to revert back to two separate WMUs (313 and 316 previous boundaries) with a quota of no more than three wolves per unit, e.g. three in 313 and three in 316. If the motion is to retain the one large WMU 313 then reduce the total quota to no more than four wolves due to the high mortality. This could significantly improve wolf management and reduce impacts on Yellowstone National Park's iconic wolves.

Since Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 were changed from two separate WMUs to one WMU 313, and the quota set to six, the wolves killed have been concentrated near the Yellowstone Park Boundary by Gardiner,

1. All six wolves harvested in FWP WMU 313 were from Yellowstone packs
 - a. Three uncollared wolves from 1386F's group;
 - b. Two uncollared wolves from Lupine Creek pack;
 - c. One radio-collared wolf from Mollie's pack;

In addition to the quota of wolves killed,

2. Two radio-collared wolves were harvested from Yellowstone packs in Region 3 near the WMU 313 boundary:
 - a. One from the Lupine Creek pack
 - b. One from a newly formed pair 1330F/1336M group;
3. One radio-collared breeding male wolf from Lupine Creek pack died in early February 2024 from a poaching incident in WMU 313;
4. Two more radio-collared Yellowstone wolves died during the wolf hunting season (one inside Yellowstone, another adjacent to the boundary) suspected to have died from gunshot wounds sustained in WMU313, but investigation could not provide certainty.

In total the 2023-2024 season mortalities resulted in the dissolution of three Yellowstone packs that counted toward the 2023 park population.

II. Establish a limited draw hunting opportunity in WMU 313

Establish a limited draw hunting opportunity in the reverted WMUs 313 and 316 (or if not reverting then in the current WMU 313), and potentially other areas of the state.

III. Support all ecosystem services from wolves, all stakeholders, and prioritize preservation

In 2023, 17,630 total wolf hunting licenses were sold, generating at most \$308,042 (if calculating highest prices only), per the Montana Gray Wolf Program 2023 Annual Report:

1. 15,091 resident wolf hunting licenses sold in 2023 (\$10 or \$12 each)
2. 2,539 non-resident wolf hunting licenses (\$25 or \$50 each)
3. Each license with a "bag limit" of 20 wolves

FWP's annual revenue from wolf license sales is not of the same magnitude as the estimated \$82 million dollar annual value of wolves due to tourism, of which a large percentage and 3,270 jobs are derived in Park county (U. of Montana ITRR & RRC Assoc., 2022). Of the tourists hiring guides in Montana, fifty percent use them for wildlife watching, and only four percent for hunting.

Park County (FWP Region 3 including WMU 313) is associated with the northern range of Yellowstone where wolves are viewed year round. At the end of 2023 there were 124 wolves in eleven packs living primarily in Yellowstone (K.A. Cassidy et al., 2024). Given the

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

82 million dollars in viewing live wolves, applied to the long term average of 100 wolves in Yellowstone, one could say each Yellowstone wolf contributes \$820,000 to Montana's economy. Yet Montana sells resident wolf licenses for \$10 with a "bag limit" of 20 wolves (10 hunting, 10 trapping) per license.

According to the Department's 2024 Wolf Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations a Montana resident can either shoot ten wolves for \$136, or trap ten wolves for \$38, or shoot ten wolves and trap ten wolves for \$156. Meaning this Commission, the Department and the state of Montana prefers to earn \$7.80 per dead wolf over a \$820,000 live Yellowstone wolf and 82 million dollars annually for its constituents by properly maintaining quotas, decreasing bag limits and reducing seasons.

Please support opportunities for all stakeholders including local Park County and Gardiner eco-tourism businesses relying on wildlife watching including wolves, versus only the few wolf hunters and trappers in their annual pursuit to kill the wolves that spend most of their lives inside a National Park.

IV. Adopt a new strategy for funding wolf management and monitoring in Montana

Instead of funding wolf management and monitoring from wolf license sales

1. Let wildlife research and preservation organizations commit and contribute annually to a pool for the budget needed for accurate and adequate monitoring and appropriate research and management;
2. Direct annual wolf license sales to fund mitigation and compensation for ranchers and education for hunters and trapper;

V. Revert to fair chase hunting principals as FWP applies to other game species.

Many Montana hunters disapprove of all non-fair chase methods. Who is the Commission and the Department serving by allowing baiting, night vision scopes, traps and snares?

VI. Reinstate WMU 110 around Glacier National Park with a quota of one.

VII. Consider working with your contacts to have HB 73 (63rd Legislature) repealed.

Sincerely,

Helena Edelson

President and CEO, Large Carnivore Fund

PO Box 452, Gardiner, MT 59030

VIII. Addendum: Montana's iPOM Model and wolf population estimate

Management of wolf populations requires reliable estimates of population size. This is the most critical duty of a state wildlife agency with a recently delisted species in recovery. The wolf abundance estimate is the central data point by which all others depend, all regulations, legislative bills, livelihoods, lifestyles, and even how the state is viewed globally.

Propagation of errors to each model in the sequence

While the logic of iPOM's sequence may be valid, the sequential modeling produces compounding errors at multiple stages. When aggregated for the abundance estimate important fluctuations in the wolf population, such as a large decline, can go undetected.

iPOM claims its Territory Model can make predictions without the need to collar many wolves. Yet it underestimates territory size, leading to overestimating the number of packs in a given area.

iPOM claims its Group Size Mode can estimate total wolf abundance without "annual monitoring to collect data on pack sizes"... "unless future conditions (e.g., intensity of harvest, disease events, etc.) shift beyond conditions experienced within our 14-year dataset, in which case the effects on pack size will be unknown" (Sells et al., 2022)

Yet when compounded with estimation errors at other stages in the sequence, the pack size model is not predictive enough for accurate estimates on population size.

Elimination of intensive monitoring

IPMs are designed to be simultaneously fit to multiple types of intensive data from field monitoring. Yet Montana's iPOM claims to accurately estimate wolf abundance without significant direct annual monitoring effort and expense, "to demonstrate the model's ability to make predictions absent expensive, difficult-to-collect datasets, including data for wolves (e.g., omitting GPS data for wolf locations)" (S. N. Sells et al.. 2020. p. 21). It is the only population model to suggest that wolf population size can be estimated without

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

adequate direct field monitoring. This lack of intensive field monitoring from the population being estimated contradicts what FWP uses for most other species.

Using a distribution estimator to determine abundance

The 2023 Wolf Plan states that iPOM is scientifically peer-reviewed for wolf abundance (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2023, p. 4). But iPOM is not scientifically peer-reviewed for wolf population size, only wolf distribution. Occupancy models, designed for just presence or absence of the animal, can determine the animal's range, not the number of animals in that range.

Montana is using a method for wolf abundance that is not scientifically valid and not peer-reviewed.

Data quality, accuracy, longevity result in critical errors

Accurately estimating population size needs enough data to provide required precision.

Occupancy data sources - observations by biologists and hunters: Where wolves are located in the state is incorporated from FWP Wolf Specialists and area biologists, and hunter surveys. It is a conflict of interest that hunters are both beneficiary and data source for the annual wolf population estimates which wolf quotas and seasons are based on. While we understand why FWP would want this easy solution, it is unethical.

Territory size data sources - radio collared wolves/packs: Montana does not deploy and maintain enough collared wolves, and those that are don't live long.

FWP collars an average of 20-25 wolves annually statewide

Mean collar deployment length is only 10 per year, due to legal killing of radio collared wolves, collar failures, and livestock depredation killing.

The remainder is around 10-15 wolves whose collars provide more than two years of data

Pack size data sources - radio collared wolves, trail cameras, and observations: Deployed trail cameras for camera traps are shot on public lands. This destruction of state property used for the data collection affects iPOM accuracy.

Therefore if distribution is a little off, territory size is a little off, and pack size a little off, the errors compound and the confidence interval is at a critical error.

iPOM overestimates by a factor of 2.5, only 440 wolves in the state

FWP reported 1100 wolves in the state of Montana (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2023, p. 26). That means there are likely only 440 wolves in the state. The 2023 paper, "Misleading overestimation bias in methods to estimate wolf abundance that use spatial models" demonstrates how iPOM severely overestimates the Montana wolf population by a factor of 2.50:

At the grid cell size used in iPOM for Montana there was a severe overestimation bias of 150% that proliferated through the iPOM submodel structure and resulted in estimated wolf abundance 2.5 times larger than true abundance. (R. L. Crabtree et al., 2023, p. 1)

This is a critical error because FWP is basing all wolf management decisions on a massive error. Then what's the proportion of the population harvested? What about livestock depredations, all these factors hinge on how many wolves you think you have.

A more accurate model for counting wolves was offered to Montana

Scientists in Sweden deal with the same fundamental problem: how many wolves do we have. They customized a model for counting wolves that is much more accurate at determining abundance. It has been tested in Norway and Sweden, performs very well, and is proven to get a more accurate estimate of the number of wolves.

These scientists were asked if they would give the model to Montana. Because they are trying to advance wildlife conservation, they said no problem. Even though their model is intellectual property, they offered it and Montana's response was to double down on iPOM.

FWP admitted several problems with iPOM in estimating wolf population size

The 2023 Wolf Management Plan, EIS, and Notice of Proposed Development Of A New Montana Wolf Management And Associated EIS state several problems in iPOM methodology for estimation of Montana's wolf population:

"past methods for monitoring wolf population size and trend have been inaccurate" (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2023, p. 5).

"uncertainty resulting from the use of relatively coarse data inputs and compounding errors is a concern" (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 2023, p. 44).

Wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

Yellowstone is the anchor or the core of wolves in the entire ecosystem. It is a population source, with the highest density of wolves in the GYE. The northern part of Yellowstone has the densest wolf population in the park and is a natural corridor to move north.

But wolves in the GYE are isolated - a biologically and genetically long term issue. There is little or no documented wolf connectivity between the GYE and northwest Montana, or vice versa. Connectivity at the southwest side of the GYE into Idaho is minimal as well. Maybe it's happened but no one's documented it. Large Carnivore Fund initiated a FWP Public Records Request to verify their

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

maybe it's happened, but no one's documented it. Large Carnivore Fund initiated a FWP Public Records Request to verify their connectivity data but have not yet received anything.

Connectivity is obstructed

Connectivity is enhanced or protected by allowing Yellowstone wolves to get out of the park. But for wolves to disperse to other regions they are forced to run the gauntlet. During the winter of the 2021-2022 hunting season when 21 wolves were killed in WMU 313 and 316 combined, it essentially choked off all connectivity moving north out of Yellowstone, past Paradise Valley.

The problem is that wolves aren't allowed to get there because they're killed so aggressively. And elk are over objective in management units in Paradise Valley as well as the surrounding units. Allowances must be made as amendments to the regulations to provide safe passage wildlife corridors for genetic connectivity, which is specified in both the USFWS final rule for delisting as well as by FWP in the 2023 Wolf Plan.

#86

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Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#87

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Time Spent: 00:08:30
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nikki Nafziger
City/Town:	Seattle
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	nikkinashmusic@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves don't know the artificial boundaries of the Park. Allowing hunting and trapping has been decimating the Park's Wolves. Over 80% of Americans want Wolves protected. They are Endangered and vital to the health of the ecosystem. Your quotation should be zero. No hunting/no trapping of Wolves. They are sentient Beings/Children of God that we have been Commanded to be Guardians of. Wolf/trophy hunters/trappers have the same psychological profile as serial killers. Stop worshipping Satan. Wolves were wrongfully unscientifically removed from protections and the current USFWS director lies about/DENIES SCIENCE. She's unqualified and should be fired for malfeasance. There's a war going on between God/good/protecting Wolves/Wildlife & Satan/evil/harming Wolves/Wildlife. I Worship God and believe in science. Stop being anti science/anti God.

#88

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Russell Ybuan
City/Town:	Pomona
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	russell.ybuan@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

#89

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 07:26:38
IP Address: 75.80.36.45

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Pamela Williams
City/Town: Boise
State/Province: ID
Email Address: 3blackdog9@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As someone fond of Yellowstone, I am disturbed and saddened by the proposed regulations. I urge the Commission to reject the Department's recommendations, including the increased statewide quota. I support the Yellowstone Director's request that the Commission reduce the killing of Yellowstone wolves by adjusting quotas, and I support Commissioner Brooke's Amendment but with a quota of no more than 4 in 313/316. Having lived in Idaho for 20 years, I am very familiar with snaring and trapping and the inherent cruelty of these practices. At a minimum, there should be 24-hour mandatory checks and warning signage for other recreational users. There should be no snaring on public lands, and there should be mandatory reporting of all species. Again, let me reiterate my disappointment in the Department's/Legislature's/Commissions's disregard for the suffering these lethal "recreational" hunting practices cause for both target and non-target species. Please be mindful of the unnecessary and avoidable suffering these policies cause.

#90

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: TODD D PARSONS
City/Town: Clarksville
State/Province: TN
Email Address: purpleheart506th@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Gray Wolf hunting should be absolutely banned unless it's absolutely needed, as far as cattle vs Gray Wolf Predation there are non-lethal measures that are successfully used why not use those methods Montana ! Your state is a Black mark on the United States Eco Systems management system with how you officials manage your Gray Wolf populations I'll personally be sending a email to United States fish and wildlife services with my thoughts written down after months of research and because of your state Idaho, Wyoming My personal vehicle is a rolling Gray Wolf Awareness vehicle now not many have seen my decals but I got very creative I live in a town population 300,000 they all will see it ! Then if I must I'll start driving some of the biggest cities in the U.S. raising Gray Wolf Awareness like it's never been done before if Oregon and Washington State can COEXIST with Gray Wolf's your state can too, if you and others don't want to change your ways then I'll do something about this ! I'm retired 46 yrs old and pissed off I've been lied too through mediaTV, news feeds all of it over the years I've been alive on Planet Earth before my soul leaves my body I'll incite serious change on management of Gray Wolf's within this Country simply put Gray Wolf's were put on Planet Earth to be the medium predator to help maintain a perfect Eco Systems Web but humans out of hate Exterminated them in the past Stop Killing Gray Wolf's are Eco Systems are out of sink because of this and have been for years your Gray Wolf Hunts are part of the problem if cattle Predation is such a problem the report it to the public and I'm sure Defenders of WildLife will help out with non-lethal methods to help Gray Wolf's are here on Planet Earth For a reason they gave us are dogs when they were not called Gray Wolf's just Wolf's So if you don't want to be put on blast on Social media every year going forward Then Stop going all Nuclear on your Gray Wolf populations I personally see no reason to trap or hunt 100s and 100s and 100s and 100s of Gray Wolf's

#91

COMPLETE

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IP Address: 73.216.139.254

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cindy Kreiman
City/Town:	Bentonville
State/Province:	VA
Email Address:	fatiesnoop@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To all concerned

Please listen to the cries of the innocent wolves whose lives are being taken for our benefits. People make the rules and laws for people leaving out the importance that these wolves are beneficial to the ecosystems. We are destroying families, friends, they grieve and bleed as we do. There are more people out there against the wolf killings and they are not being heard. Animals when trapped or snared should not have to suffer and traps are not checked frequently enough. It should be required that they be checked every 24 hours , preferably less. There should be limits that reduce the number of wolf killings in the Yellowstone management area WMU 313 and when the limits have been reached or are undetermined then it should be shut down that day, especially in the Yellowstone area WMU 313
Thank you for your time

#92

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Christine Goulet
City/Town: Ayer
State/Province: MA
Email Address: christinegoulet@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am urging you to please listen to the voices of the non-consumptive community and to include our voices into your decisions. The Superintendent of Yellowstone has also reached out to you and you have an obligation to the United States to protect and preserve the wolves who call their home Yellowstone National Park. The dissolution of 3 packs is 3 too many. The killing of 13 wolves is also too many and far exceeds the quota you set forth last year. Yellowstone biologists are leaders in the field and have incredible knowledge, skill and expertise with years of data. Please listen to them when they say iPOM is not providing an accurate account. Please listen to them when they ask that the ban on telemetry hunting be reinstated. Where is fair chase and ethics???

There is no reason to be killing an incredible number of wolves. Livestock depredation is at a bare minimum; elk populations at or beyond state objectives. The number of wolves that has been arbitrarily chosen is cruel and inhumane, and frankly, is a complete disregard to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Not to mention tourism. Millions of people flock each year to Montana and Yellowstone National Park to view wolves and wildlife. There are far more people who actually care about wolves, grizzlies and wildlife than those who wish to kill them. Perhaps you need to be reminded of the motto that is on the Roosevelt Arch, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

Please protect Yellowstone wolves and all wolves, for that matter. The United States worked incredibly hard to bring wolves back. Science has proven time and time again their crucial role in the environment. The United States did not bring back wolves to be slaughtered. Please stand up, protect wolves and listen to the needs of Yellowstone National Park and beyond. The Grey Wolf is once again at risk and you have the power to do what is right for future generations.

#93

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IP Address: 45.93.110.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane Mulvaney
City/Town: Frankfurt
Email Address: janemulv@yahoo.co.uk

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I find it astounding in the 21st century than hunting and trapping is allowed in such large numbers. Wolves are highly intelligent and social animals. Trapping is unbelievably cruel. Apex predators are incredibly important for the ecosystem. The quotas must be reduced. Yellowstone wolves must be protected. The wolf populatin is vulnerable. Have we learned nothing? There should be no hunting rights.

Yellowstone National Park is requesting the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota of the number of wolves just outside the park that hunters and trappers can kill.

Yellowstone National Park superintendent, Cam Sholly, sent a letter to our Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter.

It was the 3rd deadliest winter for Yellowstone wolves since the 1995 wolf reintroduction.

13 Yellowstone wolves were killed by hunters, trappers, poachers or died of suspected hunting-related injuries this past season.

11 of the killings were in Montana. One known Yellowstone wolf each were in Wyoming and Idaho.

In response to the war declared on wolves in the Montana 2021-2022 legislative session, at least 25 Yellowstone wolves were then killed, the far majority in Montana, that season by hunters and trappers due to the removal of a quota.

The killings caused the dissolution of three of the park's 11 wolf packs.

Yellowstone wolves leaving the park are shown to be especially vulnerable to being killed by humans.

These are Yellowstone wolves as evidenced by radio collars that these packs are within the park at least 96 percent of the year.

Data shows that about 85% of all wolves killed in Montana's two wolf hunting units (allowed areas) north of Yellowstone have been from packs that live primarily in the park.

The Montana wolf population numbers remain unknown, but research indicates grave concern for their future. Yet, the powers that be in our state are adamant to continue killing wolves despite their biological, economic, intrinsic worth, and by using unethical, unfair chase, and torturous methods. Please remember that with your wallet, voice, pen, and your vote!

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

Respectfully

Jane Mulvaney

#94

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 6:45:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:22:40
IP Address: 108.27.59.170

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Lisa Del Percio
City/Town: New York
State/Province: NM
Email Address: townpariah117@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Reduce the Quota! Radio collared wolves have been killed. Public agencies and local politicians must not cater to special interests whose primary focus is to decimate wolf population and remove protections for wolves by providing recreational killing (hunting and trapping).

Snaring is a barbaric means for killing any animal - many animals are caught in traps and snares that are not the primary target. Why are you not better regulating trapping? There is a blatant disregard for the monitoring and humane and ethical treatment of animals that are caught. Monitoring traps and logging dates/times of captured animals documenting by photo and time stamping images of animals that are captured. Limit number of animal caught whether the target or other should count toward the limit for animals caught during the season. Trapping / snaring in itself is disgusting and without strict policy is wholly unethical and dangerous to more that wildlife. Develop better management plans and adopt practices and devices and techniques that are safer for animals and effective for management which improve protocols and better standards. Use scientific methods and approaches. You will help standards and practices evolve and become more ethical while ultimately still killing...but killing humanely and without disregard.

#95

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IP Address: 70.123.52.173

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Christine Baleshta
City/Town: Austin
State/Province: TX
Email Address: baleshtac@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission's quotas for the 2023-2024 wolf hunting season. I have visited Yellowstone National Park bi-annually since 1998, and while I appreciate all wildlife, the chance to see wolves brought me to the park.

In 2007, I co-sponsored the collar on Wolf 527F with a group of Yellowstone wolf watchers. In October 2009, 527F was one of Yellowstone wolves killed in Montana's wolf hunt. She was the alpha female of the Cottonwood Pack and about one mile from the northern border of the park. The Cottonwood Pack soon dissolved

Over the years I have seen many changes in Yellowstone's wolf population, but the high wolf mortality rate during 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 wolf hunting seasons is striking; all wolves harvested from WMU 313 were from Yellowstone packs. Almost no wolf-related depredation has occurred in WMU 313 or Park County, and less than one wolf-related livestock depredation has occurred each year since 2013 in Park County. Montana's elk population is strong and doing well. Money spent by visitors who come to see and watch wolves contributes overwhelmingly to local businesses. In light of these facts, I respectfully request the Commission to consider the following recommendations:

- Revert back to two, separate WMUs, WMU 313 and WMU 316, with a quota of two wolves in each WMU;
- If WMU 313 is maintained, reduce the quota to four wolves;
- Reinstate a ban on the use of telemetry in hunting, as well as a ban on baiting and night hunting on private lands.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

#96

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mary Neumann
City/Town:	Narberth
State/Province:	PA
Email Address:	mary@jaalkw.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The Montana wolf population numbers remain unknown, but research indicates grave concern for their future. Yet, the powers that be in our state are adamant to continue killing wolves despite their biological, economic, intrinsic worth, and by using unethical, unfair chase, and torturous methods. Please remember that with your wallet, voice, pen, and your vote!

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#97

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Time Spent: 00:47:37
IP Address: 209.137.222.73

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Rebecca J Falk**
City/Town: **garden plain**
State/Province: **KS**
Email Address: **rebeccajjones74@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are beautiful and family oriented animals and need protection.

The method Montana fish and wildlife is using to count wolves IPOM integrated patch occupancy is not done accurately. Science does not support this method. Not accurate. Only MTFWP SAYS IT IS.

Montana has fewer wolves than 1096. Mtfwp needs to add more field staff to do an accurate count of the wolves. Mtfwp should have never started using IPOM. If there are fewer wolves in Montana then ever before, shouldn't they be protected and not have a hunting season. I treasure every time I see a wolf in the wild. Alive and free, they are a great tourist attraction for the state of Montana. The wolf population is declining, and an accurate count of wolves needs to happen before any hunting season is suggested

Wolves are a help to the forest. Elk numbers are high, 140,000. Keeping the wolves at a healthy population will help reduce the elk.

Montana could get to their goal of a population 95,000 elk by leaving the wolves alone. No hunting season.

There really need to be studies on the wolf population before any hunting occurs. Montana Mtfwp need to include the community on any decisions of wolves in the area.

Hunters are catching lots of wolves and leading to the decline of the wolf population.

Montana wolves are on 1/3 public land, so we the people should have a say. Yellowstone wolf killing should not even happen, but at a compromise WMV 313 needs to be reduced from 6 wolves to 4. I would like to see 0, Yellowstone wolves are a treasure and should be protected. There needs to be the same day closure (12 hours) when quota is pending or met. 24 hour trap check wolf trapping and snaring needs to be done. Montana Fish and Wildlife needs to start listening to the community and include their input. Wolves are just finally making a come back, don't let them disappear by hunting them out.

#98

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Karen Brown
City/Town:	Auburn
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	brown_kk@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

To MT FWP Commissioners,

I am writing to you prior to the August 16 meeting.

By now, you most certainly have seen the letter from Cam Sholly, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. Now we have the information and science that demonstrates hunting of the wolves drawn OUT OF THE PARK by unethical means has disrupted the pack structures and indeed may endanger the animals population if continued. Hiding behind the "quota"of 6 does not account for poaching, both known and not known. You cannot keep up this kind of pressure and not change the population numbers and dynamics. And yet, last year as I watched the meeting, a commissioner stated "The park said it would be FINE TO KILL 10!" They most certainly did not say that.

I am concerned that the FWP continues to ignore the non consumptive community. You have ignored the calls for actual census of wolves on the ground instead of relying on IPOM and anecdotal information. You do not have an actual number of the animals in the state. And you have refused to acknowledge the information regarding fracturing packs and killing lead animals.

In addition the elk population is above objective. Now farmers complain about elk eating their crops! Hunter success is robust and lets face it hunters do not work as hard anymore to get their animal. AND depredations are at an all time low, so the argument of cattle losses flies out the window.

When will you listen to the majority of the public!??

- 1). the quota for wolves in the two/one area to the north of the park should be ZERO, but if not then restore it to ONE. Millions come to your state to see these animals!
- 2). Close Regions as soon as the quota is reached. You waited two days last year to officially close the area.
- 3). Prosecute poachers on the same level of those who poach elk.
- 4). Implement a 24 hour check on traps and snares
- 5). Start using the reams of science, which has actually come from your own backyard, to make sane decisions on killing.

I will be working still for relisting. These animals on federal public lands belong to all of us.

Sincerely,

Karen L Brown

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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IP Address: 76.171.186.13

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

MONTANA FWP COMMENTS FOR 8/16/24 MEETING

Commissioners:

With the wolf torture incident in Wyoming, all eyes are on the rocky mountain states and their treatment of wildlife and wolves. This would be a good year to lighten up on the wolf killing compared to the last few years. It is documented, that human wolf killing = fractured packs = higher depredation. Several of the Yellowstone packs were heavily hunted causing pack disruption.

I 100% support Commissioner Brooks proposal to split 313 into 313/316 to keep pack fractures to a minimum. Of course, this does not count all the illegal poaching that happens on the park border, but we need to start somewhere.

Before your annual meeting to decide how many wolves to kill, please consider the following –

Wolf depredations are down. Wolf numbers are down, (see last year's killing totals) and watching live wolves in and near national parks and public lands brings in \$\$\$\$ millions to your state coffers. More live wolves = more money for Montana. Therefore, I propose the following –

Wolf Killing Unit	Max Killed Wolves	Wolves killed 2023
1	110	121
2	75	86
3	40	53
313/316	2/2	6
4	13	15
5,6,7	5	5

This is approx. 5% reduction in killed wolves in most areas. It's a nominal amount that keeps the pressure down to relist wolves or take your authority away.

Wolf Torture – Stop allowing snares, there is too much bycatch and it's unnecessary and cruel.

Keep trapping to the 45 day season (like last year) to keep grizzlies and lynx safe and reduce the non target animals that die a horrible death.

Fair Chase – Please bring it back. No more baiting, night vision, thermal imaging, telemetry, judas wolf trapping practices (24 hour trap check please).

Even last year, trapping was high with this shortened season so these additional unethical hunting practices are unnecessary.

Same day closure when quotas are met.

Any chance there will ever be a wolf management committee that includes non trappers and non outfitters? Lots of stakeholders that care about Montana and her wildlife and all sides should at least have a voice.

In closing, wolves are needed on the landscape. Look how CWD is decimating game herds in states where wolves are killed 24/7/365. Coincidence?

#100

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:36:45 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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City/Town:	Logan
State/Province:	UT
Email Address:	dan.macnulty@usu.edu

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping – Hunting Seasons and Quota. I appreciate FWP's conservative recommended quota of 6 wolves in Wolf Management Unit (WMU) 313. However, I urge the Commission to recognize that the harvest of wolves in WMU 313 does not achieve the legislative objective to reduce the Montana wolf population (MCA 87-1-901(1)). This is because most, if not all, wolves annually harvested in WMU 313 are identified by the State of Wyoming as members of the Wyoming wolf population. This is clearly and consistently documented in Wyoming's Gray Wolf Monitoring and Management Annual Reports available here: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/wyoming-wildlife/large-carnivore/wolves-wyoming>.

For example, 3 of the 6 wolves harvested in WMU 313 during the 2023-2024 season were from two packs (Lupine and Mollie's) that the State of Wyoming counted as members of the Wyoming wolf population in its 2023 Annual Report (see Table 3). The remaining three wolves harvested in WMU 313 during the 2023-2024 season were from a pack called 1386F group that lived primarily in Wyoming. The pack dissolved after the three wolves were harvested but before the end of the 2023 calendar year. As a result, it was excluded from the list of packs that comprised the 2023 Wyoming wolf population. Thus, the harvest of 6 wolves in WMU 313 during the 2023-2024 season impacted the Wyoming wolf population rather than the Montana wolf population, contrary to the legislative intent of MCA 87-1-901(1).

To ensure compliance with MCA 87-1-901(1), I recommend the Commission establish a quota of zero wolves in WMU 313 during the Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping – Hunting Season.

Sincerely,

Dan MacNulty
Professor
Department of Wildland Resources
Utah State University

Sources:

Cassidy, K.A., D.R. Stahler, E.E. Stahler, M. Metz, J. SunderRaj, T. Rabe, J. Rabe, N. Tatton, M. Packila, B. Cassidy, W. Binder, C. Lacey, C. Ho, D. Sanborn, and G. Scott. 2024. Yellowstone National Park Wolf Project Annual Report 2023. National Park Service, Yellowstone Center for Resources, Yellowstone National Park, WY, USA, YCR-2024
https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/upload/2023-Wolf-Report-final_web.pdf

Sholly, C. 2024. Letter to Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, 26 June.
<https://wyofile.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-6-26-WolfHuntCommentLetter.pdf>

Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Tribal Fish and Game Department. 2024. Wyoming Gray Wolf Monitoring and Management 2023 Annual Report. K.J. Mills and C.D. Atkinson, eds. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006.
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/2024%20annual%20wolf%20report.pdf>

#101

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:38:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:51:55
IP Address: 71.36.52.3

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

In your clarifying language regarding ground sets, you have created a more confusing section. You want to add snares with the traps which is fine but trying to add the language about center swivels doesn't make sense. Is this implying that snares need to have swivels? And where do the swivels need to be? Why would you add verbiage about center swivels on traps to snares? That is very confusing and makes no sense as there is no center to a snare, there are no chain links, there is no base plate. Leave Center Swivel in its own section with ground sets separate. Change the wording of the Ground Set to say "Includes any traps or snares elevated . . ."

I have major concerns about the section about littering. The word "road" in first point, this implies any road statewide. This might lead to loss of use on all roads, even closed ones. If you were to make exceptions that all closed roads are open for trapping without a setback, this could work. It is impossible to know if any road has been open at any point during the year and should be changed to currently closed anyway. Point two; upon any public property would this include all controlled by the state including state sections, FWP controlled WMAs, fishing access, etc., as well? Point three; The 200 yard regulation again has roads included, this could reduce the use of bait piles which are important to trapping wolves. Point four; Adding private property in this section may be more confusing. In the past the state did not have control over private property. Landowner Permission is important, what if the landowner is the one who is placing the carcass. How much access is required to make it "permitted"? Is it their children or family or does it need to be open like Block Management? This would need a clarification on how long something could be left to allow for baiting until it becomes littering. What is the allowance for the bait being snow covered since we are restricted to the heaviest snow periods to trap wolves. We pick up all the bones after the season but have to return after the snow melts to pick up what was snow covered. Not all of our area is clear of snow at the same time.

In the point about Beaver Damage, Question; having the line about only animals causing damage may be taken would be very hard to defend on most sites. It might be hard to prevent other groups from demanding proof. Change to: Only the animal species causing the damage. . .

In the Wolf Quota section, there is no reason to call a special meeting of the Commission for any potential overharvest of wolves. The quota is set low enough that we could go over by 25% and not endanger the wolf population. The 2021 Legislature wanted to substantially reduce the wolf population and I believe they intended it to be done within their lifetimes. A non-target capture of one lynx or one grizzly bear could justify notifying the Commission members.

#102

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:17:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 76.35.143.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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State/Province: KY
Email Address: Jessicalee8042@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolf populations are in jeopardy. Wolves are needed in our ecosystem. We need to coexist, and STOP killing them. We should be better than this.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:45:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:53:39
IP Address: 63.153.26.121

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

STATEWIDE HARVEST: The recommendation from the FWP is for statewide wolf harvest of 334 plus 6 Yellowstone National Park wolves for a total of 340. This is excessive ! Last seasons recommendation from the FWP was 289, this was the average of the last 5 seasons harvest. 340 is a 15% increase over last season without any biological justification. The Commission should choose Alternate B and revert back to using the average harvest from the last 5 seasons to determine the statewide wolf quota.

DISTRIBUTION: If WMU 313 is left as a single Wolf Management Unit, the harvest quota should be reduced to 4. The Brooke Amendment should be approved and two WMU's should be reinstated. I also request the Commission add an additional Amendment to reduce the harvest levels to 2 in WMU 313, and 2 in WMU 316.

RATIONAL: Once again excessive human caused mortality from the state of Montana has caused wolf pack instability in Yellowstone National Park. The single WMU 313 has resulted in the dissolution of 3 YNP wolf packs. A total of 13 YNP wolves were killed and this is the third most lethal hunting season for the Parks wolves. This is a direct result of an excessively high quota of 6 being established for WMU 313. Because of this high quota combined with unethical wolf hunting regulations, an extraordinary number of YNP wolves were killed illegally. WMU 313 closed on December 27, 2023 after reaching the legal limit of 6 wolves. On February 28, 2024 the FWP was asking for information on the next known poaching event that occurred on January 27, 2024 near Gardiner, Montana. Three additional radio collared Yellowstone wolves were shot after the official close of the season. This number of illegal killed wolves on the boundary of Yellowstone is unprecedented. Lowering the limit to compensate for illegal harvest combined with increased presence of law enforcement will be the only way to get control over the uncontrolled harvest of Yellowstone wolves. The Brooke Amendment is also a rational response to curtail this runaway killing spree of YNP wolves. This Amendment must be accompanied by a reduction in the quota/limit to stop this free for all on the Yellowstone National Park boundary line.

#104

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:57:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:22
IP Address: 63.153.96.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations for wolf hunting in Montana.

WOLF REGULATIONS:

I am disappointed that many of the controversial practices remain in place. Please consider an amendment that eliminates baiting of wolves. Baiting attracts a variety of animals like wolverine and grizzly bears. It also attracts pets. I remember warning a jogger with his dog that there were snares and traps set near the road where he was running. He said there have always been traps, but he did not know that baiting was now allowed. His dog was caught in a trap less than 20 minutes later.

Please also consider an amendment that eliminates night hunting on private land. The commission should support ethical hunting practices no matter where hunting might occur. Night hunting does not reflect fair chase principals and gives an unfair advantage to the hunter.

Use of telemetry should also be forbidden. It is not even mentioned in the proposed regulations. When they composed the North American Model, telemetry was not even on the radar.

Snares should be forbidden. They are cruel and inhumane. Too many non-target animals including pets are ensnared and are permanently injured or die from these devices. Snares will be the downfall of trapping which is already unpopular nationwide.

Require 24 hour trap checks. No animal should suffer any longer than that.

I would reduce all quotas to what was recommended by Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) last year, NOT what was put into effect last year. For example last year the quota for Region 2 was 92, but the scientists at FWP recommended fewer. Your duty is to follow the science and you should also pledge to first, do no harm. Our tax dollars and conservation licenses pay these scientists to make recommendations. They should not be overruled. In fact, the commission should recommend smaller quotas to prevent harm especially since it takes time to end hunting in a Region when quotas are met. The quotas are regularly exceeded by the time the word gets out.

The Yellowstone wolf quota... those in 313 should be reduced to two. These wolves spend most of there time in the parks and near people. They are especially vulnerable to hunters as they are slightly habituated. They also bring in millions of dollars of revenues for local businesses and Yellowstone National Park. They should be preserved not made available for hunting and trapping. The proposed amendment that asks the area be split in two and allow 3 in each unit should be reduced to 1 wolf for each unit.

The quotas are very high. While the legislature has directed for a reduction in wolf populations, it does not give a specific time period. So there is no reason to create excessive quotas. The counting methods for the number of wolves is also in question, so quotas should be moderate to low based on those numbers. Again, do no harm. The proposed quotas will allow almost 1/3 of the wolf population to be killed. These wolves help preserve riparian areas and our clean water by keeping elk and deer on the move. They also cull out the sick, keeping the herds healthy. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is becoming more prevalent. If wolves became more prevalent, especially in the areas where we are documenting CWD, we would see less CWD. Wolves have a purpose in the ecosystem. There removal or their reduction to the bare minimum will harm our natural resources. In areas where there is CWD, the wolf quota should be 0. Let them do their job.

Finally wolves should not be trapped or hunted after February 15th. This keeps females with little ones safe. It also keeps bears safe as well.

Thanks for considering my comments on the wolf regulations.

PINE MARTEN

Please also accept my thoughts on the pine martin changes. Please keep the 24 reporting and tagging for marten in place. Unlimited trapping has allowed them to go extinct in areas. Then they are reintroduced? If they are going extinct, there need to be quotas and limits on how many a single trapper can trap. The trapping of these creatures needs to be regulated so that reintroduction and extinction never happen. There should be low quotas and strict limits on how many a trapper can trap in a season. The populations in Regions 1-5 have been decimated by excessive trapping. In those areas, trapping of Pine Marten should be suspended until numbers increase. Reintroduction is costly and unnecessary. Create quotas that do not allow Pine Marten to disappear in an area.

Thanks for considering my comments on Pine Marten regulations.

And finally, please require a 24 hour trap check for all trapping. No animal should suffer.

Thanks for your time.

#105

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:04:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 68.227.48.103

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Email Address: **143mook@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As a frequent visitor to Montana I am greatly concerned about the current state of wolf trapping and hunting. There must be improvements and change made.

Please honestly consider these points:

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

And importantly, Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

Thank you for your unbiased, thoughtful consideration.

#106

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 7:39:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:12
IP Address: 152.37.71.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Email Address: paigedonaj@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Yellowstone National Park is requesting the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota of the number of wolves just outside the park that hunters and trappers can kill.

Yellowstone National Park superintendent, Cam Sholly, sent a letter to our Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter.

It was the 3rd deadliest winter for Yellowstone wolves since the 1995 wolf reintroduction.

13 Yellowstone wolves were killed by hunters, trappers, poachers or died of suspected hunting-related injuries this past season.

11 of the killings were in Montana. One known Yellowstone wolf each were in Wyoming and Idaho.

In response to the war declared on wolves in the Montana 2021-2022 legislative session, at least 25 Yellowstone wolves were then killed, the far majority in Montana, that season by hunters and trappers due to the removal of a quota.

Despite you and our allies successful efforts two years ago to get a 6 wolf quota just outside the park, 8 wolves were still reported legally killed by hunters and trappers in our state this past season!

The killings caused the dissolution of three of the park's 11 wolf packs.

Yellowstone wolves leaving the park are shown to be especially vulnerable to being killed by humans.

These are Yellowstone wolves as evidenced by radio collars that these packs are within the park at least 96 percent of the year.

Data shows that about 85% of all wolves killed in Montana's two wolf hunting units (allowed areas) north of Yellowstone have been from packs that live primarily in the park.

Here are the key requests for you to include in you're written comment:

The Montana wolf population numbers remain unknown, but research indicates grave concern for their future. Yet, the powers that be in our state are adamant to continue killing wolves despite their biological, economic, intrinsic worth, and by using unethical, unfair chase, and torturous methods. Please remember that with your wallet, voice, pen, and your vote!

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#107

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 9:44:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:01
IP Address: 104.255.10.204

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT
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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please reduce the quota on the number of wolves just outside Yellowstone Park that hunters and trappers can kill. Keeping unit 313, and reducing the quota to 4 is a reasonable request. Yellowstone wolves leaving the park are especially vulnerable to being killed by humans. Last year's killings destroyed 3 pack's social structures and caused their complete breakups. Over 1/4 of the packs in Yellowstone were destroyed.

On a more general note, increasing wolf kills by hunting and trapping to a quota of 334 this year from 313 last year is going in the wrong direction. Our Montana wolf population numbers remain unknown, but research indicates grave concern for their future. Allowing their continued killing ignores this apex species' biological, economic, Tribal, and intrinsic worth.

I'm an avid hunter/fisherman but watching wolves killed by unethical means using unfair chase, and torturous methods is not the Montana way- it's beyond the pale.

Thank you

#108

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:02:21
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Email Address: **caffrey@duck.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

HELP END #AnimalAbuse
HELP END #AnimalCruelty

#EndTrapping
#RelistWolves

#109

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Susan Urang
City/Town:	San José
State/Province:	CA
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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please stop trapping/maiming/killing wolves and other predators in wildlife. They have a purpose and are not to be trophies of hunters. Leave them alone and let them live in peace.

#110

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 01:14:22
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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State/Province:	IL
Email Address:	leevianca@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The wolf hunting/trapping from table7 (p.45) by region clearly indicates that the wolf population has decreased since 2018 . In fact, since the wolf pack size has decreased over the years there is little to none existence of the need to continue with implementing trapping and hunting. The wolf population has been nearly wiped out by the hunters of Montana . Montana is recognize by neighboring states as trapping and hunters paradise.

#111

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Last Modified: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 11:35:27 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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City/Town:	Ben Lomond
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	luvmedoggs@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The Montana wolf population numbers remain unknown, but research indicates grave concern for their future. Yet, the powers that be in our state are adamant to continue killing wolves despite their biological, economic, intrinsic worth, and by using unethical, unfair chase, and torturous methods.

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population.

IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#112

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:22:00 AM
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IP Address: 188.82.181.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sandra**
City/Town: **Texas**
State/Province: **TX**
Email Address: **sandracrystyna@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM, a flawed method of approximating population numbers in different areas, has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

#113

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:06:40 AM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff Darrah
City/Town:	Stevensville
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Email Address:	jdarrah21@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am representing a non-profit (Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife). We support the wolf quotas as set in the proposed regulations minus the 313 HD amendment proposal. The strikeout of the floating trap dates in grizzly areas will no doubt be discussed in the next meeting and is certainly pending due to litigation. We will have further comment on the October meeting regarding season dates.

#114

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:04:33
IP Address: 97.188.64.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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State/Province:	NM
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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As an American that travels and spends tourist dollars in MT, I expect robust wildlife populations in Yellowstone. Telemeter, trap with bait electronic lure should be ILLEGAL.

#115

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:35:14 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:46
IP Address: 165.23.40.225

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Q1

Contact information:

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State/Province:	SD
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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I respectfully ask that the wolf killing be halted, as there is no threat to livestock and special interest groups are the only recipients of this flawed policy. Protect wolves, don't kill them.

#116

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:35:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:45:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:41
IP Address: 24.116.212.186

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Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners:

In light of the recent letter by Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly, Western Watersheds Project submits the following comments for consideration during the August meeting on the State of Montana's current proposed rule changes regarding wolf hunting and trapping in the lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park.

Superintendent Sholly reports that 8 of 11 wolf packs have dissolved as a result of human-induced wolf killing on lands in Montana, lands where the State of Montana manages hunting and trapping. These wolf losses result from both legal killing of wolves by hunters and trappers (amounting to 8 wolves in the past year, exceeding the legal quota of 6), and illegal wolf killings. This new information is supported by the earlier finding by Cassidy et al. (2023) that wolf killings outside Yellowstone in previous years were resulting in the dissolution of wolf packs inside the Park. The dissolution of wolf packs inside Yellowstone National Park is of great ecological significance because large, experienced wolf packs are able to prey upon bison, while smaller, more inexperienced packs are constrained to easier prey. Thus, when large packs break up, one result may be "prey switching" from bison to elk, which is unhelpful from an ecological standpoint.

The findings of vonHoldt et al. (2023) that current levels of wolf hunting and trapping are resulting in a loss of genetic diversity (and therefore genetic viability) in the Yellowstone wolf population is indicative that wolf hunting, trapping and poaching levels in the states surrounding Yellowstone are excessive. This also counsels for minimizing wolves taken by hunters and trappers.

Wolves in Yellowstone National Park are becoming increasingly scarce and more difficult for Park visitors to view as a result of hunting and trapping of Park wolves when they leave the Park during hunting and trapping seasons. In the absence of hunting and trapping, during the years when wolves were listed in Montana under the Endangered Species Act, wolves became increasingly tolerant of human presence. Rather than resulting in increased risk to Park visitors (there were no reports of wolf attacks on visitors during this period, despite the known propensity of Yellowstone tourists to take foolish risks around wild animals), this resulted in wolves becoming increasingly amenable to viewing and photography by visitors to the Park. As a result, Yellowstone became a worldwide destination of wolf viewing tourism, which has been measured as contributing \$35.5 million annually to the economies of surrounding states in 2005 (Duffield et al. 2008), and a 2022 update to these figures put the direct value (excluding economic multipliers) of tourism to the Yellowstone area that would not have occurred without wolves at \$82.7 million as of 2021 (RRC Associates and Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research 2022). It is notable that wolf viewing activity is concentrated in the northern half of the Park, and that all of the major gateway communities for this area (Gardiner, Cooke City, and West Yellowstone) are in Montana, meaning that the Montana economy reaps virtually all of the economic benefits of wolf viewing tourism. The presumed value to the state of offering wolf tags to trophy hunters in this part of Montana pales in comparison, and by authorizing the killing of Park wolves and thereby driving down the numbers and viewability of wolves inside the Park, the State of Montana is killing the golden goose of wildlife tourism that is a major economic engine for the State of Montana.

Furthermore, there is a distinct absence of science supporting the hunting and trapping wolves as a legitimate wildlife management tool. To the contrary, three decades of evidence from Alaska (Miller et al. 2022) shows that even an aggressive program of wolf aerial gunning failed to result in prey population increases or improvement in hunting success. From a wildlife management standpoint, wolf hunting and trapping must therefore be viewed solely from the perspective of providing a thrill-killing experience for hunters and trappers who very clearly have every intention of wasting the meat of animals taken. Thus, it is not possible to rationally justify the killing of Park wolves from either a wildlife management or a hunting ethics perspective, and weighed against the clear and obvious economic value of unhunted and untrapped Yellowstone National Park wolves, the proper level of allowable hunting and trapping of wolves in the hunt units proximal to Yellowstone National Park is zero.

In 2017, Protect the Wolves filed a formal petition to the State of Montana to establish a Sacred Resource Protection Zone within 50 km (31 miles) Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, to protect Park wolves from hunting and trapping. The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission should formally adopt this Sacred Resource Protection Zone into its wildlife management policies, and

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

re-set hunting and trapping management units and tag and licensing levels and geographic management of hunting and trapping accordingly.

As a final consideration, given the continued precarious state of wolf population viability throughout the western United States, and the importance of the Yellowstone wolf subpopulation to wolf recovery, every threat and mortality source for wolves provides further evidence that Endangered Species listing is necessary. We urge you to amend the Montana regulations and policies to prevent the killing of wolves near the Yellowstone National Park boundary, such that this core population is secure from human-caused mortality and disturbance.

Respectfully yours,

Erik Molvar
Executive Director

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#117

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:55:32 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:58:39 AM
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Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

July 25, 2024

Lesley Robinson, Chair
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission
1420 East Sixth Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0701

RE: Proposed amendment to 2024-25 wolf hunting regulations

Dear Chair Robison and Commissioners,

Sierra Club Montana Chapter supports efforts to improve wolf management in the Gardiner Basin, just north of Yellowstone National Park. We agree with Supt. Cam Sholly's comments in his letter dated June 26, 2024, that the unethical, aggressive hunting seasons on Yellowstone wolves in Wolf Management Unit (WMU) 313 is causing significant damage to the public wildlife resource.

We would advocate for a total quota of one wolf, if this unit remains as a single WMU. Ideally we advocate for no wolf hunting here, but under Montana state law the hunt must remain open with a minimum quota of a single wolf.

While Sierra Club asserts that no hunting would be appropriate for wolves that spend 96 percent of their time in Yellowstone National Park would be the preferred option, the proposal to have a quota of one wolf is a step forward to reduce this unneeded killing of Yellowstone Park wolves. This wolf population offers incredible scientific, research and tourism values that no other place on earth offers. These wolves draw visitors from across Montana, the country and the world, and their value as public wildlife resources on the landscape far exceeds any value in killing them.

They are also essential to one of the longest-running, most comprehensive wolf research programs in the world. The studies they have been the subject of offer incredible knowledge on wolf-ungulate dynamics, wolf biology, ecological impacts of having wolves on the landscape, and the social aspects of wolf presence. In short, these wolves provide incredible data to help guide wolf management throughout the West, and in other parts of the world.

If the Commission does opt to split WMU 313 into two separate units, as proposed, Sierra Club advocates for a quota of one wolf per unit. This would help again lower the kill of Yellowstone wolves and move us closer to our conservation, wildlife recreation and tourism goals. The proposal would restore the previous system of two hunting districts to limit the impact on specific wolf packs, and potentially save some wolves from needless killing.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Caryn Miske
Montana Chapter Sierra Club Leader

#118

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 12:05:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I support no hunting of any wolves in this area as it disrupts the packs social stability. I pay good money to see them alive.

#119

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:01:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:17:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:38
IP Address: 158.68.216.40

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Fish and Game Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments on the 2024-2025 furbearer and wolf seasons in Montana. You are put in a difficult situation—trying to balance science-based, biological capacities and requirements for animals such as gray wolves, with the needs and opportunities of this state's residents, as well as the health of multiple state industries and economies. I appreciate your careful consideration of the many requests you have been and will continue to receive regarding the wildlife in this amazing state.

Biologists with MTFWP have in previous years presented several different options for proposed wolf regulation changes. This system made the public comment process more straightforward for commenters, and, hopefully, for the Commission as well. I hope MTFWP and the Fish and Game Commission returns to this multiple-proposal from state biologists as the process in the future. We live in a world where the ability to have flexible, site-specific management applications is critical. This is especially important in a heterogeneous state such as Montana, where certain management goals apply to some places and other goals to other areas, where residents deserve to have their voices heard at a local-level, and the freedom for the residents to thrive is all but written into the state constitution. This can only be achieved with more small-scale, adaptive wildlife management, instead of the current swing toward state-level applications.

Many changes were made to the wolf hunting regulations over the last few years. Some of these changes I support and others I do not. I support the lower statewide and region thresholds. I DO NOT support the quota of six (6) wolves for WMU 313. Instead, I support the splitting of WMU 313 into two units 313 and 316, back to the boundaries during the 2020 regulations. This change would reduce the chances that any single wolf pack would have to sustain all of the hunting or trapping losses. With this splitting, I support lowering the quotas for each unit to three or fewer each.

I realize wolves are a contentious topic you've encountered repeatedly over the last few years. As stated above, wolf issues would be better managed if they were approached at smaller scales. In some places wolves create chronic problems for livestock producers. I support more liberal wolf hunting and trapping seasons, means, and thresholds in those areas. In other areas, negative wolf issues are minimal and wolf hunting and trapping can reasonably be available as an opportunity for residents to hunt another Montana State Heritage Species. Hunting is a sacred way of interacting with wildlife and I ask that the Commission do everything they can to communicate that hunting in Montana is an honor and a privilege, and that, no matter the species hunted, it is a sacred right based on respect for this land and its wild inhabitants.

In one particular place, the presence of wolves has no detrimental effects on livestock or wild game species. In the area near Gardiner, MT, wolves are vitally important to the local economy. This effect stretches over to Bozeman, Big Sky, West Yellowstone, and Cooke City, MT. However, the area in question, where the visible wolves actually live, is along a 40-mile stretch of road through Yellowstone National Park. The four packs living along that road, bringing in tens of millions of dollars to Montana residents and businesses, do occasionally travel north out of Yellowstone into Montana, rarely more than 3 miles. This area is currently WMU 313. Splitting this unit and lowering the quota would not have any measurable impacts on the state-wide wolf population distribution or abundance.

In addition to the multi-million dollar wolf economy in this small area, wolves that primarily use Yellowstone are studied intensively. This research has been critical worldwide in measuring wolf biological factors in one of the few areas in the world where wolves rarely die of human-causes. This biological baseline is important to help humans understand the species, everything from effects on prey and ecosystems to behavior to adaptations. It seems a reasonable compromise to have this small area of the entire state of Montana, where wolves have not caused any problems to other industries, and that have a major contribution to the local economy, to have fine-scale management and lower quotas.

Lastly, regulation MCA 87-6-401, a prohibition on using tracking equipment to hunt wolves, was left out of the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 Wolf Hunting Regulation booklets without being addressed in each year's public comment period. Tracking wildlife for hunting purposes is in direct opposition to Fair Chase Ethics. Including this regulation in the 2023-24 booklet would align with other fair-chase

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

standards already included (trap check time requirements, specific lawful take equipment, etc.).

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. Montana's heritage as a state with abundant, healthy wildlife populations has world-renowned but recently that reputation has been called into question. Not only do Montana residents benefit from wildlife in many ways, but the state stands as an example of one of the few wild places left in the lower 48 states. Your work can help ensure the future of this honorable reputation.

Thank you,

Kira Cassidy
Gardiner, MT

#120

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trish King
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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am in favor of Commissioner Brook's amendment. One exception; I would like to see unit #313 closed to all wolf hunting. There is no reason to hunt wolves in this area and I have stated those reasons in my comments regarding the amendment, so i will not repeat those here. If the law states this area has to have a quota, then I would suggest the lowest amount possible. Please revert to a 12 hour same day closure when quotas have been met especially in unit #313. Please implement a 24 hour check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring in all units.

I am in the non-consumptive majority group consensus regarding our wolves. Please I ask that you use a different method besides IPOM to count wolves. Most agree this is not an accurate method and don't believe we have the amount of wolves on the ground that has been proposed. It would be best if you lowered the quotas in all regions and individual units to the absolute minimum requirement to ensure we have a thriving gray wolf population, rather than endangering their survival and recovery by requiring a mandatory federal protection program. I do believe wolves can manage their own and should be left alone. Livestock predations from wolves is at an all time low. Please allow our voice to be heard when making decisions on how our wolves are being managed here in Montana. Individuals making a profit and benefiting from wolf hunting should not be the only voice heard. Trapping and snaring should not be allowed in the 21st century as a conservation tool and should be outlawed.

#121

COMPLETE

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Q1

Contact information:

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Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Chair Robinson, Vice Chair Tabor, and members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our supporters in Montana, I am writing regarding the proposals for the Fall 2024 - Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping - Hunting Seasons and Quotas. According to the proposal and information sheet, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is making their recommendation to increase the statewide wolf quota from 313 wolves to 334 wolves with the continued goal of reducing the state's wolf population. This goes against the best available science and will continue to harm Montana's economy. Rather than killing more wolves, FWP should be working to conserve this species as much as possible under current state statute.

FWP's unwillingness to maintain a resilient and sustainable wolf population signals to the federal government and to courts that Montana cannot be trusted to manage wolves without federal oversight. This is underscored by the recent changes to Montana's wolf management over the past few years, including allowing organizations like the Foundation for Wildlife Management to "reimburse" the killing of wolves through what essentially amounts to a bounty. The state's determination to significantly reduce the wolf population is eerily similar to the path that resulted in listing of species under the Endangered Species Act in the first place.

Finally, there are no scientific or economic justifications for killing wolves. For the reasons described herein, we strongly urge the commission to reject any increase in wolf killing and eliminate the killing of wolves in WMU 313 to protect highly valuable Yellowstone National Park wolves. We also urge the commission to reduce the trap check time for wolf traps from 48 hours to 24 hours, and reduce the notice for closing WMU 313, a region, and/or the state to wolf trophy hunting and trapping upon reaching a quota from 24 hours to 12 hours.

1. Trophy hunting and trapping seasons are highly detrimental to wolves

The best available science does not support killing wolves and demonstrates that trophy hunting and trapping wolves can result in death and disruption beyond the individual killed. Such seasons can decrease social tolerance for wolves, increase wolf poaching, and exacerbate conflicts with livestock. Furthermore, wolves do not need to be "managed" through trophy hunting and trapping or predator control schemes, as their populations are generally controlled by prey and habitat availability as well as their territorial nature and social structure.

Wolves exposed to heavy hunting also experience increased stress and reproductive hormone imbalance. The human-caused loss of breeding females has been shown to cause complete dissolution of social groups and abandonment of territory. The human-caused loss of adults also diminishes pup survival and, consequently, the survival of the pack.

Cassidy et al. (2023) also found that human-caused wolf mortalities unfortunately occur during precarious times of the year for wolves such as when females are pregnant, and that losses generally include losses of more than one pack member—factors that harm packs' structures and abilities to persist.

In addition, a recent study demonstrates that human-caused mortality can also reduce the distance, duration, and success of dispersal for wolves. Citing others, Morales-Gonzalez et al. (2022) describe dispersal as central to population dynamics and persistence, as it allows critical gene flow and the colonization of suitable habitat. Yet, after conducting a systematic review of literature related to wolf dispersal, they conclude, "[H]uman-caused mortality reduces distance, duration and success of dispersal events. Dispersers are particularly vulnerable to human-caused mortality, and its additivity to natural mortality evidences these negative effects."

Numerous studies have detailed the effects of decreasing wildlife populations through trophy hunting, trapping, and predator control on population genetics. Frank et al. (2021) state that removing fit adults, "[C]an reshape sociospatial structure, genetic composition, fitness, and potentially affect evolution." This is particularly concerning, because, as Ausband (2022) states, "A lack of genetic diversity can result in lower reproduction and survival and ultimately increase the probability of extinction."

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Furthermore, current science demonstrates that effective population size—that is the number of individuals who are participating in the genetic health of the population—is just a fraction of the number of individuals counted (or population census). This is most alarming, as Montana works to dramatically reduce its wolf populations.

In fact, vonHoldt et al. (2024) found that the effective population size for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains and western Great Lakes has remained at just 5.2 - 9.3% of the census size since the early 2000s. They also found that northern Rocky Mountain wolves have lower genetic diversity than wolves in the Western Great Lakes region, and that their genetic diversity has declined over time with a corresponding increase in inbreeding levels. While vonHoldt et al. (2024) suggest that an effective population size—rather than the population census—for wolves should number at least 500 animals according to the 50/500 rule of conservation to ensure long-term viability, they estimated the effective population sizes were a mere 201 to 335 animals for the northern Rocky Mountains in 2021.

Notably, Frankham et al. (2014) state that even an effective population size of 500 is “too low for retaining evolutionary potential for fitness in perpetuity.” Instead, they suggest that an effective population of at least 1,000 is required to ensure long-term genetic viability.

Low effective population sizes reduce the ability of a population to adapt and respond to challenges, and can increase their risk of long-term extinction. In fact, vonHoldt et al. (2024) state, “We show that while gray wolves fall above minimum effective population sizes needed to avoid extinction due to inbreeding depression in the short term, they are below sizes predicted to avoid long-term risk of extinction.” Furthermore, “The potential for a population to respond to evolutionary challenges deteriorates as genomic variation dwindles, thereby limiting adaptive outcomes.”

2. Trapping wolves harms non-target species, pets, and wolves themselves

The Humane Society of the United States remains opposed to trapping as it causes unimaginable suffering and distress to animals. Animals exert themselves vigorously in restraining traps or snares, and experience physiological stress and/or pain, fear, shock, dehydration, and exposure to weather and other animals until they are killed. They can sustain debilitating injuries such as broken limbs, broken teeth, dislocated shoulders, hemorrhage, claw removal, tendon or ligament lacerations, fractures, joint dislocation, and amputation of digits and/or limbs. Wolves suffer greatly in traps, as Proulx et al. (2015) found during their investigation on wolf snaring affects wolves.

Similarly, Gese et al. (2019) compared the usage of foothold traps to foot snares used to capture wolves (for research) and found that many injuries are impossible to see on live animals and can only be discovered postmortem. They found that 61% of wolves who were captured in foothold traps sustained injuries to the feet and legs such as lacerations, punctures, and lost toes. Additionally, 26% of the wolves captured in foothold traps had injuries to their mouths such as cut lips and lost teeth, while 77% of the snared wolves had injuries to their mouths including gum, tongue, and lip injuries. In other words, even under the best conditions in which traps are monitored by researchers, wolves suffer grave bodily harm while restrained in foothold traps or snares, but many of those injuries are not detectable on live animals.

Additionally, wolves injured by traps or snares may later die from injuries or reduced ability to hunt or forage for food.

FWP must work to reduce the harms traps and snares cause to wolves, and indeed all animals, to the extent possible under state statute. At the very least, this must include reducing the wolf trap check time from 48 hours to 24 hours. This will lessen the injuries and suffering of trapped wolves as well as allow nontarget animals a better chance of survival.

3. Killing wolves will not reduce already rare conflicts with livestock

Science demonstrates that killing wolves does not prevent livestock losses. Livestock losses to wolves are already rare in Montana and in every area in which they live. In calendar year 2023, USDA-Wildlife Services confirmed just 23 cattle, 8 sheep, and 1 livestock guardian dog. To put that into perspective, there were more than 2.4 million cattle and sheep in the state at the start of 2023. In response to these few conflicts, 31 wolves were killed in 2023 (27 by USDA Wildlife Services and 4 by private citizens).

Many studies question the effectiveness of lethal predator control to resolve conflicts between wolves and livestock. For example, Treves et al. (2024) found that killing wolves did not reliably prevent livestock losses and could actually increase such losses. The authors state that “In every review thus far published on the effectiveness of lethal methods as a way to protect livestock from predators in general, authors from nearly 30 countries report occasional counter-productive effects resulting in higher livestock losses after predator-killing.”

Additionally, killing wolves can exacerbate conflicts with livestock by disrupting the stable social structures that wolves rely on. For example, Elbroch and Treves (2023) conclude, “[L]ethal removal has negative impacts on communities, both through potential carnivore social disruption that may impact the safety of other people’s livestock, as well as the cascading impacts of carnivore removal on ecosystem health.”

Many studies have questioned the efficacy of killing native carnivores to reduce conflicts between the native carnivores and livestock. Non-lethal methods to prevent conflicts are more effective, economical, and humane than killing wolves, as demonstrated by producers throughout Montana including in the Tom Miner Basin. Studies show that the best remedies for protecting cattle, sheep and other domestic animals come from non-lethal measures.

4. Killing wolves will not grow ungulate herds

Killing wolves and reducing the wolf population will not boost ungulate numbers. Elk and other ungulate hunting numbers in Montana continue to be consistently high and elk populations are reported to be at or above objective in many parts of the state. Even if the population was struggling, research demonstrates that while native carnivores like wolves can accelerate declines in prey populations and modulate increases, predation alone does not cause these changes in populations. Weather, disease, and habitat play a much greater role in determining deer and other ungulate population sizes.

Further, a meta-analysis of predator-prey studies assessing the overall effect of predator removal on wild ungulate populations found that predator removal had low and variable effectiveness on increasing ungulate populations. Another recent study analyzing four decades of efforts in Alaska to reduce abundance of large predators, including gray wolves, brown bears and black bears, found that there was no difference in average moose hunting success during periods of recent liberalized killing of predators relative to prior periods.

The scientific consensus for the last several decades has generally found that coursing predators like wolves and coyotes balance prey populations and make them more robust, including removing the sick and weak animals who would die of other natural causes anyway. Predator-control schemes, including recreational hunting and trapping, are an unreliable way to increase the abundance of elk and other ungulates. For example, Clark and Hebblewhite’s (2021) meta-analysis found that predator-control experiments actually caused a decline in ungulate numbers, growth rates, survival, and recruitment. Conversely, Trump et al. (2022) found that despite increasing numbers of grizzly bears, cougars, and wolves, elk hunters in Alberta killed more elk over time and their success rate increased. Treves et al. (2024) in their review article found that killing wolves generally will not increase ungulate abundance

Wolves are very good at identifying vulnerable prey, and tend to target individuals that are old, young, sick, or otherwise weakened. They prefer to prey upon deer who are already in poor health or otherwise compromised.

Wolves and other native carnivores also play a critical role in suppressing and limiting the prevalence of disease in prey species, including chronic wasting disease (CWD), an epidemic plaguing cervids that continues to spread across North America, including Montana. Wolf predation can limit or even prevent transmission of CWD and other diseases by reducing host densities and contact rates or by lowering the total number of infected individuals in a host population.

Finally, studies show that even the mere risk of human hunters has a greater indirect effect on elk resource selection than does wolf predation risk, and Montana’s elk have been found to prioritize selecting habitats that will reduce their risk of human hunters when faced with a choice between hunters and wolves. Marantz et al. (2016) found that white-tailed deer generally decreased their distance travelled micro-range area (the area used by deer for each 2-day interval studied) and exploratory behavior during the hunting season

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

traveled, home range area (the area used by deer for each 2-day interval studied), and exploratory behavior during the hunting season. The authors state that their results “indicate that deer recognize threats from humans on the landscape and adapt behavioral strategies by minimizing movement and exhibiting high residency times in well-established ranges, factors known to influence harvest susceptibility.” Additional research has also shown that deer reduce their movements and limit their use of space to smaller areas, decrease their activity in and surrounding hunting locations, and limit their daytime activity on days with higher hunting risk (e.g. weekends).

5. Wolves are valuable and provide many ecological and economic benefits

The continued quota of six wolves in WMU 313, which borders Yellowstone National Park, is particularly concerning. Such a quota conflicts with the best available science and public values, has already harmed multiple decades of world-renowned wolf research, and could damage Montana’s billion-dollar wildlife-watching tourism economy and reputation. While we appreciate the amendment proposed by Commissioner Brooke, we strongly urge this commission to set the quota for WMU 313 at zero, or at the very least, reduce the quota as much as possible.

Researchers estimated that in 2021, “direct spending by Yellowstone National Park visitors who would not have visited the park without the presence of wolves is likely at least \$82.7 million. Notably, this value includes only direct spending and does not account for the “multiplier” effect within the 3-state economy of re-spending portions of this amount by workers and business owners.” However, studies show that killing wolves in areas adjacent to protected areas (such as Yellowstone National Park) significantly reduces wolf sightings in those protected areas. Killing wolves, especially Yellowstone National Park wolves who venture into WMU 313, could therefore reduce the possibility of wolf sightings and harm Montana’s economy. Yellowstone’s wolves must be protected from exploitation by hunters and trappers by instituting a zero quota in WMU 313.

Additionally, wolves significantly and positively influence biological diversity and ecosystem function. Ecologically functioning populations of wolves have been instrumental in restoring biological diversity in the Northern Rocky Mountains. Meanwhile, elevated deer populations not only destroy forest ecosystems, but are also involved in numerous vehicle collisions and carry Lyme, a zoonotic disease. Recent studies demonstrate that wolves can reduce deer-vehicle collisions saving millions in social costs.

Wolves lose significant amounts of their kills to scavengers such as ravens, magpies, eagles, coyotes, and bears. Wolves also increase biological diversity by checking the effects of mesopredators on numerous species, to the benefit of species such as grizzly bears, pronghorn and lynx. Wolves act as a buffer to the effects of climate change by creating more carrion for scavengers and making it available year round, to the advantage of bald and golden eagles, brown bears, ravens, magpies, and coyotes.

In short, if wolves are present in ecologically functional populations, they can mediate ungulate populations, which then confers greater biological diversity and function to ecosystems. Additionally, wolves indirectly benefit numerically rare species in the face of the climate crisis. Wolves are a critical component to ecosystem health.

6. FWP must not rely on faulty population modeling estimators for its carnivores

Reducing the wolf population is contrary to the best available science and public values. There is strong scientific evidence that suggests Montana’s wolf population is already smaller than FWP purports due to considerable issues with the agency’s use of the “Integrated Patch Occupancy Modeling” (“iPOM”) method to estimate population size and the substantial human-caused mortality taking place. In an unpublished scientific review, Creel (2022) analyzes Montana and Idaho’s population modelling methods, concluding, “important changes in the wolf populations of Idaho and Montana are likely to go undetected by the monitoring methods now in use.”

Likewise, Crabtree (2023, preprint) found that the iPOM method used by Montana had a severe overestimation bias and “resulted in estimated wolf abundance 2.5 times larger than true abundance.” It likewise criticizes iPOM’s use of hunter observation of wolves during the fall, when pack structure varies spatially and numerically, as young wolves disperse, and packs are fragmented due to hunter mortality. Additionally, Crabtree (2023, preprint) concludes that, “Given iPOM’s current design, there is no ability to detect change let alone determine wolf population size.”

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Because Northern Rockies states fail to use reliable wolf-population estimating methodologies, it may be impossible to see the consequences of Montana wolf-killing policies before populations fall to critical levels. In fact, Crabtree (2023, preprint) states, "Given the sensitivity of how iPOM's spatial models result in severe overestimation bias, we fail to see how iPOM could detect any change in abundance except possibly at or near extirpation levels."

It is scientifically irresponsible to base any management decision on inaccurate data, and it harms FWP's reputation.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Humane Society of the United strongly urges the Commission to set the quota in WMU 313 at zero and reduce and eliminate wolf trophy hunting and trapping to the extent allowable by law. We also urge the commission to reduce the trap check time for wolf traps from 48 hours to 24 hours, and reduce the notice for closing WMU 313, a region, and/or the state to wolf trophy hunting and trapping upon reaching a quota from 24 hours to 12 hours. Trophy hunting and trapping wolves conflicts with the best available science and will harm Montana's eco-tourism economy and wildlife management reputation.

A more detailed and fully cited copy of these comments was submitted to the commission via email.

Sincerely,

Amanda Wight
Senior Program Manager, Wildlife Protection
The Humane Society of the United States
awight@humanesociety.org

#122

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:45:10 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:50:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:58
IP Address: 174.247.184.192

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	HManno
City/Town:	Lake Oswego
State/Province:	OR
Email Address:	thefraudess@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I've just seen this new method of not only hunting down the wolves, but specifically using technology meant to track them for conservation/preservation purposes, and turning it around as a weapon against them. True evil isn't a scary story that Stephen King writes, but the reality of daily life for the wild animals on our planet, and in particular in America, supposedly a shining beacon of righteousness, which we have fallen so far off from.

The percentage of people who hunt and the percentage of ranchers are very small, the population of wolves is much smaller. The majority of people like wildlife intact. Please stop making humans the most sinister of all villains. We do not have a right, nor a need to kill these animals. We could leave the deer that we won't eat for them we could stop using tradition as an excuse. Traditionally, they didn't have any of these technological advances and depraved ideas used as an excuse for hunting.

You are the stewards of the last resources this country has. Protect the animals instead of hunting them. Please.

#123

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:34:47 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:23:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:25
IP Address: 47.153.241.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Joy L Burk
City/Town:	Barstow
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	my06dyna@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I request banning the following cruel, inhumane methods: trapping, snaring, e.g., foot hold traps, neck snares, and body gripping ground sets [not an all-inclusive list]. Also, ban baiting wolves, night hunting, use of telemetry equipment, and the use of a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats. The unacceptable methods need to be banned for trapping and hunting of furbearers, predatory animals, and nongame wildlife.

These methods are extremely cruel, and regulations allow for the animals to languish up to 48 hours suffering - this is unacceptable.

The regulations rely on hunters, trappers, and private landowners to report unlawful acts of capture, killings, and trappings of furbearers, wolves, and unintentional targeted animals. How is this regulated? On a daily basis how is oversight conducted by officials that regulations are being adhered to? Noteworthy: Putting faith that humans will abide by these regulations and report unlawful acts is irrational.

Personally, I am offended and disappointed in the regulations. Open seasons, quotas, and methods that are allowed to cause suffering and inhumanely kill wolves and other furbearing wildlife is appalling.

I interpret the regulations as being an all-out assault against wolves and other furbearing wildlife. Regulations have prohibiting laws and rules but the manner in which they would be upheld is questionable. The prohibitions would require daily, constant oversight by officials to monitor human actions during the seasons allowed for trapping/killing of the wildlife species.

To regurgitate - please ban trapping, snaring, e.g., foot hold traps, neck snares, and body gripping ground sets [not an all-inclusive list]. Also, ban baiting wolves, night hunting, use of telemetry equipment, and the use of a dog or dogs to aid in pursuing mountain lions and bobcats. The unacceptable methods need to be banned for trapping and hunting of furbearers, predatory animals, and nongame wildlife.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Joy Burk

#124

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:32:37 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:35:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:00
IP Address: 184.166.145.11

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Eric Clewis
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	eclewis@defenders.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

July 25, 2023

Fish and Wildlife Commission
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

RE: 2023-2024 Wolf Trapping and Hunting Season Proposal

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposal for the 2023-2024 wolf trapping and hunting season. Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit conservation organization with 9,300 members and supporters in Montana and more than 2.1 million nationwide. Over the last three decades, Defenders has played an important role in the restoration of wolves in the Northern Rockies. This work included our long-running livestock loss compensation program and our ongoing conflict reduction program. We transitioned our compensation program and a \$100,000 start-up fund to the Montana Livestock Loss Board in 2008 and continue to assist livestock producers in Montana and across the West with conflict reduction tools and techniques to minimize losses to wolves and other predators. We operate these projects in partnership with county, state, tribal and federal agencies.

The 2021 Montana legislature passed several laws that conflict with ethical, science-based wildlife management and contradict the facts on the ground. These harmful laws tied the hands of the agency's own experts and the Commission. While we acknowledge that this Commission is bound by statute to reduce the wolf population, killing wolves to manage for the lowest possible number is not just unsustainable, it also violates the way in which we manage native wildlife in this country. The commission has previously been presented with a suite of options that fell within legislative directions ranging from liberal harvest and methods of take to more conservative approaches. While none of these options were befitting of managing this species, the commission has consistently gone a step beyond obligations placed upon them by statute and went with the most extreme wolf hunting/trapping proposal possible. We ask that you consider this season setting process as an opportunity to move this agency back towards its intended purpose of managing wildlife based upon the best available science to the benefit of all Montanans. We therefore request that the Commission accept the proposals laid out in Commissioner Brooke's amendment, remove provisions allowing snaring, night hunting, and baiting, and retain snaring restrictions in Lynx Protection Zones (LPZs). Finally, we propose that the quotas around Yellowstone National Park be set to not exceed the proposed numbers laid out in Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cameron Sholly's recent letter to the Commission recommending that the Commission revert back to having two separate WMUs (former units 313 and 316) with the quota split between the two.

The rationale behind continued persecution of this species conflicts with the department's own data. Statements made by politicians and anti-wildlife interests that wolves are decimating Montana's deer and elk herds are simply not factual, and their efforts to see more wolves killed due to this belief amounts to a drastic misunderstanding of the status of ungulate populations in this state. FWP has consistently made it clear that deer and elk numbers are robust across Montana. The 2023 Elk Count Spreadsheet on the department's website demonstrates that regions 1 and 7 are both near the elk population objectives and regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are either at, or over, objective.

Additionally, there is not sufficient information on projected long-term impacts to the wolf population and regional connectivity that would result from continued implementation of extreme hunting and trapping methods aimed at drastic population reduction. In fact, there is widespread concern about the efficacy of Montana's wolf population assessment and its ability to detect wolf population declines. Dr. Scott Creel, a widely renowned carnivore population ecologist out of Montana State University, released an assessment of the improved Patch Occupancy Modeling (iPOM) used to assess Montana's wolf population. In his report, he noted that iPOM, as a

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

series of unrelated models, compounds error within each individual model component. Furthermore, the estimation error found within the territory size model alone is so large that it makes the entire model inaccurate. The iPOM method can only be an effective tool for managing Montana's wolf population if this department begins to utilize some form of intensive field-monitoring of wolves once again. The commission should take a hard look at the best available science and incorporate the findings of Dr. Creel into its decision-making process. Lastly, in a recent letter submitted to the commission, the National Park Service pointed out that iPOM is "unable to provide providing fine-scale wolf abundance metrics." As such, iPOM should not be used to estimate wolf abundance adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone National Park's wolves, the same that are found in WMU 313, are unequivocally prized for their worldwide social interest and scientific and economic importance. Montana gains significant economic benefit from tourism dollars spent in and around National Parks and many gateway businesses rely heavily on these dollars. In 2020, 3.9 million national park visitors to Montana spent approximately \$445 million in local gateway regions and supported 6,690 jobs and \$619 million in economic output to the Montana economy. Widespread killing of wolves in Montana and especially the killing of Yellowstone wolves when they cross the park border, result in negative economic impacts to small businesses that rely on tourism. According to the Greater Yellowstone Wildlife-Related Activity Valuation Study completed in 2022, wolf tourism is estimated to contribute just over \$82 million to gateway communities in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks continues to be at a crossroads with wolf management. This agency has been advancing work to reduce conflict and balance wolf recovery with other goals, however, extreme anti-wolf legislation and regulation is increasing division and mistrust. We urge you to carefully consider your options and choose the approach that best preserves the legacy of sound wildlife management that this agency has fostered in the past.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Eric Clewis
Senior Representative, Northern Rockies
Defenders of Wildlife
eclewis@defenders.org

#125

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 1:40:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:40:22 PM
Time Spent: 01:00:10
IP Address: 69.145.21.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	KC York
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	info@trapfreemt.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commissioners,

Firstly, we do not think our public comment on wolf and furbearers should be combined unless the proposal/s applies to all. This is especially true given the significantly limited verbal comment we have been allocated before this Commission. To be given 2 minutes, at best, to speak up on behalf of multiple species and proposals is completely unrealistic and disingenuous to the public process.

Secondly, there are a number of points to be made in the proposals, one of which for the trapping proposals does nothing for the trapped, but seeks instead to clarify for the trapper. When will that ever change?

For wolves, we urge again for the following, all of which are still within the MCAs:

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Reinstate 2 wolf total quota for combined 313 & 316 or 1 wolf each per unit.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Prohibit leaving wolf carcass in the field. Require all wolves be presented.

Have uniform and inclusive forms for the reported wolf kill.

Replace IPOM with better peer reviewed methodology for wolf population estimates.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

All quota overages come off the next years quota.

For trapping regulation change proposals:

Pg 10 To be consistent, expanded setbacks need to include the word "snares".

Pg 6 "Body gripping" term is confusing as a foothold is a body grip trap and in which the setback should apply to as well from occupied dwellings. Trap Free Montana has assisted petowners with small foothold/leghold traps injuring their pet and close to home. The term "killing ground set" could be replaced with the verbiage "conibear or kill traps".

Non-Target Capture Requirement- under cannot be lawfully trapped or snared, needs to include or if season is closed, overall or individual quota has been met.

The Commission and the public should be informed of species under the ESA, i.e. grizzly, lynx, wolverine, who are trapped or snared. Excess take should include more than just wolves.

Pg 6 Pelt possession should exclude wolverine.

Pg 15 wolf quotas and Commission now no longer to meet because the meetings were a pointless smokescreen and despite the many advocates who repeatedly dropped everything and registered but none were ever permitted to speak. The public should still be made aware when quotas are approaching. How will that occur? The dashboard has lacked accuracy or disclosure in a timely manner.

Page 12: Landowner permission to "trap" needs to be included.

On behalf of our constituents, for the wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals, we continue to request the following trapping regulations:

24 hour trap checks.

Mandatory reporting of beaver trapped, quotas, and limited trapping season. Currently there is no quota and the beaver trapping season runs 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year with no reporting required!

Eliminate use of snares on public lands.

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Closure of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons.

Prohibition of trapping in state parks.

Increased trap setbacks to 500' on ALL public roads and trails.

Require signage of trapping on public lands.

Close trapping seasons before upland game bird seasons.

Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.

No matter the species, OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

We will stop there. Unfortunately, there are many more needs in the indiscriminate cruelty of trapping in our state. Yet, under this Gianforte administration and Commission, we cannot manage to get any improvements. Instead we are going backwards in and maltreatment of wildlife and threats to public safety from trapping. Montana still remains one of the worst in the nation for its lax and absent trapping regulations.

Sincerely,

KC York and of behalf of our board of directors

President/Founder

Trap Free Montana

PO Box 335

Hamilton, MT 59840

#126

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:29:09 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:44:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:31
IP Address: 67.143.192.79

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Deborah Slicer
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	deborahslicer031@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Trapping or hunting wolves in 313 or Region 3 should not be an option, particularly in 313, Yellowstone wolves. You're already familiar with the many reasons that wolf proponents give---no fair chase, tourist revenues, removal impacts ongoing science studies, the intrinsic value of individuals. I won't waste my time or yours working these arguments in depth. I've attended many meetings, hearings, and I've testified and written letters and had phone conversations with commissioners over the last 8 years. I was very involved 3 years ago when commissions, after consulting Doug Smith, did lower the limits in 313, and appreciate that.

obvious that commissioners aren't listening. But much more needs to be done on behalf of the nonconsumptive public. I now believe, along with many other wildlife advocates in the state, that in order to be heard, we need to pursue legal options against the state of Montana and I'm putting my energy into those efforts. Dr. Deborah Slicer

#127

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 12:10:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:56:26 PM
Time Spent: 02:46:25
IP Address: 217.138.206.46

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Regan Downey, Wolf Conservation Center
City/Town: South Salem
State/Province: NY
Email Address: regan@nywolf.org

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Montana's proposed wolf hunting and trapping regulations for 2024-2025. On behalf of the Wolf Conservation Center's members who reside in Montana, we ask you to reconsider your proposed regulations and vote in favor of Commissioner Brooke's amendment, which would revert Unit 313 to WMU 313 and WMU 316 and limit the overall kill quota to six wolves. Ideally, we would request a quota of zero wolves but are aware of the restrictions.

We encourage the Commission to shorten the quota closure time from 24 hours to 12 hours, recognizing that several regions have exceeded their quota over the last few years due to long closure times. Excess killing, especially when the quota is already devastatingly high, will further decimate wolf populations and could potentially destroy entire packs. If a quota is exceeded, we ask that the difference be applied to the quota for that region in the following year. The state's reliance on iPOM, a flawed population estimation method that has been heavily criticized by multiple scientists, suggests that the state's wolf population is certainly lower than recorded and highlights the need for more strict quota monitoring.

Finally, we request 24-hour trap checks and no snaring of wolves on public lands. Traps are inhumane and inherently nonselective. They injure and kill countless nontarget animals annually, including endangered and threatened species and even family pets. Traps often injure people too when attempting to release a trapped animal.

We look forward to submitting additional comments regarding season dates for the October meeting.

#128

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:35:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:40:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:45
IP Address: 192.161.70.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Adam Kever
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: adam.kever@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am in favor of a buffer zone of protection around Yellowstone National Park concerning wolf hunts and trapping. I am also in favor of greatly reducing the number of wolf hunt permits statewide. These opinions are strong, and I consider these animals an important resource both culturally and economically.

#129

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 12:39:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:08:09 PM
Time Spent: 03:28:49
IP Address: 184.166.96.83

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lizzy Pennock**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **lpennock@wildearthguardians.org**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am submitting comments on the wolf hunting (and trapping) regulations on behalf of WildEarth Guardians. Due to the severe and undisclosed limitations of how much text I can put in this box, I am providing a truncated version of my comments here which accompany the substantive comments I emailed to all Commissioners and FWP Director Temple. We are against all recreational hunting and trapping of wolves because wolves have an inherent right to exist, we have the tools and knowledge to coexist with them, and they are good for our ecosystems and small businesses. Recognizing legislative constraints and the political climate, we recommend:

1. A kill quota of 126, which is 14% of a population of 900 (the lower end of the population estimate range provided by iPOM). Research has shown that a 14% reduction can halt or reverse population growth, meaning that a quota of 126 both conserves wolves and keeps the Commission in line with relevant legislative constraints.
 2. FWP is charged with managing wolves for the public. Wolf hunters and trappers represent approximately 0.64% of Montana residents, and yet they are responsible (with non-resident hunters and trappers) for killing 26% of the states wolf population last year. This 'management' is misaligned with FWP's mission.
 3. The kill quota in WMU 313 should be one, only because zero is not possible. Or, if WMU splits into two by reinstating WMU 316, the quota should be one in each unit.
 4. FWP must contend with the multiple expert analyses discrediting iPOM as an accurate way to estimate the wolf population, and should use a different population model that actually tells us how many wolves we have.
 5. Killing wolves does not benefit ungulate populations, which are generally healthy throughout the state.
 6. Wolves killed 0.0014% of Montana's livestock inventory last year, and in response, wolf managers killed 2.8% of the state's wolf population, which is a 2000x greater impact to the wolf population than the livestock inventory. The lethal removals must stop in favor of non-lethal coexistence measures, which are effective long term.
 7. Our substantive comments address wolf trapping, and we will address trapping further during the next comment period since trapping has been moved to October on the Commission's agenda.
-

#130

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:49:54 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:19:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:49
IP Address: 99.182.21.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Doris Glassberg
City/Town:	Valencia
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	wolfpup4me@gmaim.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The hunting, trapping, snaring of wolves in Montana needs to end.

-Wolf killing quotas in wolf management Area WMU 313 needs to be reduced from 6 to 4 wolves (preferably 0 wolves).

-Closure needs to be same day (12 hours) when the quota of dead wolves has been met-most importantly in Yellowstone area WMU 313!

-Traps need a 24 hour check requirement for wolf snaring and trapping so the terrible injuries and pain inflicted on these wolves is not prolonged any longer than necessary. No wolf or animal should ever be subjected to this archaic practice but there it is. Please consider ending these practices for good.

-You need to be listening and truly respecting the non-consumptive community when it comes to wolf killing/hunting. Millions of people from all over the world come to Montana to see wolves alive and do not approve of the cruel ways in which wolves and wildlife are "managed". This not a "harvest" it is just killing and torture. Montana's economy gets a lot of money from tourism and your continued allowance for wolf killing sends a very negative message to tourists and the American public.

#131

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:27:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 67.143.208.123

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	John L. Carter
City/Town:	FROMBERG
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	johnlcarter9192@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I would like to see Otter quotas raised in D-5. I think an increase to 8 Otters total would not be to high and would give trappers a chance to harvest an Otter in D-5.

#132

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:34:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:36:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 72.164.171.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Christina Parker**
Email Address: **christinaparker007@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Eliminate snares on public land.

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units.

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met.

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

#133

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:34:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:38:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:38
IP Address: 104.179.41.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Juan Hernandez**
Email Address: **jhgreen715@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am Asking In your Power to stop killing of innocent Wolves , They restore Ecosystems, we need them 🙏🙏🙏🙏 • Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

- Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
- Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known

CWD units

- Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#134

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:40:01 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:40:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:34
IP Address: 142.127.37.60

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Robin**
Email Address: **ballad.00-signed@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#135

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:41:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:18
IP Address: 70.187.56.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dawn McQueen-Shaw**
Email Address: **madshawpns@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
-

#136

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:41:42 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:42:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 24.103.123.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Linda Fighera
City/Town:	Rhinebeck
State/Province:	NY
Email Address:	teddylucylinda@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#137

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:41:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:43:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 108.28.226.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John Chernitsky**
Email Address: **jpcnva@verizon.net**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#138

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:36:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:48:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:56
IP Address: 76.104.9.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jennifer K**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I don't have to share with you how wolves are an important part of the ecosystem in the US. Wolf trapping can set off a plethora of unintended suffering to wolves and other area animals. When thinking about this upcoming season and the quotas, please consider eliminating any type of snare on public land and implement a mandatory trap check every 12 hours to limit unnecessary pain and suffering. Please prohibit any type of baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units. Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. Lastly, considering using peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#139

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:46:48 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:48:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:46
IP Address: 24.80.197.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Bronwen Evans
City/Town:	Vancouver
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	bronwynnevans@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#140

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:48:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:49:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:27
IP Address: 45.19.30.36

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sandra Couch**
Email Address: **sndrcch@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#141

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:47:09 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:50:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 76.164.122.249

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Mrs Lisa Jameson**
Email Address: **Monarchpark123@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota, ban snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks, stop baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units, reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met, use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

#142

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:48:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:50:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:19
IP Address: 73.158.118.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: ariel spilsbury
City/Town: San rafael CA
State/Province: CA
Email Address: immayan@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

WOLVES ARE RIGHT UP THERE WITH WHALES IN INTELLIGENCE. THERE IS NO REASON TO HUNT THESE AMAZING FAMILY ORIENTED BEINGS. PLEASE HAVE COMPASSION AND STOP THIS HUNT AND ANY PLANS TO HARM THIS AMAZING ANIMALS!!!

#143

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:51:48 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:53:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:56
IP Address: 98.61.90.98

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Paul Moss**
Email Address: **paul@themailpath.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

It is important to me that wolves and other furbearers be protected. Please consider the following comments:

- 1) Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
- 2) Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
- 3) Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
- 4) Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
- 5) Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

#144

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:48:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:59:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:45
IP Address: 73.143.204.202

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kim Sterrett**
Email Address: **mightymousemc3@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please take care to protect wolves, they are so demonized. There are many things to be done to ensure their rightful place in the environment. Limit wolf hunting season, eliminate snares and baiting, remove overquota kills from next year's quota. Since the tragedy in Wyoming with the cruel maiming and killing of a female wolf, Citizens are realizing that we do not need the 1800s settler mentality regarding wolves and other wildlife, and the world is watching. Thank you.

#145

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:56:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:01:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:11
IP Address: 216.237.240.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tami Mcnerney**
Email Address: **mntnb@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

#146

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:02:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:07:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:19
IP Address: 71.209.246.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Marielle Marne**
Email Address: **fedexit@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Let's undo unsportsman-like practices. Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units. If we can't NOT kill these magnificent animals, remove over quota kills from next year's quota. Letting wolves live and thrive would be best.

#147

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:04:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:15:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:40
IP Address: 100.17.21.195

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please base wolf-hunting seasons and quotas on peer-reviewed science—it's been dismally lacking in the past. Given the numbers last year, reduce the wolf-hunting season, especially when quotas are met near Yellowstone. If you establish a quota for wolf kills, stick with it—no over-quota kills. To reduce suffering and reduce non-target species' deaths, eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Baiting ain't sporting: get rid of it. Ban hunting in CWD units. You're supposed be protecting wildlife rather than weighting everything towards hunters. PLEASE make it so. Thank you.

#148

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:47:26 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:19:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:58
IP Address: 97.113.156.107

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sophia K Keller
City/Town: Seattle
State/Province: WA
Email Address: keltiawind@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

It is critical to our wildlife that wolves be stewarded to survive in the wild. As a keystone species, wolves are essential to maintain the natural balance of the ecosystem they inhabit. Please observe these adjustments in wolf management:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units.

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met/

And please use peer-reviewed for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

As a concerned wildlife preservationist, I thank you.

#149

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:21:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:21:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:26
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Amanda King**

City/Town: **Pays**

State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#150

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:18:03 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:26:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:17
IP Address: 73.196.12.211

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Darcy Lion
City/Town: Bloomfield
State/Province: NJ
Email Address: dlion49@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Totally unnecessary to hunt animals in this day and age. After the horrific., sadistic killing by Corey Roberts, of a young female wolf by crushing her with his snowmobile, I would think you would be more sensitive to protecting wildlife. It's time to step up and reduce quotas and ban cruel hunting practices. Time to act like civilized human beings.

#151

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:13:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:26:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:44
IP Address: 24.148.0.49

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Lane Silvas**
Email Address: **lanesilvastoday@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission:

Keep vital Montana wolves free from destruction of their packs. We must protect wolves as they are a vital part of a healthy ecosystem. These are items in which we can protect the wolves future and our future so our children inherit a healthy Montana ecosystem. First off, remove over quota kills from next year's quota. Second, eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. A real human does not allow other creatures on this earth to suffer in indiscriminate snares. Third, prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units. This is ridiculous to have to say this but baiting is absolutely dominance not sport. Fourth, reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. We need to protect access for wolves and other creatures to Yellowstone. Finally, use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species. And furthermore, Yellowstone National Park requested that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota for wolves that hunters and trappers can kill just outside the park. Yellowstone National Park superintendent Cam Sholly sent a letter to the Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter. If these 5 actions are taken, we are ensuring healthy wolf ecosystems and a thriving ecosystem for our children now and in the future to enjoy and be proud of in the glory of nature.

Thank you,
Lane Silvas

#152

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:28:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:30:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 73.222.167.197

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Carlene Visperas
City/Town:	Concord
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	cinkies@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please protect the wolves.

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Yellowstone National Park is requesting that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota for wolves that hunters and trappers can kill just outside the park. Yellowstone National Park superintendent Cam Sholly sent a letter to the Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter.

#153

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:25:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:33:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:49
IP Address: 174.196.68.232

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Cindy Arblaster**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I'm taking the time to comment bc I feel that wolves and other wild animals in the Montana ecosystem need as much protection as they can get when it involves trapping and hunting! First off, I think trapping should be illegal since it is INCREDIBLY CRUEL when animals caught in traps suffer! I don't understand why this is even still permitted, it makes me sick. Secondly, all animals, play a part in balancing nature and to be killed just to make PEOPLE happy is just sad. They were here before us. And anyone who traps or hunts just to kill and not eat the animal must have something wrong with them. Why would anyone enjoy killing just for the sake of killing? I love wolves, bears, mountain lions, coyotes, and all the prey species likes raccoons and rabbits. I am asking if all these animals could please get the respect they deserve from humans. As I said, they were here first! Thanks very much.

#154

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:41:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 6:42:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 75.190.17.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Catherine Sims**
Email Address: **cassys@vt.edu**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota, eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks, prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units, reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met, use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#155

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:01:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:04:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:49
IP Address: 66.75.57.71

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Nan Chen**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are essential for our ecosystems and environment. PLEASE:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#156

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:03:14 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:07:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 173.49.237.165

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda L Granato**
Email Address: **I_granato1@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are incredible and amazing animals. They are a keystone species that hold a special, necessary part in the ecosystem. I believe fully that we should support and protect them completely. Please consider the following:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#157

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:02:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:08:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:38
IP Address: 13.57.217.206

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Heather L Clements**
Email Address: **qnyx67@proton.me**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As apex predators, wolves are an essential element for a healthy and resilient ecosystem. It is essential that we make sure that their numbers are consistent and that we prevent over trapping of these beautiful animals. Please remove over quota kills from next year's quota. Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units. Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species. Thank you.

#158

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:10:23 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:10:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:20
IP Address: 71.193.182.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Fern Walker**
Email Address: **fernbluwalker@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#159

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:10:01 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:12:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:33
IP Address: 50.205.223.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Paula Wiiken**
Email Address: **pjwiiken@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Prohibit baiting, reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met.
Wolves are a keystone species, crucial to a healthy environment.

#160

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:24:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:28:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:26
IP Address: 107.3.111.100

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Meagan
City/Town: Bighorn
State/Province: MT
Email Address: tiling_manioc.0g@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
Yellowstone National Park is requesting that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota for wolves that hunters and trappers can kill just outside the park. Yellowstone National Park superintendent Cam Sholly sent a letter to the Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter.

Give wolves a break. We need them!!!

#161

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:27:42 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:30:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 24.118.228.187

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mike Bieniek
City/Town:	Minneapolis
State/Province:	MN
Email Address:	mpb321@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Here are my requests since I am a biologist and understand the brutal methods (including torture) some individuals use. I am as much a stakeholder when it comes to public lands:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Thank you for your time.

Mike Bieniek

#162

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:38:24 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:39:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:28
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: James Creed
City/Town: Pays
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#163

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:40:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:41:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:58
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sally Knight**

City/Town: **Whitefish**

State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#164

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:41:18 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:42:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:49
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Simon Kaiser**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#165

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:37:45 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:42:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:55
IP Address: 76.21.111.80

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephanie Farac
City/Town:	Novato
State/Province:	CA
Email Address:	sfarac13@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Hello- I would recommend the following changes to season quotas and rules:

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know!

I traveled to Montana a great deal. I have timeshare properties there. I spend my time recreating on the public land. I love to look for wildlife, tracks, scat, anything in the outdoors that shows animals are present. I enjoy seeing wildlife out there. I bring my family and my children wolves are beautiful animals. They are America's predators. They do not need to be treated like vermin. You are not setting a good example for, the state. You show that Wolves don't matter and they can be eradicated. I expect better people on the commission. You should be telling Montanans that wolves are beneficial to the environment and they are native to our American lands. I want my children to grow up and see Wolves in the wild. I don't want to only see Wolves in Yellowstone Park. It is not fair. You allow Wolves to be killed on public land. I have a right and I have a say. thank you very much and please take my considerations to heart.

#166

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:42:16 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:43:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:05
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Magnuss Larsen**
City/Town: **Whitefish**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#167

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:42:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:43:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:05
IP Address: 173.71.68.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Julia Cranmer**
Email Address: **jcranmer3@comcast.net**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#168

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:43:33 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:44:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:55
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Allie Gates**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#169

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:44:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:46:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Richard Kruger**

City/Town: **Billings**

State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#170

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:46:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:46:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:42
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Steve Kostelnik
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#171

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:39:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:47:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:02
IP Address: 72.76.252.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **GLORIA A KIM**
City/Town: **Edgewater**
State/Province: **NJ**
Email Address: **gloria.kim@consultcti.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission,

I hope this letter finds you well. As someone who believes in the importance of maintaining a balance between our natural resources and responsible management, I want to address several key issues regarding our wildlife policies.

Firstly, it is essential that we remove over quota kills from next year's quota. When the number of animals killed exceeds the established quota, it impacts the balance we aim to maintain. Carrying these overages into the next year's quota will ensure we are not jeopardizing wildlife populations.

Additionally, we must eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Snares are an inhumane and indiscriminate method of trapping that poses a significant threat to wildlife, including non-target species. By implementing 24-hour trap checks, we can reduce the suffering of trapped animals and minimize unintended captures.

I propose we prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) units. Baiting increases the risk of disease transmission among wildlife populations, and it is crucial to protect our wolf populations from the spread of CWD.

Moreover, we should reduce the wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. Yellowstone is a national treasure, and its wolf population is a critical component of the ecosystem. By reducing the trapping season and closing units near the park, we can help ensure the long-term survival of these iconic animals.

It is also imperative that we use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species. Relying on scientifically sound methods for estimating populations will improve the accuracy of our data and help us make better-informed decisions. Transparency in reporting trapping incidents will build public trust and accountability.

In conclusion, these measures are not only sensible but necessary to ensure the sustainable management of our wildlife resources. I urge you to consider these proposals seriously and take action to protect our natural heritage.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters.

#172

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:47:05 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:47:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:47
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Sean Hengstler**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#173

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:48:01 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:48:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:42
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Robert Beuchel
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#174

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:41:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:48:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:44
IP Address: 75.206.89.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Pedro Uribe**
Email Address: **pedrouribe@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Hello dear members of this commission.

I want to express my deep concern for the current levels of protections for Gray wolfs and wolves in general. They need our help, our protection, as these are endangered or soon to be endangered species, subject to extreme cruelty when being hunted and killed.

I'm asking from you that you do the following in order to help ecosystem remain sustainable by:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

It's essential that we do our best to maintain a healthy wolf population, making sure that true and up to date data drives quotas and hunting requirements, and that any killing be done in the most humane way possible.

Thank you for your consideration

#175

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:47:50 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:49:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 172.58.242.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Peter Wood**
City/Town: **Cornwall**
State/Province: **NY**
Email Address: **nativeofny1@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

PLEASE:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#176

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:00:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:49:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:25
IP Address: 174.215.4.233

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Michael McKenrick
City/Town: Boulder
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Hello! I am writing this comment in mild opposition to the proposed Trapping Regulation Changes.

I don't believe snares should be added to the definition of Ground Sets. I believe they are set different enough that a bulk definition of Ground Sets would be incorrect and would leave much room for regulation errors. Footholds are typically set with a bait or lure and snares are set without bait or lure and meant to go around the neck.

Thank you for your time. Have a good day.

#177

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:48:59 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:49:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:49
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sal di Firenze
City/Town: Billings
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#178

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:50:06 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:50:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:46
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Frank Village
City/Town: Whitefish
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#179

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:51:15 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:52:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:46
IP Address: 47.153.23.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris Leonard**
City/Town: **Billings**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
 - Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
 - Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
 - Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
 - Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
-

#180

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:24:27 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:53:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:40
IP Address: 75.134.134.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Barbara Resheske**
Email Address: **artsiebarbie@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Cameron Sholly, Superintendent of Yellowstone, asked that wolf hunting regs be changed due to hunting and trapping taking too high a toll on Montana's wolf population. Yet, he has been ignored. Poaching is at an all time high across the states where wolves reside, to keep an accurate tally of numbers of wolves please use peer reviewed methods for population estimates. Remove quota kills from last years quota to ensure reliable estimates. Eliminate snares that leave not only wolves to suffer immeasurable harm, but keep a count of other animals that are caught in these cruel devices. To leave an animal suffer without 24 hour trap checks is felonious.. it is a felony to abuse animals. You have the power to prevent this cruelty and it must be done. Either shut snare and traps down or make it a law that they must be checked every 24 hours. Without ethics and morals we become less than the animals we torture. Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units is only common sense. Stop wolves trapping in units where quotas are met. You are called to protect and serve the animals you have jurisdiction over, not to pander to hunters and trappers . When quotas are met close the killing of wolves down. Keep a count of wolves and incidental killing of random animals who are harvested by snares and traps. (Please send me the number of helpless victims who have been found in these snares and traps. As a citizen and taxpayer I have a right to know.) Please use your power over animals with wisdom and compassion. Humans are their voice.

#181

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:47:28 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:01:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:39
IP Address: 50.45.150.124

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Claudia Hasenhuttl**
Email Address: **claudiahasi@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Please make changes to the state's wolf hunting regulations in the management unit that borders Yellowstone National Park. 13 gray wolves known to live in the park were killed by humans during the 2023-24 wolf hunting season, which is roughly 10% of the wolf population, and led to the "dissolution" of three of the park's known wolf packs.

Parks are supposed to represent a safety net for these majestic creatures, but instead, they are being lured by horrific methods away from their safety just so they can be murdered by some special interest groups. The American public is proud to have some remaining places where iconic species such as the gray wolf can still exist in their natural environment and be viewed.

So, I urge you to please remove over quota kills from next year's quota, eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks.

Please prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units, and reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. And finally, please use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

Thank you for your time,
Claudia Hasenhuttl

#182

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 7:50:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:02:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:45
IP Address: 104.190.209.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Billie Derham**
State/Province: **ID**
Email Address: **pnowoman@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I am pleading with you to be merciful to wolves. They are such noble, family oriented sentient beings, who know love and comfort, fear and pain as much as we do. Please think of them, and help them to live, and not be hunted mercilessly to extinction. Wolves are very dear to me, and are the ancestors of our own domestic dogs, and we all love our dogs. Please remove over quota kills from next years quotas. Please eliminate snares on public lands. Please require 24 hour check on traps. Please prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units. Please reduce wolf trapping season. Please close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. Thank you for considering these measures. Remember the wolves. Bless the wolves.

#183

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:17:25 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:21:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 12.216.211.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Querido Galdo**
Email Address: **querido@queridomundo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolves are keystone species that are critical to the health of our wild ecosystems. They must be protected as much as possible.

Here are some key points I support:

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
- Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks. Snares are cruel--no animal should suffer them.
- Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
- Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
- Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Thank you for your time and attention.

#184

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:11:21 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:23:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:08
IP Address: 66.30.252.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Eileen Hennessy**
Email Address: **eileen.hennessy@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

As an advocate for the protection of our nation's endangered wolves, I am writing in support of the following measures to ensure the protection of these essential apex predators who are so vital in maintaining the balance of our ecosystems:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

I fully support the reduction of the quota for endangered wolves that hunters and trappers be allowed to kill outside Yellowstone National Park. I call on Montana FWP to ensure the protection and preservation of endangered wolves in the state for future generations. Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments on this most urgent issue that effects all Americans and future generations. .

#185

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:20:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:26:42 PM
Time Spent: 03:06:37
IP Address: 206.127.77.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chris Morgan
City/Town:	Boulder
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	c.morgan11@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

MCA 87-1-217 states "in managing large predators, the primary goal of the department, in order of priority, are to: Protect humans, livestock, and pets; Preserve and enhance the safety of the public during outdoor recreational and livelihood activities; and preserve citizen's opportunities to hunt large game species.

MCA 87-1-901 states "the commission shall establish by rule hunting and trapping seasons for wolves with the intent to reduce the population in this state to a sustainable level, but not less than the number of wolves necessary to support at least 15 breeding pairs.

Currently, the department is not upholding its legal commitment to either of these laws.

Since wolf reintroduction 30 years ago, per FWP statistics, available moose tags across the state have been reduced by more than 40%. I could list other big game species with similarly reduced tags, but is there really a need to? Recently the commission adopted aggressive increases in limits of mountain lions in multiple regions (including region 3) to help relieve predation on struggling ungulate populations. Why do we utilize these statutes for one predator, but not another?

Region 3 continues to be the only region where wolf quotas fall far below average yearly harvest prior to seasonal quotas being adopted. Although both the packs per region and wolves per region in Montana's 2023 annual wolf report show lower than previous years, the population growth rate chart clearly shows the population in region 3 is on the rise. Which are we to go by? According the former wolf biologist for the region (stated in a public meeting on 4/20/24) who left the department to go to Oregon, there was no shortage of wolves in the region. He voiced his frustration that the department had adopted a lower quota than what was the previous yearly average take. He apparently told the Game Management Bureau chief the same thing. His communications to the region 3 commissioner were that the population was not increasing. I would like to know who I should believe. I do not feel we should be relying solely on IPOM to make these decisions. None of this realistically is of any concern though as MCA 87-1-901 specifies a statewide reduction, not regional reductions.

On the topic of statewide reductions, here are some interesting statistics to ponder: By the department's own admission, a sustained reduction of 30% of the total population is required to reduce the overall population of wolves. In the three seasons leading up to the mandated reduction of wolves, the average percentage of wolves taken per total population was 27.6%. The overall population during those 3 years increased by 57 wolves. These numbers essentially justify the department's claim.

In the three seasons since that legislation has been passed, the average percentage of wolves taken per total population is 23.9%. The overall population in those 3 years has declined by 79 wolves. How is it we're killing nearly 4% fewer wolves, and our population is decreasing significantly? Although I appreciate the department's suggestion to increase the statewide population, I do not believe the continued reduced quota in region 3 is justified. I would ask the commission to either adopt a statewide quota and eliminate regional quotas, or increase the region 3 quota to a number closer to 75 which would reflect the average annual harvest prior to the reduction last year.

I can appreciate Commissioner Kirby Brooke's amendment to disperse the quota bordering YNP over two separate units, but there is no biological justification for it. Nearly every year prior to delisting, the packs inside of YNP, per the park's annual wolf reports, have had multiple litters. On average, one pack dispersed, and a new one formed. Both have held true after delisting. In the park superintendent's recent letter, he makes it sound as if that is a new phenomenon directly associated with wolves being killed legally along Yellowstone's border. Their own data disproves that myth. It is also worth noting history has shown us the park can healthily sustain around 100 wolves. In 2004, the park's wolves numbered 171. That was the first year mange was present in wolves inside the park. The previous year, the overall number of wolves decreased to 118. Pup mortality was at an all-time high. In 2007, wolf numbers inside the park yet again climbed to above 170. That year, distemper hit hard. Mange was prevalent as well. The following year, Park Wolves numbered 96. Currently, the number inside the park is on the rise and sits at 124. Is reducing the number of wolves that can be taken in region 313 really going to benefit the wolves? Or, is this amendment directed towards selfish individuals who want to see more wolves, regardless if it is detrimental to the overall health. In all things wildlife, quantity does not equal quality.

Lastly, I do not agree with the proposal to eliminate the ability of the commission to make rapid, in-season changes to the quotas once

Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

the regional quotas are within 25% of being met. It was my understanding this could be utilized to both make a determination to close the season early as well as extend it should the quota fill sooner than expected. Taking away the ability to make these decisions could most definitely hinder the department's obligation to reduce the overall population of wolves in the state.

Respectfully,

Chris Morgan
VP West
Montana Trapper's Association

#186

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:10:07 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:12:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:10
IP Address: 208.65.166.164

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Mandy Skalski
City/Town:	Mt Laurel
State/Province:	NJ
Email Address:	mandyskalski@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I have had the opportunity to learn more about the majestic creatures that we call wolves recently at a wolf and wolf dog sanctuary near my home.

I am writing because I want to provide my encouragement for you to consider the following:

1. Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
2. Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
3. Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
4. Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
5. Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Thank you for your consideration.

#187

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 8:56:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:13:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:53
IP Address: 35.133.2.216

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Linda Olson**
City/Town: **Polson**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **Olsongraphix@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Gray Wolves are an iconic keystone species that belong in our ecosystem.

Reduce wolf trapping season and eliminate snares. Running over Wolves and Coyotes with snowmobiles should be banned.

Sincerely,

Linda Olson

#188

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:01:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:24:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:23:00
IP Address: 70.26.137.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Sandra Pella
Email Address: spella@sympatico.ca

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Dear Commission for Montana's Wolves and Furbearers,

I believe it is incredibly important for you to know up front that I am against any hunting, trapping, snaring or any other method of killing of wolves (and all predators & furbearers). I strongly advocate for full protections for these gravely endangered and critically important social beings to the landscapes they inherently belong to. Long before Europeans set foot on the North American continent, wolves roamed freely without fear of being killed, often in gruesome ways. These wonderfully sensitive, family-oriented beings did not, and do not, require human intervention to manage their population. The science clearly says, as well as ethics and morality, that protection of wolves is one of the best things we can do not only for wolves but for the ecosystems they call home.

Quotas are set far too high. Protect Wolves!

Snares on public & private land should be banned - they kill cruelly and indiscriminately. Animals remain agonizingly long in these cruel abusive death traps - ban them, please!

Baiting is simply cruel and unacceptable. Luring an animal with bait is unethical.

Please end close wolf hunting in known CWD units.

I have never understood why anyone needs to trap a wolf. Please ban wolf trapping season and close hunting units. Yellowstone wolves have been particularly hard hit by these cruel killing methods.

Quotas are far too high - ban the hunting of wolves and protect them.

Current population estimate methods are grossly inaccurate.

Peer-reviewed proper scientific methods are required.

If trapping does occur, transparency on all trapping incidents including wolves must be reported and accounted.

Yellowstone National Park is requesting that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota for wolves that hunters and trappers can kill just outside the park. Yellowstone National Park superintendent Cam Sholly sent a letter to the Montana F&W Commission seeking relief for wolves after another deadly winter. I am aware of this letter and have read it.

At the very least should this Commission proceed with a wolf hunt, protections for Yellowstone wolves leaving the park boundaries should be implemented immediately and without restrictions. Wolves do not recognize human boundaries. Why should any wolf pay the price with their life for doing something natural to them.

In a world of climate upheaval and pending collapse, a world of continued human population explosion, wildlife - wolves - should not be held to minimum or maximum numbers. Protect them all.

Thank you very much, Sandra Pella spella@sympatico.ca

#189

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:28:06 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:29:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 174.29.122.35

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	JoLynn Jarboe
City/Town:	Denver
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	jolynn234@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#190

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:48:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:52:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:15
IP Address: 174.231.85.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Heather Lynn
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	craigslisterinphoenix@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wildlife has flourished in the park since wolves were reintroduced. There was balance. Until Montana started a free for all on killing and inhumanely torturing them.

13 Yellowstone wolves were killed by hunters, trappers, poachers or died of suspected hunting-related injuries this past season.

11 of the killings were in Montana. One known Yellowstone wolf each were in Wyoming and Idaho.

In response to the war declared on wolves in the Montana 2021-2022 legislative session, at least 25 Yellowstone wolves were then killed, the far majority in Montana, that season by hunters and trappers due to the removal of a quota.

Despite you and our allies successful efforts two years ago to get a 6 wolf quota just outside the park, 8 wolves were still reported legally killed by hunters and trappers in our state this past season!

The killings caused the dissolution of three of the park's 11 wolf packs.

PLEASE STOP ALLOWING THE TORTURE AND KILLING OF WOLVES.

#191

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:38:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 9:59:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:37
IP Address: 66.115.149.131

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	BP Casbara
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bpc@earthlink.net

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Increasing wolf kills to a quota of 334 this year from 313 last year is wrong.

In Montana, wolf population numbers are not known, and research shows a concern for their future. Increasing their quotas is a slippery slope that ignores their biological, economic, Tribal, tourist, and intrinsic worth.

As a hunter, seeing how wolves are killed by unethical means, with unfair chase, and using torture is very distressing. It needs to be stopped.

And corrections need to be made.

24 hour trap checks need to be instituted.

Trapping in state parks should be prohibited.

Traps need to be set back 500' on all public roads and trails.

Snares should not be allowed on public lands.

And signs need to be up where there is trapping on our public lands.

Kills over quota should come off next year's quota. Why isn't this being done?

Swift fox and fisher trapping seasons need to be closed, as should all trapping before we start hunting upland game birds.

Lastly, beaver trapping needs to be rethought. With no quota and their trapping season running to 9 months of the year, we need accurate reporting of beavers trapped.

The lax regulations reflect poorly on our state.

Thank you

#192

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:04:29 PM
Time Spent: 04:16:15
IP Address: 47.37.52.246

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Dylan Flather
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dylan.flather@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please accept the following comments regarding wolf trapping. I encourage the Commission to:

- Require 24-hour trap checks.
- Utilize an appropriate peer-reviewed methodology to estimate wolf population. The currently used IPOM is controversial at best.
- Eliminate the use of snares set for wolves on public land.
- Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15.
- Prohibit the use of bait.
- Increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species. Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Please accept the following comments regarding furbearer trapping. I encourage the Commission to:

- Require 24 hour trap checks.
- Increase trap setbacks to 500' on all public roads and trails.
- Eliminate the use of snares on public lands.
- Mandatory reporting of beaver trapped.
- Eliminate of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons.
- Prohibition of trapping in state parks.
- Require signage of trapping on public lands.
- Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.
- Over-quota kills should be taken from the following year's quota.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dylan

#193

COMPLETE

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Started: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:49:42 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:51:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:51
IP Address: 107.4.242.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Annah Gardner**
Email Address: **annahgardner@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

#194

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 11:10:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:09
IP Address: 64.119.11.74

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Matt Francis
Email Address: matt7rancis@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#195

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, July 25, 2024 11:17:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:41
IP Address: 91.176.183.135

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **A. Ellefson**
City/Town: **Can Diego**
State/Province: **CA**
Email Address: **alessa.ellefson@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please remove the over quota kills from next year's quota and get rid of the cruel snares on public land. There should also be 24-hour trap checks.

Baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units should be prohibited.

Please also reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met, they are important to our lands' welfare, including against fires (less grazing means more resilient trees, for instance).

Finally, please use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates, and increase the transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

Thank you.

#196

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:00:32
IP Address: 73.202.3.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Cynthia Sutter**
Email Address: **luvmedoggs@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#197

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 12:27:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:29
IP Address: 35.133.14.85

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Maureen Anne Edwards
City/Town: Polson, MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: foranimalsalways@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

I feel very strongly that wolves deserve protection. Therefore, I recommend that you eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

#198

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:10:25
IP Address: 73.161.234.23

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Susan Welsford
City/Town:	Norton Shores
State/Province:	MI
Email Address:	keumran6@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Wolf populations have not recovered enough to be able to successfully survive as a species and should NOT be delisted as endangered. You must:

- Remove over quota kills from next year's quota
- Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
- Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
- Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
- Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Yellowstone National Park is also requesting that the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission reduce the quota for wolves that hunters and trappers can kill just outside the park.

Thank you for helping this vital apex predator survive and balance biological diversity.

#199

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:01:24
IP Address: 86.162.89.55

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Tameka Murrain**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **misstmurrain@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Please do the following:

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota.

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units.

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met.

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

#200

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 4:53:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:25
IP Address: 72.255.203.216

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Nicole Johnson**
Email Address: **nikkijwj@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota.

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units.

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met.

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species.

#201

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 7:00:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address: 98.117.83.64

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kathy Day**
Email Address: **kathyday@duck.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Good morning,

I'm not in favor of wolf hunting or trapping, and I'd like to express my full support of:

- Removing over quota kills from next year's quota
- Eliminating snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks
- Prohibiting baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units
- Reducing wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met
- Using peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

#202

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 8:34:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:42
IP Address: 184.145.147.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **chris ness**
City/Town: **new york**
State/Province: **NY**
Email Address: **ephemeristheway@yahoo.ca**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species

#203

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 8:39:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:33
IP Address: 67.81.34.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **natalie battistone**
City/Town: **ketchum**
State/Province: **ID**
Email Address: **nataliebattistone@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

The wolf trapping season needs to be reduced significantly and when quotas are met, we need to close the the hunting units near Yellowstone. There is abundant evidence to support the positive impact this keystone species' reintroduction to Yellowstone has had...not protecting them around the boundaries of the park will result in dismantling and destabilization of their packs, which are essentially family units. Please do what is necessary to protect them. I believe trapping is inhumane so I am also advocating for the elimination of snares on public land, at least. The thought of the suffering of any animal in a snare or trap is horrifying, please require 24 hour trap checks as a baseline if trapping remains in effect. These animals are the ancestors of our dogs, I don't say this because I am naive to their power as an apex predator and the perceived threat they pose to livestock, etc but because I want to contextualize the way the they feel and experience pain. Killing them and snaring them is like killing and snaring a dog. Please consider what I am suggesting as a concession...I understand not all people agree about wolves. They are a very polarizing topic, but at the heart of it all is a living and breathing animal whose presence critically impacts the ecosystems they live in...they do not deserve to be mutilated and killed. Thank you.

#204

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, July 26, 2024 9:25:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 108.62.116.174

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Rhonda Johnson
City/Town:	Aylett
State/Province:	VA
Email Address:	rdtgjohnson@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Furbearer and Wolf Trapping Seasons and Quotas

Remove over quota kills from next year's quota. They should be left alone, period.

Eliminate snares on public land and require 24-hour trap checks

Prohibit baiting and close wolf hunting in known CWD units

Reduce wolf trapping season and close hunting units near Yellowstone when quotas are met. Shouldn't be allowed at all.

Use peer-reviewed methods for population estimates and increase transparency on trapping incidents involving other species
