


# PUBLIC COMMENT

## BURROWS AMENDMENT

## RAVALLI COUNTY SETBACKS

Received by  
Erik Wickman, Executive Office Manager  
NOV 08 2024  
Director's Office  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Michelle Greene <spenpaymom@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 8:50 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf Regulation ammedment

Please accept commissioner Burrows amendment.

Thank you,  
Michelle Greene  
371 One Horse Creek Rd  
Florence, MT 59833

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** jeremy greene <twindaddy31@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 8:36 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf Regulation ammedment

Please accept commissioner Burrows amendment.

Jeremy Greene  
2622 Whites LN  
Victor MT 59875

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Mike Latham <mike.a.latham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:04 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf trapping proposal.

I think the FWP has done a terrible service to Montana Sportsman and animal populations in Montana. The wolf and grizzly numbers exceed the projected healthy numbers and recommended target numbers.

The deer and elk numbers are proof of this claim.

The wolf numbers have been over objective year after year. This is a sign the wolf trapping regulations should be less stringent not more stringent.

### **I support Commissioner Burrows Amendment, wolf trapping should start with the general trapping season on December 2.**

I support Montana F4WM Board members Chris Fillingham and Jeff Rennaker have been working diligently through monthly meetings with Commissioner Jeff Burrows to create some positive setback changes that will allow productive trapping in areas not commonly traveled by other land users during that time of year.

**Mike Latham**

[Mike.a.latham@gmail.com](mailto:mike.a.latham@gmail.com)



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** jeff rennaker <jlrennaker@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 7:20 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf regulations

As a wolf trapper we have PLENTY of regulations restricting us on our setbacks. Region 1 has less setbacks on their roads. Our wolf objectives are 3-4 times what USFWS says we have sustainable habitat for. Our quota was decreased and we still are not hitting our quota. Other animal quotas in the state are not shut down until the quotas are met. Letting trappers trap these lightly used roads may help us reach some of our wolf quotas. Thank you for you time.

Jeff Rennaker  
Ranch Manager  
Two Feathers Ranch  
Darby, MT  
(406) 360-0304

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Linda Manchester <lmanchest@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trap set backs

We hike the trails and logging roads in Ravalli County with our dog and grandkids. How safe will they be when traps are not required to be set back? When do we begin worrying more about the safety of the community before the convenience of the trappers and hunters? This is our Montana, too!

Linda and Larry Manchester  
Corvallis, MT  
[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:mail.onelink.me)

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Stephen Goheen <ssgoheen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:19 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trapping setbacks

My wife and I are 76-year-olds with 2 rescue dogs who take us for a walk every afternoon mostly along county and Forest Service roads. We strongly oppose removing the traditional trapping setbacks along most public roads. When we are out with our dogs, we do not want to be constantly worrying about them coming across a trap.

And why is it that a trapper is not willing to walk 50 or 150 feet off the road to check their traps? Are they that lazy?

Thank you for considering our input.

Stephen Goheen  
922 Little Willow Creek Rd  
Corvallis, MT 59828

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Mark Behrman <markbehrman7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 12:13 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trapping setbacks

The proposed setback amendment

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Cathy Kowalski <ccck1966@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:09 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trapping Setback Regulations

As a taxpaying citizen of the United States, residing in the state of Montana I vehemently oppose the removal of setback restrictions. We need more restrictions to ensure public safety. Where is the democracy in allowing a few thousand trappers the right to endanger everyone who uses closed roads on public lands for clean healthy outdoor recreation?

Shame on you for even suggesting such an irresponsible proposal!

Catherine C Kowalski  
Potomac, Montana

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Rachel Owen <pedalby@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 4:59 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] trapping setback public comments

Good Evening,

I oppose the proposed amendment to eliminate road setbacks for trapping. This creates an unnecessary risk for pets and their owners who use these roads. I also strongly feel that all traps need to be visibly marked and checked at least every 24 hours by the trapper.

Respectfully,

Rachel Owen

575-519-0454

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Juanette <jjmd@eoni.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:27 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trap set backs

While I am not a resident of Ravali County, nor of Montana, I am a citizen of the United States and as such have a stake in the management of OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

It is unconscionable such a TINY constituency of the Montana citizenry can hold the rest of us in peril for their very questionable desire to set traps in areas accessed by recreationists across Montana.

Removing setbacks from roads is not acceptable. If anything, they should be increased. Alerting users to the presence of these barbaric items should be included in ANY allowance of this application.

Thank you for accepting my comments and for doing the right thing for those who choose to use the road access areas for recreation in Ravali County.

Juanette Cremin  
805 N Avenue  
La Grande OR. 97850

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Peg <pholwick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 4:57 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] please stop unregulated trapping in Montana

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

In Montana, unregulated trapping threatens grizzlies and other wildlife, especially when quotas are exceeded. Trapping is also a danger to domestic animals, and people!

**I implore you to close Area 316** since your 6 wolf quota divided into two units this season has been met. Exceeding quotas has evidently been ignored.

In addition, **I oppose Region 2 Commissioner Burrows removal of trap setbacks in Ravalli County.**

Thank you for the work you do. I appreciate the difficult decisions you face. Please continue to protect our wildlife. **Please stop unregulated trapping.**

Sincerely,

Peg Holwick  
Helena, Montana



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Mark Behrman <markbehrman7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 12:25 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Setback amendment

I am opposed to the setback amendment proposed by Jeff Burrows. This amendment will affect recreational opportunities in the public lands for recreationalists and their pets., it is already difficult at times to keep a pet within 50 feet of the road. The trappers have the rest of the entire public forest to set traps. This amendment degrades the multiple use agenda for public lands and right of ways. I urge you to reject this amendment and to hold open public hearings on changes to the trapping regulations. Thank you, Mark Behrman

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Trap Free Montana <info@trapfreemt.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 8:43 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Setback amendment public comment  
**Attachments:** Setback Burrows 2024 amendment comment.pdf

Commissioner Robinson and Commissioners,

Please find attached our public comment for the trap setback amendment.

Thank you,  
KC

KC York  
President/Founder  
Trap Free Montana



PO Box 335  
Hamilton, Montana 59840  
406-218-1170

[www.trapfreemt.org](http://www.trapfreemt.org) [[trapfreemt.org](http://trapfreemt.org)]

Trap Free Montana is a boots on the ground, 501(c)(3), connecting hearts and minds through science, truths in trapping, & compassion for wildlife, biodiversity, coexistence, & responsible stewardship. Our affiliate, Trap Free Montana Public Lands, (TFMPL), a 501(c)(4), focus is on trapping reform, trap free public lands, and related legislative actions.

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Mary Warren <gidduymwarren@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 7:42 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding trapping setbacks Ravalli Co.

I am a resident of Ravalli county and this proposal is abhorrent. Many more residents of the county enjoy these closed roads than trappers. Closed roads are used here in the valley to hike,run, snowshoe and cross country ski with their dogs. I know exceptions have been made for lost horse and skalkaho pass but residents use other roads as well. The area above lake como ,roads off lick creek as well. Why should recreational users be held hostage by such a tiny minority ? Setbacks were created for a reason, keep them, protect our dogs and children.

Sincerely,  
Mary Warren  
Hamilton, MT  
Sent from my iPad

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Heather Mullee <hmullee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] re: trapping setbacks

To the Commission,

Trapping is a person's right and limits need not be taken lightly. However, there are ways to allow for the sport while also greatly reducing conflict with humans and pets.

I hope you will consider 250+ foot setbacks from high traffic areas to reduce conflict with pets. There are very few areas within City limits that people can have pets off leash, and it's a great benefit to locals to have public lands where dogs can roam (within limit/eye sight).

It would also be favorable to have trapping signs so that people know which areas to be especially careful within. I bet most people do this anyway, but having 24-hour trap checks could also go a long way to preventing undue harm to non-target animals.

Thanks for considering alternatives that allow everyone to continue benefiting from public lands!

Best,  
Heather Mullee

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Michael Hoyt <michael.hoyt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 7:32 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Trap Setback Amendment for Ravalli County

Proposed Fish and Wildlife Commission Amendment  
for Region 2 – Ravalli County Trap Setbacks

November 6, 2024

Commissioner Burros has proposed a trap setback amendment as follows.

I move the Commission amend the “No Setbacks Required for Furbearers and Wolves” to the following:  
Region 2: All of Ravalli County roads closed to motor vehicle and OHV use during the designated trapping season. Roads seasonally closed to motor vehicles and OHV’s, but are lawfully open for over snow vehicles are included.  
Exceptions – Maintain current setbacks of 50 ft for furbearers and 150 ft for wolf at:

- Forest Service Road #429 (Lost Horse Creek)
- Forest Service Road #468 (Nez Perce Pass Road)
- State Highway #38 (Skalkaho Pass)
- Forest Service Road #75 (Skalkaho/Rye)

Burrow’s proposed amendment was not requested by FWP. Portions of FWP’s response read:

Public land trap setbacks to avoid user conflicts and incidental captures of non-target species including domestic dogs have a long history in Montana. Trap setbacks along public routes, by one definition or another, have been part of Montana’s trapping regulations since 1998. Contemporary regulated wolf trapping in Montana began in 2012, including a wolf trap setback of 150 feet from roads and trails on public land. A 500-foot setback for all ground sets including wolves was first adopted in 2013 for specifically identified public land roads and trails with high levels of recreational use.

...

The current trap setback regulations were the result of extensive public process and are in place to reduce conflicts between trapping and non-trapping users. The department believes trap setbacks reduce both incidental capture of non-target species and social conflicts with recreational non-trapping recreational users of public lands. The physical corridor established by setbacks on both sides of a public route physically reduces the opportunity for incidental captures of domestic dogs and other non-targets using the route. Further, the public’s awareness of setbacks allows for recreationist[s] with domestic dogs to choose public routes with setbacks over other routes without them. The amendment reduces the number of routes with setbacks and has real potential to increase non-target captures of domestic dogs and reduce support for recreational trapping. While it is not clear how the amendment will exactly impact trapping efforts, trap captures of target species, conflicts and incidental captures of non-target species, or non-trapping recreational use of public routes, all these metrics stand to be influenced to one degree or another, from one route to another. The department does not anticipate harmful impacts to the wildlife populations in the area.

I suggest that Burrow’s proposed amendment is ill-advised and, for the following reasons, recommend it not be adopted.

Burrow’s listed exceptions to the “no setback” amendment include only groomed snowmobile routes. No roads or trails that receive high winter use by skiers, runners, walkers, fat-tire bicyclists, or those using snowshoes are included. For

example, if the amendment is approved, it will put recreationists at risk who use Forest Service roads near Lost Trail and Chief Joseph Pass, Crazy Creek, Coyote Coulee, Larry Creek, and Lake Como, each of which receives high use by winter recreationists other than snowmobile riders. Additionally, many other roads and trails in the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains also receive high winter use. Allowing setbacks only for groomed snowmobile roads includes a minuscule portion of Ravalli County that receives high winter recreation use. The exclusion of trap setback protection for all other winter recreation sends a message that is unlikely to be well received by most members of the public.

FWP misinterpreted regulations when responding to Burrow's proposed amendment by stating that, "Public land trap setbacks to avoid user conflict ..." Regulations stipulate that "use conflict" not "user conflict" is to be minimized. There is a difference. Conflict between users suggests that two or more people directly clash. A "use conflict" is an inconsistency between types of use. For example, authorizing a road for high-speed traffic precludes using the motorway for horse traffic. In this situation where no trap setback will be required for roads or trails, the possibility of stepping on a trap precludes other recreationists from using the road or trail without accepting the possibility of stepping on a trap. That is a "use conflict."

On its face, Burrow's proposed amendment to setback requirements appears intended to give trappers almost unlimited access and control of publicly owned property to the detriment of all other recreational uses. The amendment (not requested by FWP) does not explain why it is being proposed, so members of the public are left to draw their conclusions. Among winter recreationists other than trappers (e.g., in Ravalli County and most of Montana, back-country skiers outnumber trappers by the thousands), the opinion of trappers will diminish even further. Although Burrow's proposed amendment was probably not intended to further demonize trapping, allowing it to go into effect will accomplish just that.

Therefore, I urge the Commission not to adopt Burrow's proposed setback amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hoyt  
Corvallis, MT 59828



**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Glenda Meyer <gmeyersd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do not remove the trapping setbacks

Dear FWP Commissioners,  
Commissioner Jeff Burrows' amendment to remove trapping setbacks is a recipe for disaster. Only a tiny fraction of Montanans trap and why should they hold 100% of public lands hostage? How does a set back hurt a trapper? No setback can hurt people and pets and other non target species. How many more pets need to die a horrific death before the tiny fraction of trappers can walk a little farther out to set their barbaric and torturous hardware? FWP has already denied the common sense rule of requiring signage and now you want to allow traps and snares anywhere?

You may all hate wildlife and want all predators off the landscape, but this is a public safety issue.

Why does this barbaric and secretive group get to control public lands ? Why do you not listen to the majority? Trappers must be paying you all a lot of \$\$\$.

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Glenda Meyer  
[gmeyersd@gmail.com](mailto:gmeyersd@gmail.com)

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Joe Mettler <jpcm113@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Commissioner Burrows amendment on setbacks

My name is Joe Mettler. I live in Darby MT. I support the proposed amendment to setbacks. The amendment provides common sense to to allow for areas with more traffic to continue with the current rule. The amendment further allows for trapping closer to the common travel routes of wolves that are extremely tough to pull off of the travel routes.

Joe Mettler  
Darby, MT  
Sent from my iPhone



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** carolyn\_mehl@emri.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Cc:** commissionerregion1@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwf.org;  
commissionerregion3@mtfwf.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwf.org;  
commissionerregion6@mtfwf.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwf.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding Wolf and other Species Trapping Regulations - see  
attached  
**Attachments:** F&W Commission Mehl\_Haufler 11062024.pdf

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Jeff Lonn <jefflonn@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 8:31 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Why would you even consider Jeff Burrows' amendment to eliminate trapping setbacks in Ravalli County? Is it really too much trouble for trappers to walk a short distance from roads? Will they get lost? Are they too weak to walk?

I'm not sure why politicians are making decisions about wildlife management; they tend to be the most anti-science people anywhere. Trapping is already extremely unpopular with Montana residents, this will make it even more unpopular.

Where I live in Ravalli County, the forest roads are very popular with runners, walkers, and cross-country skiers taking their dogs on walks. The amendment is sure to put pets and pet owners at risk, and infringes on their opportunity to use and enjoy public land. The amendment will also put non-target wildlife at risk.

I would also argue for requiring signage to warn the public that traps are in the area. I favor increased setbacks, such as 150 feet from all public roads for furbearers and 500 feet for wolf trap sets. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks should be implemented.

I am also for:

Mandatory reporting of intentional and incidental trappings and snarings.

Prohibiting the use of bait.

Closing wolf hunting and trapping and mountain lion hunting in management units with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Reducing quotas--science does not support killing wolves.

Taking previous years over-kills into consideration when setting future quotas.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jeff Lonn

Hamilton

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Marci Smith <marci@montana.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:28 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations  
**Attachments:** Letter to FWP about trapping.pdf

Dear FWC,

Please see my attached letter urging you to STRIKE Ravalli County Commissioner Burrows' amendment.

Regards,  
-Marci Smith

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** info@OasisMontana.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:35 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

To whom it may concern:

This is in regards to wildlife trapping. Too many 'casualties' occur with the wrong species, non-targeted species or even pets being trapped. Please strike the amendment by Commissioner Jeff Borrows to remove setbacks! This is a horrible idea. Setback should increase to at least 500 ft. This amendment decreases the safety of people and their pets using public roads and enjoying public lands. Regulations that SHOULD be added include visible public signs; mandatory 12 hour trap checks (which is still too long to leave an animal being tortured in a trap, but better than 24 hours); mandatory reporting of intentional and haphazard trappings and snarings. And wolf hunting should be abolished in area where chronic wasting disease has been detected.

One pet or injury is one too many. Let's use SOME common sense, if we're still going to allow this lousy abusive practice.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Chris Daum  
Stevensville, MT 59870  
406-777-4309

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Cary Griffin <CGriffin@griffinhammis.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 1:49 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Cc:** Condon, Ellen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Hello,

As a long-time resident of Ravalli County, as a sportsman, and a landowner, I strongly oppose the amendment on setback changes for trapping.

I am opposed to any form of indiscriminate trapping simply because of the bi-kill and the torture of sentient beings. But specifically in this matter I suggest

Increasing setbacks to 500 ft in high-use areas in Ravalli County including the four exceptions to this amendment

Installing signage to warn public land users that traps are in the area

Mandatory 24-hour trap checks (every 12-hours would be more humane perhaps)

Mandatory reporting of unintentional and incidental trappings and snarings

Prohibit the use of baiting

Close wolf hunting and trapping in management units with Chronic Wasting Disease

Thank you for your consideration.

Cary Griffin  
Griffin-Hammis Associates  
5582 Klements Lane  
Florence, MT 59833 USA  
(406) 360-2430  
[griffinhammis.com](http://griffinhammis.com) [[griffinhammis.com](http://griffinhammis.com)]

“Experience is what you get when you don’t get what you want.”  
R. Pausch



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** bpub@tablebay <bpub@tablebay.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 11:24 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulation

I was surprised and dismayed to read Jeff Burrow's amendment to eliminate trapping setbacks on roads in my county. I wonder if he gets outside much here.

These are public lands for everybody's use and enjoyment, not just the small minority of trappers. There are many more of us who are bird and wildlife watchers, and we should not have to worry about our dogs and kids and grandchildren's safety while out on OUR lands.

This amendment will not only put more non target animals at risk but will also put the great many of us who walk those roads with our dogs and families at risk of harm.

Please strike that amendment. Setbacks should actually be increased in high use areas to 500' or more.

Also there should be:

- Mandatory signs to warn us of traps
- Mandatory 24 hour trap checks
- Mandatory reporting of incidental and intentional trapping

Lastly, using baiting as an attractant should be prohibited. I know my dogs would go right for it.

I have friends whose dogs have been trapped and died while on our public lands. Please don't make this easier to happen.

Thank you

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** mollymail@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 2:05 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulation

Please strike this amendment.

I am writing as a hunter whose grandfather was a trapper.

I strongly feel that we need setbacks for those of us who walk our public lands to birdwatch and exercise. We should not have to worry about our safety and that of our dogs, children and grandchildren.

Setbacks should actually be increased in high use areas.

This amendment will also put more non-target animals at risk.

There should be mandatory:

- signage of trap use in the area
- 24 hour trap checks
- reporting of incidental and intentional trapping
- setbacks of 500' or more

The following should be prohibited on public lands:

- baiting
- any snaring, but especially ram power snares

Thank you for your consideration,

Molly  
Great Falls, MT



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Mark Van Loon <mark.inthewoods@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:42 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 wolf and other species trapping regs. -

Dear Comms. -

You Must strike the Jeff Burrows amendment regarding setbacks. Many pets and non-target species will be negatively affected - caught and/or killed - as well as putting pet owners and other citizens at risk. This proposed amendment goes against the shared use mandate and is totally unnecessary, as well as creating additional dangers to the public at large. It makes much more sense to increase the setbacks to 500 ft. in all areas and possibly farther in some areas.

We also must have warning signs and mandatory 24-hr. trap checks and mandatory reporting of all trappings and snarings - intentional or incidental. And bait must be strictly forbidden. Abuses and failures to do so must be fully investigated and punishments meted out to violators. Trapping should be forbidden in areas reporting CWD - Chronic Wasting Disease.

Thank You.

Mark Van Loon, Hamilton MT

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"Nothing is quite as dangerous as good people despairing and disengaging from politics, ceding the field to the crooks and cranks." - Michelle Cottle

"Any jackass can kick a barn down but it takes a carpenter to build one." - Sam Rayburn, frm. US Speaker of the House

"Logic can convince, but only emotion can motivate" - someone smart

"Cyberspace - where we're all connected but no one is in charge." T. Friedman

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." - Aldous Huxley

"The ignorant, simply because they are numerous, do not cease to be ignorant." - another smart person

"America is a diverse country joined more by a common future than by common pasts." - David Brooks



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** ROGER DEHAAN Owner <rogerandnancy@q.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 6:13 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024 and winter 2025 Wolf and other species trapping regulations

I have only recently heard that there is a proposal to reduce or eliminate setbacks between traps and public roads and trails. I am strongly against this proposal.

I am a cross country skier and avid hiker and am usually accompanied by my dog. I believe I have a right to walk and ski on public lands without having to worry about my dog getting caught in a trap. Trapping is a very small user group relative to all public land uses, and yet it makes a disproportionate impact on other users. The setbacks from roads and trails in some way compensates for this disproportionate impact, yet are even now too small. While chasing a squirrel, our dog can cover 50 feet in about 5 seconds - far too short of a time if a trap is present.

I would propose that it does not inconvenience trappers if they have to walk some distance off the trails to set their traps. I think a setback distance of 300 feet from roads and trails would be appropriate, plus there should be no trapping allowed within 1 mile of any trailhead, as that is by far where the greatest conflict occurs. I think the regulations could be smaller for public roads through private land if the roadway was fenced, but roads and trails on public land should be protected to the greatest extent possible.

Please strike the amendment that proposes eliminating trapping setbacks. Thank you for seriously considering these alternate proposals.

Roger W. De Haan  
1489 Meridian Road, Victor, Mt. 59875  
406-961-3953

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Amy McKinley <mckinleya@staff.hsd3.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 3:55 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Amendment

I respectfully oppose the trap setback removal amendment by commissioner Burrows.  
Amy McKinley  
Hamilton

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Montana Fur Harvesters <mtfurs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 3:29 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Director and Commission members.

I want to express my support for Commissioner Burrows, Ravalli County Setbacks. I was on a FWP committee a few years back in Region 2 that did a study on areas that could support this action. We did address areas and roads that did see recreational use that were also set aside for that purpose as well. This was across all of Region 2 and it was felt at the time that Ravalli County and Mineral County would be able to support this action.

It has been several years since, Region 1, Sanders County had implemented this. To date there has been no reported problems from users. Setting aside roads that are being used by other groups gives those confidence to do so. On our lines, we seldom ever have others travel them through the winter.

Please support Commissioner Burrows, Ravalli County Setbacks.

Tom Fieber

President

Montana Fur Harvesters

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** star who <starwho44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 6, 2024 8:33 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations"

In order to avoid trapping domestic pets I would like the set back to be as it was...50/150'. It only takes the sight of one animal in a trap to know this is cruel and should be limited in every way possible. Trappers have always had to *walk* their lines, unless they're using snow mobiles. I think putting traps close to roads is dangerous and unnecessary.

Star Jameson, 253 Roosevelt Lane, Hamilton, MT 406-546-5344

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** vj <h2oshed1@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 12:03 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I ask that Commissioner Burrows' amendment to eliminate trap setbacks near roads in Ravalli County be removed from the Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations for the following reasons:

- The amendment would put non-target wildlife at greater risk.
- The amendment would also put pets and pet owners at greater risk.
- I think that pet owners and wildlife viewers should be able to enjoy safely their public lands near public roads.

Some additional mandatory regulations that I would suggest:

- trapping signage to warn public land users that traps are in the area; 24-hour trap checks; reporting of intentional and incidental trappings & snarings; no use of bait; no wolf hunting/trapping in management units with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD);
- also consider Quota exceedances in current or subsequent season quotas; Increase setbacks to 500 ft in high use areas in Ravalli County including the four exceptions to this amendment.

Thank you for your service and for considering these comments.

Vicki Watson, western Montana citizen