

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 25, 2024 9:21:14 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 25, 2024 9:35:16 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:02
IP Address: 98.127.36.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Timothy Ross
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rosco24812@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

How can you possibly include a 5 1/2 " limit on foothold size Is this state wide and for the full season or just in the Grizzly protection areas untill hibernation ? I'm 100% against this proposal .

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 25, 2024 6:01:17 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 25, 2024 6:08:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:11
IP Address: 70.33.17.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephen Balgeman**

City/Town: **Augusta**

State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

The proposed trap size for coyotes is ridiculous all bridger 3 and mb 650 have more than that. These are the traps you need for mt trapping. Freeze thaw conditions and holding power. So your not crippling coyotes with toe catches and pull outs.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 25, 2024 3:15:14 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 26, 2024 2:41:53 PM
Time Spent: 23:26:38
IP Address: 174.198.129.172

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Christopher
City/Town: Kalispell
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Limiting the trap size to 5 1/2 inches making the most common coyote sized traps illegal. These traps were designed for catching coyotes and properly sized for them. How in any way would a coyote trap catch and hold a grizzly? If you could give a single instance of this, sure. Limiting trap size so small is detrimental to any coyote trapper out there in many ways. Many trappers have large amounts of coyote sized traps (#3, approximately 6" jaw spread). Making the traps illegal would make them not able to trap coyotes due to no traps. This places a financial burden on a people who are not well off to start with, just to do what they enjoy. This is not even considering the fact that trapping is a huge help to ranchers, and protecting their livelihood. Regulating trappers because of grizzly bear catches should not even be a thing to start with. If there is enough grizzly bears wandering around that they get caught in traps, then there is a grizzly problem not a trapping problem. They are not only fully recovered, but border line overpopulated if that is the true scenario. So stop trying to kill trapping through regulation, and manage the real problem here which is the grizzly. In no way is the grizzly endangered, just the people's way of live who actually go out in the woods doing normal, honest, humane things are.

#4

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 27, 2024 2:10:58 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 27, 2024 2:18:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:48
IP Address: 146.75.175.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gary Burdett
City/Town:	Polson
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	garyburdett@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I have a question I would like an answer to via email from all it pertains to court and FWP then I would like it noted. In the history of trapping in Montana has there ever been a report of a grizzly bear being caught in a foothold trap the size of the requirement of 5-1/2 inches please advise with a documented answer

GaryBurdett
406-381-3754

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:09:48 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:14:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:40
IP Address: 72.76.62.24

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Julie OConnor**
City/Town: **Tenafly**
State/Province: **NJ**
Email Address: **julieo898@hotmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am against the Fish and Wildlife Commission's proposed wolf trapping season regulations. It is needlessly cruel and shouldn't be considered in 2024.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 25, 2024 12:42:04 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 8:49:21 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 216.14.253.51

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Garrett O'Day
City/Town: Superior MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: buckfreakgo@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

The proposed changes to the 2024-2025 wolf trapping regulations are ridiculous. Why would you cut our season short two months? Trapping is the only opportunity MT residents have to make an impact and even come close to filling the quota and yet its being restricted for the second year in a row? I have been hunting my entire life in Mineral county and never encountered a Grizzly bear. Are they here? Sure they are but that's what the break always on snares are for. I have seen many snare breakaways break on elk, and even a whitetail deer on the years, if a deer can break them open than certainly a grizzly bear can. And as far as traps go when was the last time anyone had a grizzly bear stuck in one? 2017, seven years ago and it was perfectly fine because the trapper was responsible and contacted FWP. Trapping is one of the last chances MT residents have to regulate wolf populations and now its being restricted and on its way to being outlawed. I can understand shorting the season in specific places that actually Grizzlies. Shortening it in half the state is plain ridiculous. FWP needs to stand up and either A, except the region two amendment proposal that places no new restrictions on region two or get rid of the shortened season in total. The delisting of Grizzlies is also over due. Judges who never leave the city have no place in telling Montana outdoorsman what to do!

#7

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Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:20:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:57
IP Address: 108.147.32.26

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brian Dunaetz
City/Town:	Three Forks
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	bdunaetz@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

These proposed changes are completely unnecessary and have no scientific backing that would suggest the need for such changes. The true purpose of these changes is to increase government control over our day to day life and cater the the “anti-trapping lobbyists” who earn a living by complaining about trapping; neither of which are acceptable reasons to change the law! The current trapping seasons and regulations work just fine so leave them as is and quit pandering to lobbyists!
Thanks!

#8

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Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:37:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:25
IP Address: 66.62.89.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jeff Darrah**
City/Town: **Stevensville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **jdarrah21@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I represent the MT Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife organization. We support the proposed Wolf trapping regulations from Jan. 1 thru Feb. 15, as long as current trap sizes are allowed. We understand the coyote 5 1/2 inch jaw spread will go into effect if a grizzly bear is incidentally trapped, but until that happens there is no jaw spread regulation. We are in support of the Commissioner Burrows Amendment of doing away with setback regulations on the roads proposed in Ravalli County.

#9

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Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 7:33:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:38:58
IP Address: 45.134.140.22

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 Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please see to it that when the quota for WMU 316 had been reached the unit will be closed immediately. When 4 wolves, quota is 3, were killed in WMU 313 in 10:00 to 10:30 it had been 25 hours before the unit was closed, more wolves could have been killed. Yellowstone park can ill afford the loss of that many wolves. As for trapping wolves, I'd rather it would not be allowed at all. We need apex predators to combat our declining environment, aside from that, I love wolves and would prefer they are all spared to fulfill their role in the ecosystem. There are less and less of them each year. One of charm of Montana is it offers nature lovers to hope for a chance to sight a wolf in the wild.

#10

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Last Modified: Monday, October 28, 2024 8:51:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:17
IP Address: 172.56.203.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Levi Seal
City/Town:	Columbia Falls
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	circlelanch10@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I do not agree with this proposal of having our wolf trapping season go from Jan.1 to Feb.15 .
Having a shorter season will only hinder are efforts to manage our wolf population and will only make a deer and elk numbers smaller. I also do not agree with the rest of the proposal.

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 7:21:34 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:45:55 AM
Time Spent: 03:24:20
IP Address: 98.97.36.221

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brad Davis
City/Town: hamilton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: 877bull@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

A few questions. Why does the FWP continue to seek and use the advice of the Montana Trappers Association? They do not speak for all trappers and their advice is often of compromise with radical anti trapping organizations rather than opposition.

Why has the FWP not sought an injunction against the ruling by the 9th circuit delaying wolf trapping season? There has been very few if any grizzlies trapped, least of all killed by trappers. It is clear that delaying and ending any wolf trapping season has nothing to do with grizzly bears but all to do with stopping trapping. Yet the FWP continues on a path of giving into these non montana anti trapping organizations. When will you ever take a stand for trappers?

"Effective Dec. 1, 2024, ALL trappers conducting trapping activities (except those using water sets or live cage traps) inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order (see map, below) must obtain a free "Supplemental Trapping Permit" when targeting nongame (raccoon, badger, red fox) and predatory animals (coyote, striped skunk, spotted skunk, weasel). This includes those trappers already holding a valid trapping license."

Where is there any ruling by the courts that this should be implemented? A person who already has a trapping license needs to get a special permit to trap skunks etc. How ridiculous is this? I mean what are you thinking?

I am very discouraged by the lack of effort put for by Montana FWP to protect trapping in the state.

#12

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Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:29:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:21
IP Address: 66.109.157.244

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brian Smith
City/Town: Trout Creek
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Arrowsmith3d@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

The trapping season for wolves is not near long enough. It keeps getting shorter every year, the excuse is always "to avoid incidental capture of a grizzly bear" and that has not happened. So why do trappers keep losing days? Stop bowing down to the environmentalists and anti trappers, they do not pay your salary. Thank you for your time.

#13

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 6:09:53 PM
Time Spent: 01:15:00
IP Address: 174.45.84.0

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Scott Vollmer**
City/Town: **Gallatin Gateway**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vollmerscott@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the proposed wolf and other species trapping regulations. These proposed regulations are the result of a collaborative effort by FWP and many other organizations and as such represent the best possible regulations to allow trapping to serve the vital purpose of management of our predator and furbearer populations. Despite what some groups and individuals may profess, predators and furbearers do not "manage themselves". Trapping is a necessary and essential way to allow wildlife managers to use science to best manage an entire ecosystem for the benefit of predator, prey, and furbearers alike. I urge the adoption of these regulations. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott Vollmer
Gallatin Gateway

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:21:55 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:26:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:56
IP Address: 72.175.38.101

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Cody Jensen
City/Town:	Kalispell
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Codyjonjensen@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Pertaining to: "Predator and Nongame Animal Trapping Inside geographic scope identified by federal court order", Please do not implement the requirement for a free permit on non-game targeted species. There are enough rules and regulations currently and this adds unnecessary permitting obligations.

#15

COMPLETE

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Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:38:21 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 7:40:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 72.175.97.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Guy kempthorne
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: guymtelkhunter@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support wolf trapping and support the MT trappers association's recommendations on all wolf trapping issues on the 24/25 season

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 9:17:25 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 9:22:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 67.143.192.89

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jeff L Rader
City/Town:	Emigrant
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jlrader2001@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear Commissioners,

This entire wolf trapping regulation thing has been made into a muddled mess. The only thing that I ask the Commission is to base their decision on how to set the wolf and general trapping regulations on real scientific/biological science. Please leave the emotion and bench-legislating out of your decision making process, and remember that social and political "science" are not true science.

Thank you,

Jeff Rader

Emigrant, Montana

#17

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 9:24:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:10
IP Address: 66.9.182.145

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jim Darr
City/Town: Gardiner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: trailcreek430@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I think the predator loving hunter hating ngo's are slowly but surely winning. Our FWP commissioners seem unwilling to stand up to them. As an example they caved to pressure from Cam Sholly to split 313 back into 2 wolf hunting districts which effectively cut the wolf quota in half in the area that most people can actually access. Grizzly bears are everywhere these days. Using them to restrict trapping is just another ploy to shut us down.

#18

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:46:01 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:47:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:38
IP Address: 72.175.97.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Brett kempthorne
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	brett.kempthorne51@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support wolf trapping and support the MT trappers associations stance on these upcoming issues regarding wolf trapping

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:47:55 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:48:01 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:05
IP Address: 72.175.97.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Brett kempthorne
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: brett.kempthorne51@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support wolf trapping and support the MT trappers associations stance on these upcoming issues regarding wolf trapping

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:48:21 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 5:50:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:58
IP Address: 72.175.97.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Krista Kempthorne
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kmkempthorne@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am not a trapper but my husband and son are extremely dedicated trappers and I support them and their beliefs on wolf trapping in MT. I support wolf trapping in MT and support the proposed seasons and restrictions

#21

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:28:13 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 47.153.241.168

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Montana's regulations for wildlife are nefarious. I propose a ban on trapping and snaring [and all other inhumane, cruel, and immoral methods] used to capture and kill wolves, coyotes, etc. In addition, the proposal by the FW Commission is inhumane and cruel. Livestock operators should be encouraged and forced to use non-lethal methods to deter predators.

"The Outside Is In Us All" - quote that is believed by Montana FW&P is hypocritical. If you believe you have the "outside within you" then you are horribly mistaken - unless you are willing to be trapped by a steel jaw leghold trap or caught in a snare and slowly strangled to death.

Montana FWP needs to ban these cruel, inhumane methods.

#22

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, October 31, 2024 8:56:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:01
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 Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I see no correspondence between what's described on these documents and a reduction in the likelihood of a grizzly or non-target species getting maimed or dying in a trap or snare. How does the issuance of a free supplemental trapping license or a permission slip from a rancher allowing snaring and trapping on his/her private or leased land address the issue? Why wait until a member of the very-slowly-reproducing grizzly species gets traumatized, wounded, or killed before taking protective action? I feel bewildered. This is an insult to the vast majority of public land users who do not trap/snare and presents grievous harm to all species. This is not leadership.

#23

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 01, 2024 10:14:29 AM
Last Modified: Friday, November 01, 2024 10:36:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:39
IP Address: 97.121.208.212

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Ronald Dean Wilkinson
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rdwbzmn1@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I'm very much in favor of the adoption of the new proposed wolf trapping regulations that limit trapping between the dates of January 1 and February 15, 2025. It is a common sense compromise between the desire of some citizens to trap and the goal of protecting grizzly bears from accidental trapping. The issue of such a late starting date of the trapping season should not be much of a hinderance to most trappers as most of the ones I know use snow machines. I would like to see the Montana FWP take a very active role in protecting the remaining grizzly bears in our great state and this proposed regulation will help achieve that goal. Thank you for considering my comments.

#24

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Friday, November 01, 2024 2:10:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:20
IP Address: 164.159.62.2

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Tom Radandt
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	tomradandt0@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support the trapping regulations proposal and amendments as write.

#25

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, November 02, 2024 5:46:00 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, November 02, 2024 6:21:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:35:33
IP Address: 206.183.119.153

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dan Thingelstad
City/Town: Ronan
State/Province: MT
Email Address: danshammer2@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I say no to all. Now you are trying to stop trapping by trap size. your free supplement permit is more unneeded regulation. My traps are 1/8 over size. You are micro managing trapping out of existence. To my knowledge no grizzly bear has died from trapping. Cars, trains, and wildlife services of all levels are the problem with grizzly bear mortalities but trappers take all the heat for zero trapping mortalities.

#26

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 8:59:06 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 9:14:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:18
IP Address: 70.66.138.44

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Suzanne Crawley
City/Town: Victoria
State/Province: CA
Email Address: suzcrawley@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I and my family are frequent visitors to Yellowstone and particularly enjoy seeing the recovery of the wolf population and all the benefits this keystone species has brought back to the park ecosystem. Bringing gray wolves back from the brink of extinction is one of our society's rare, great conservation success stories.

In my younger days I worked for a bear and deer hunting outfitter in Alberta. I understand the economic and social benefits of hunting and fishing. However, I hope you will re-evaluate proposed trapping regulations. I personally feel like it is a cowardly, cruel and indiscriminate way to hunt. In addition, wolves and other wildlife are already dealing with the stresses of climate change-- heat, drought, and fires--such that adding trapping to the mix is adding insult to injury.

Thank-you for your time,

Respectfully,
Suzanne Crawley
British Columbia, Canada

#27

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 12:34:23 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 12:43:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:01
IP Address: 38.51.65.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Marina**
City/Town: **Sagardua**
State/Province: **MA**
Email Address: **Sagarzazu@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I'm writing to ask for a truce to give wildlife an opportunity to stay with us. The present state of the question shares too many doubts regarding wildlife survival given the killing pace allowed by the existing regulations.

The first petition goes asking for mandatory 24-hour trap checks, trapping signage, mandatory reporting of intentional and incidental trappings/snarings. Also, prohibit the use of bait, no snaring on public land, the prohibition of ram power snares. Also, please ban wolf hunting and trapping in management units with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Also, commit to strict quota numbers. In case of incidental killings, quota should be adjusted for in the current or next season quotas, minimum trap setbacks of 150' from ALL public roads and 500' required for wolf trap sets.

Thank you

#28

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 1:58:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:38:49
IP Address: 71.32.60.66

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Judy Hoy**
City/Town: **Stevensville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bjhoy@localnet.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I object to the trapping setback removals proposed by Commissioner Burrows. There was a good reason for these setbacks. It was to protect domestic dogs that accompany people on their trips into the forest from being caught in snares and traps. There are a lot more people and their pets using the back country roads for various kinds of recreation than there are trappers. Therefore all set backs should remain in place. Thank you.

#29

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 2:40:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:59
IP Address: 216.197.74.58

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Lee Kolb
City/Town:	Charlottesville
State/Province:	VA
Email Address:	leehkolb@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Snares and traps are barbaric and cruel. Stop using them. This is a terrible look for Montana.

#30

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 4:40:34 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 4:51:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:35
IP Address: 24.61.112.234

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Elena Tillman**
Email Address: **tillman.elena@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am against the proposals and Commissioner Burrows' amendment given that they fail to protect grizzlies from trapping and threatens other species, including safe use from traps and snares for us, our children, and our domesticated animals.

In addition, wolf management unit 313 outside Yellowstone Park exceeded the killing quota of 3 wolves, whereby 4 Yellowstone wolves were seemingly gunned down on October 24, 2024. The other unit 316, reports at least 1 wolf of the 3 quota has been shot....additional killings need to be accounted for. Therefore, unit 316 should be reduced accordingly to the allowance now of 1 wolf, not 2.

I also advocate for the following:

Mandatory 24-hour trap checks, trapping signage, mandatory reporting of intentional and incidental trappings/snarings, prohibit the use of bait, no snaring on public land, prohibit ram power snares, closure of wolf hunting and trapping in management units with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), quota overages and/or incidental killings be adjusted for in the current or next season quotas, minimum trap setbacks of 150 foot from all public roads and 500 foot required for wolf trap sets. Thank you for your consideration.

#31

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 6:27:49 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 7:13:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:46:09
IP Address: 72.255.191.32

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

If you people don't stand up to these activists pretty soon, we are going to lose our rights to fish, hunt and trap in this state, which I do all of the above. The thing I like to trap the 5 1/2" but needs to go to the larger size of 6 1/2". As for permission slips, you already have to get permission from the landowner to hunt, trap and fish. I hate to say it, but you are leaning into the bark eaters. If they were to complain about grizzlies getting trapped, what about the cars on the road and trains that kill them in and around Glacier Park and Yellowstone Park plus bow hunters who kill them in self-defense. You also have government hunters who also kill them. Maybe you need to shut down all the roads and trails to save all the bears and wolves. Over the years I have talked to a lot of old timers about camping out in the mountains and had to stay up all night to keep the fire going and his dad had to stay up all night and shooting his pistol to keep the wolves from the horses so they could ride out in the morning. The also told me that if a cow didn't have horns on them, they wouldn't come in with a calf in the fall and they said the same about the bears. I was also told that the park service used strychnine on wolves in the park in the early 1900's so they could get the elk and bison populations to increase in numbers and how they shot all the bears in and around the park because of the bears were in the dumps in the early 1960's. I am not getting on any soap box, but I think you Commissioner better get some laws going in the legislature to stop the anti's from stopping hunting, fishing and trapping or what I see is history repeating itself or people are going to be hurt more than they are now without biological management Not Political management. So please be reasonable on your thoughts and plans and how to stop the anti people from trying to stop our rights.

#32

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 11:01:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, November 03, 2024 11:05:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:44
IP Address: 69.23.200.175

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jessica
City/Town: Dothan
State/Province: AL
Email Address: nursejway22@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

STOP KILLING WILDLIFE!!! Wolves are a keystone species!!! And if killing animals isn't awful enough, you are allowing one of the most barbaric, cruel, despicable, and brutal ways to kill them?!?! What is wrong with you, for thinking that this is somehow ok?!? It is pure evil to harm an animal, especially allowing it to be tortured and suffer incomprehensibly.

#33

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, November 04, 2024 6:10:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 6:20:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:58
IP Address: 199.38.106.72

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

We do not need any more wolf trapping restrictions. Wolf trapping has too many unnecessary restrictive regulations already. We should propose a mountain lion trapping season and a grizzly hunting season.

#34

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 7:26:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:41:04
IP Address: 4.1.217.138

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Russell Garcia**
City/Town: **Glendive**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **russ61hi@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support the current proposals to reduce conflict with grizzly bears. But when was the last time a grizzly bear was captured by a trapper? How often has it happened in recent times? Say 1980 or later? Why do a small group of people funded by out of state money get to dictate what we can do in Montana?

#35

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 9:17:28 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:27
IP Address: 172.56.50.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John R Wilson**
City/Town: **Missoula**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **trapperjohnwilson@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I support commissioner Burrows ammendment.

If the commissioners are suggesting a certain trap size to appease fish wildlife services if a grizzly bear is caught while coyote trapping.

Why don't we ammend this proposal and have a 6 inch or less jaw spread trap and open wolf season on Dec 1st .

Thanks Wilson

#36

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 04, 2024 7:09:57 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 2:09:09 PM
Time Spent: 06:59:11
IP Address: 97.121.211.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Jim Bell
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mttroutbum@littleappletech.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I strongly support the proposed wolf trapping dates of January 1 through February 15, inside the geographic scope identified by the federal court order.

I support the Predator and Non-game Animal Trapping regulations inside the geographic area identified by the federal court order.

I strongly support the regulations effective 48 hours after the FWP is aware of capture of any Grizzly Bear.

I oppose the Amendment proposed by Commissioner Burrows that would reduce required setbacks in region 2.

Wolf Management Unit 313 closed on October 26, 2024, with 4 wolves harvested, 1 in excess of the intended quota of 3. I request the Fish and Wildlife Commission close the remaining WMU 316 when 2 wolves have been harvested. That number would be 1 under the intended quota of 3 for WMU 316. This would keep the overall harvest of YNP wolves at 6. Six (6) is the harvest quota determined by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission for the region north of Yellowstone National Park. The 2023/2024 wolf season also exceeded the intended harvest in WMU 313 with 10 wolves killed. Please do not allow excessive harvest exceeding the quota to continue year after year in the region bordering YNP.

#37

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 04, 2024 7:59:24 AM
Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 3:33:35 PM
Time Spent: 07:34:11
IP Address: 69.146.110.146

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Ian Wargo
City/Town:	KALISPELL
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	iwargo@rpa-kal.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Trapping Season Dates:

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks has a long history of scientific management that has resulted in prolific wildlife populations. But scientific management is under attack by those who claim to be defending it. Unfortunately, we are once again watching a weaponized judicial system prevent the scientific management of our wildlife. In Northwest Montana, the biggest threat to wildlife is not hunting, trapping or logging, it is the Courts.

Radical environmental groups and the courts have pushed a preservationist agenda on all of us, and as a result our wildlife is suffering. Northwest Montana, when actively managed, was a wildlife oasis. Now after 25-30 years of "do nothing" management, forced by the courts, we are experiencing the lowest ungulate populations in the last 100 years, specifically in the Bob Marshall and surrounding districts.

There is a counterintuitive fact, that regulated harvest of carnivores is critical to their long-term sustainability. From 2008 through 2023 the Average elk calf recruitment in the Bob Marshall EMU (HD's 140 & 150) has dropped to a staggering 13.8 calves per 100 cows (it takes a recruitment of 25 to have a stable population). If nothing is done to improve elk numbers and recruitment the long-term outlook of these large carnivores is just as bleak as it is for the ungulates. Contrary to popular belief, wolves, bears and lions are all dependent on abundant prey availability. If you cannot maintain sustainable recruitment of your ungulate populations, you will see corresponding reductions in your dependent carnivore populations.

It is a true statement that there are more elk in Montana today than there were 20 years ago (which is often cited by these groups), but that statement is not true if you look at the core occupied areas for wolves, bears and lions. Ungulate populations in these areas significantly below their long term populations and could benefit significantly from science-based predator management. If FWP and the Commission is allowed to do their job we will have science based wildlife management, but unfortunately their ability to scientifically manage has been taken away by a number of ignorant judges.

I wish we had more flexibility with our trapping dates, because the reduced season length will result in a continuation of downward ungulate population trends in a number of our hunting districts. But I know we don't have any flexibility, we are stuck with this ruling for now.

My request of the Department and Commission is to continue to stay committed to science-based wildlife management in spite of the attacks that are coming against you. Continue to invest in science because if we have the actual data on what is taking place with our wildlife populations management decisions will become obvious.

Commissioner Burrows Amendment:

I cannot speak specifically about setbacks in Region 2, but I know that our current setback structure in Region 1 needs to be revisited and I would encourage a similar proposal in Region 1. Along the South Fork of the Flathead, specifically around Spotted Bear, we are experiencing low calf recruitment and yet the current trap setback limits trapper's ability to effectively trap. In the winter spotted bear experiences little to no recreational traffic and would benefit significantly from the removal of trap setbacks similar to what is being proposed by Commissioner Burrows. This should be thought out and not implemented in areas of potential conflict, but trap setbacks should be removed. What's worse is FWP in conjunction with the USFS has established road closures to over snow vehicles in areas that were once known to be big game winter range. What has occurred is these big game winter ranges see no trapping and our best winter habitat has turned into areas where wolf and mountain lion predation are now unmitigated. When these road closures were established, wolves were not present on the landscape. At one time the closures were a good thing but now are having the exact opposite effect of what was intended.

In summary, so long as minimizing conflict is considered first, trap setbacks should be reduced wherever possible.

#38

COMPLETE

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Started: Monday, November 04, 2024 2:47:05 PM
Last Modified: Monday, November 04, 2024 3:43:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:56:05
IP Address: 209.137.242.41

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Jerry C. Shively**
City/Town: **Thompson Falls**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **flatiron@blackfoot.net**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am OPPOSED to the proposed new trapping regulations. Almost every time there is a "harmless" addition to any regulations, it morphs into something much larger & terrifying. Every time the Sportsmen & women of Montana are forced to give up ANYTHING to the ARFS, it is lost forever, & they never give up anything. The possibility of a grizzly bear being caught by any legitimate, legal, trapper, is very slim, however the possibility of a STAGED trapped bear, is much more of a probability, & the legal trappers are the ones to pay the price. What is there going to be proposed for anyone "taking" a wolverine??, they don't hibernate. You are never gonna change the mind of Don Maloy. HE IS BOUGHT & PAID FOR. He can be overruled by another judge. The definition, of "take" needs to be revised to amore common sense definition. Either that, or strictly enforce, the present definition for EVERYONE. Shut down both Glacier & Yellowstone National Parks, every Rail Road & Highway, anywhere any thing listed under the ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT could even remotely be "taken". The fastest & most effective way to get rid of any nonsense law or regulation is to require strict enforcement, & let the law makers & regulation makers take the heat that gets generated. The meeting where this proposal was decided upon, was, in my not very humble opinion, just a way for FWP to check the "we had a meeting box". One other thing that must be done is require all trapping by government agencies, for research, population monitoring, or other reasons, conform to all trapping regulations required to be followed by us outdoorsmen & women who trap.

Jerry C. Shively A trapper with 74 years of experience.

#39

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 7:41:08 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 7:56:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:24
IP Address: 174.212.224.88

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Ben D**
City/Town: **Rexford**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **bldoutfitters@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am opposed to the proposal of requiring an extra permit in addition to the trapping license trappers already buy. It just creates another hassle for trappers to deal with and serves no real purpose as far as I can see. Also I do not support the proposal about limiting the jaw spread for all land sets to 5 1/2 inches if a grizzly bear is caught in the region. That is just basically saying that the wolf season is closed if a grizzly gets caught and has no real common sense attached to the rule. It just basically punishes trappers for reporting an incidental grizzly catch. Making them less likely to do so and further widens the gap of untrust between trappers and FWP.

#40

COMPLETE

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Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 7:14:27 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 8:14:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:59:51
IP Address: 216.147.123.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephen Coale**
City/Town: **Livingston**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **scoale@coaleandcompany.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I see no reason why trappers must get a free supplemental permitt. All trappers must obtain a trapping license, and all trappers must submitt a harvest of species, and estimated days trapped after seasons close.

I also think that the inside jaw spread of 5.5" should be increased to 6.5". Many coyote trappers already own traps with 6.5" jaw spreads. Now they would have to buy new traps. And the difference of 1" makes no difference regarding harming a grizzly bear.

#41

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 11:49:13 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 11:51:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:06
IP Address: 47.45.186.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jane Huff
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: winyanone@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Bears can't read so the trapping aspect of wolves and bears seems moot. Stop all of it. If you've ever pinched yourself, or broken a bone, you have some idea of the scalding pain associated with trapping. Fair Chase is bad enough but at least it's honorable.

#42

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 10:28:08 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 3:46:38 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 63.153.100.120

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Constance Poten
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rattlefarm@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

November 5, 2024

Dear Madame Chair and Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

RE: Amendment Regarding Region 2, Ravalli County Setbacks

Commissioner Burrows' amendment would end trap setbacks required for furbearers and wolves on all Ravalli County roads closed to motor vehicle and OHV use during the designated trapping season, with four exceptions.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks' response foretells real consequences: "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."

This amendment amounts to an effective taking of public lands and puts the public in danger. The Commission's first responsibility is public safety. The population growth in Ravalli and Missoula Counties has exploded in the past ten years. Many more people are recreating on public lands, compounding the risk of injury or worse. Hikers, bikers, horseback riders and skiers with kids and dogs use these roads through the winter because they don't have vehicular traffic. They expect these roads to have current setbacks.

Unless there are warning signs at customary entrances to every one of these roads no one will know that traps can be anywhere, even on the roads, until tragedy strikes. Wolf traps can kill dogs and severely injure children and adults. They are extremely difficult to open without hardware, extra strength and know-how.

Commissioner Burrows lists four exceptions because they are identified as high recreational use. However, keeping setbacks at 50 ft. for furbearer traps and snares and 150 ft for wolf traps and snares does not comply with the department's goal for public safety in high recreation use areas.

"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." (FWP)

The regulations for Ravalli County's high recreation use areas should be brought up to FWP's standards with 500 ft. setbacks for all ground sets. People have a right to enjoy these areas without fear. They are our public lands, after all.

The exceptions are:

- 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)

Trappers have huge swaths of land including Kelly-humped roads to set their indiscriminate steel devices. Putting the public in danger on more roads on our public lands for a handful of trappers is wrong. It's privatizing public lands for 0.04% of Montanans. No other special interest gets away with terrifying and endangering people and closing public lands to other users.

I urge you to amend this amendment:

1. Keep the current setbacks on Ravalli County roads closed to motor vehicles and OHVs during trapping season.
2. Increase setbacks to 500 ft for ground sets on the four high recreation use areas designated as exceptions.

Thank you for considering public safety for all Montanans,

Connie Poten
Missoula, MT 59802

#43

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 8:13:15 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 8:19:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:15
IP Address: 129.222.254.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Melissa Colburn
City/Town:	Campobello
State/Province:	SC
Email Address:	horsechick48@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Harvesting of wolves, especially collared Yellowstone wolves should be discontinued. It has been well documented that wolves play a major part in balancing the ecosystem and by allowing hunters to harvest and even go over the quota you are doing irreparable damage to the ecosystem that many generations to come will have to deal with. Your allowing the harvesting of wolves is very short sighted and not in the best interest of the lands, the ecosystem and harming future generations. Stop thinking about the here and now and being selfish and start to care about the future and about the devastation that you will eventually cause as the harvesting will have a cascading event to the future. Wolves are not the problem, wolves help to balance. If you are having a wolf problem as a higher more intelligent being why not find a better solution that helps humans, livestock and wolves? We are supposed to be the smarter ones and therefore should be able to come up with much better solutions, unless your saying the wolves simply outsmart the farmers...

#44

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 6:10:54 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 6:22:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:58
IP Address: 75.138.170.30

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Geri Wynn**
City/Town: **Elizabethton**
State/Province: **TN**
Email Address: **wildliferehab@wynnwoodwildlife.org**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Trapping should be banned. It is barbaric and unnecessary and hunting wolves should also be stopped. There is no reason to indiscriminately kill them. Stop pandering to bloodthirsty hunters who just get a thrill out of killing.

#45

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 9:30:24 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 9:32:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 74.133.123.110

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Chris Albert
City/Town: Lebanon Junction KY
State/Province: KY
Email Address: chrisalbertdvm@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

In order to minimize take of non-targeted species, I would like to see the following:

- *minimum trap check every 24 hours. The public tolerates the suffering animals endure less and less. Frequent trap checks would minimize this.
- *signs that indicate where traps are, for people that use the trails and the dogs that accompany them. Minimum setbacks of 150 feet from ALL public roads.
- *mandatory reporting of incidental take – we need to know how much of a problem this is.
- *since the presence of wolves appears to mitigate Chronic Wasting Disease, we support no trapping or take of wolves in units with this disease.

In addition, if more the quota of wolves is killed by any means, the adjacent unit should have its quota decreased by the overage. And the quota should be decreased the next year.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Albert, DVM

#46

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, November 03, 2024 7:55:10 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 1:50:56 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 184.167.22.148

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear Director Temple, Chair Robinson, and Commissioners,

The proposed wolf trapping season dates from Dec. 2 to March 15 outside the geographic scope will not protect Grizzlies from being trapped and snared because they can be active from about March 1 through the end of December. I was seeing grizzlies by March 4.

Make it unlawful to trap wolves beyond January 1st - February 15th inside and outside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order.

The only mechanism to notify of trapped grizzlies is trappers reporting "to FWP within 24 hours", then 48 hours when FWP is aware of it. So now you're 3 days in from trapping an endangered species.

The proposal proceeds to horse trade with trappers and "encourage" trappers to "avoid setting traps" if grizzlies are in the area.

This is wholly ineffective. In any area grizzlies are observed or tracks identified":

1. Immediate close the areas
2. Make it unlawful to set traps
3. Add actionable and enforceable violations and penalties to deter this

We strongly oppose Commissioner Burrow's proposed amendment to remove setbacks in the specified areas of Region 2 because it does not protect against non-target captures.

We've already had more grizzlies killed by hunters than ever before.

Helena Edelson
Large Carnivore Fund
Gardiner, Montana, WMU 313

#47

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 1:50:39 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 1:53:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:34
IP Address: 174.234.1.50

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Chris Morgan**
City/Town: **Boulder**
State/Province: **MT**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I'm writing to support the proposal as worded.

As a trapper education instructor, we have always taught classes based on furbearer regulations. We never differentiated between the regulations that don't apply to predators and nongame. I feel a large portion of this proposal falls right in line with what many trappers teach and practice themselves.

I appreciate the fact that these newly proposed regulations will not go into effect unless a grizzly is caught in a foothold. I do not believe in regulation without causation. We've seen enough of that in recent years. I'd be dishonest if I said with an ever-expanding grizzly population that has well exceeded recovery goals the potential to catch one isn't increasing. The fact of the matter is the chances of a foothold catching and holding a grizzly still begin with .0%

Although I'm not keen on the trap jaw size restriction I understand the state's defensible stance on this. Trappers have accurately claimed for years that traps can most definitely be selective, and a trap with a jaw spread equal to or less than 5.5" would greatly reduce or possibly even eliminate the opportunity of an incidental catch of a grizzly. Due to a bear's biology, the placement of any trap would largely reduce the chances of it ever touching the trap pan, but that's a different topic for a different day.

We all know this proposal is a solution to a problem that doesn't truly exist. It's unfortunate the state is being held at the mercy of a federal judge who is sympathetic with litigant activist groups. I hope opportunities for commercial wildlife viewing operations will be restricted in the near future similarly to how the trapping community is. They are responsible for more "take" (by ESA definition) of grizzlies in a week than trappers have been in the past 4 decades.

#48

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 7:55:06 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 3:00:57 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 209.181.27.206

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kathryn Tilly**
City/Town: **Hamilton**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **kitilly281@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am a Ravalli County resident who would like to comment in the proposed wolf trapping regulations. While I find most of the current year's proposed wolf trapping regulations to be acceptable, although slanted to the advantage of the few trappers over the many recreationists and other Forest users, I am strongly opposed to the amendment proposed by Commissioner Burrows. My husband and I hike or ski with our three dogs daily, usually in the Lick Creek-Lost Horse-Camas Creek area and many other people walk and ski with their dogs there. Often seasonally closed and snowy roads are the best or only places to walk dogs. Maintaining setbacks on these roads is crucial for protecting our beloved pets and providing equal treatment to people who enjoy the National Forest for a purpose other than trapping. Please do not increase the chance that pets (and even small children) get trapped, snared, or killed by removing setbacks for wolf traps.

#49

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 3:42:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 3:44:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:16
IP Address: 24.184.90.42

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am against Commissioner Burrows' amendment because it fails to protect grizzlies from trapping and threatens other species, including domesticated animals.

#50

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 5:01:28 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 5:16:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:49
IP Address: 184.183.116.229

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Greg Moore
City/Town:	Ketchum
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	wgregmoore@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please reject Commissioner Burrows' proposed amendment to eliminate trap setbacks from roads in Ravalli County. These roads are used by other recreationists, including those with pets, and those people should not have to contend with traps set alongside them. In addition, I urge the commission to adopt the following rules regarding trapping:

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks.
2. Trap notification signs.
3. Mandatory reporting of intentional and incidental trappings or snarings.
4. No snaring on public land.
4. Closure of wolf hunting and trapping in management units with chronic wasting disease.
6. Minimum trap setbacks of 150 feet from all public roads and 500 feet for wolf trap sets.

Thank you.

#51

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 4:43:03 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 5:17:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:34:43
IP Address: 65.144.133.61

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shauna Baron
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Shauna.baron70@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

As a wildlife guide and small business owner in Gardiner, MT, my business is directly tied to the health and well-being of our wildlife. I would like to commend the commissioners for continuing to adapt and develop hunting and trapping regulations that will allow for a robust population of predators and other non-game species for future generations. I would like to encourage the commission to approve the proposed additional regulations, including the requirement of smaller footholds, breakaway snares and height limits. I would like to see steeper fines for setback violations in multiuse areas and I would like to see you require humane dispatching procedures and a shorter timeframe required for checking the traps. If trapping is going to continue in this day and age for purposes other than to protect ranchers or landowners, I would think deeply on how trappers are allowed to operate. Torturing and animal, beating it to death or letting it starve in a trap will no longer be tolerated. I would further encourage you to take into account the millions of dollars being generated by wildlife watching activities in our state and do all that you can to limit any abuse or wanton waste of an animal's life.

#52

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 6:42:49 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 6:50:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: 108.174.114.134

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dr Linda Kauffman DVM**
City/Town: **Stevensville**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **dr.kauffman@burntforkvet.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am in opposition to the ammendment proposed by Commissioner Burrows related to setbacks on roads in Ravalli County.

#53

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, November 01, 2024 12:10:02 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 7:40:22 PM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 104.220.141.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Hello,

I am commenting on the wolf trapping regulations as published. I do not support the current dates of the season and seek for them to be returned to last years date not to begin until January 1st. There is evidence that bears are often enter the den later and emerge earlier esp with late winters. Traps should be checked every 24 hours as extended trap time causes more tissue damage and exposes the animal to extreme temperatures.

Trapping setback should be maintained for public safety 150 ft/ 500 ft for wolf traps, off trails with clear signage present for public information. Failure to take these precautions is clear and present danger to recreating public and pets.

The over reach of the quota in 313 now to include an illegally taken animal recently found, should trigger the closure of both 313 and 316 as the total of 6 animals has been reached. This is unnecessary take as at least two of the animals were collared and clearly come from the park. In addition, it is probable that the majority of the animals came from the same pack in the park. This fractures the social structure and destabilizes the breeding, sometimes resulting in more pups being born than the previous year.

Thank you

Karen L Brown

#54

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 7:28:18 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 7:47:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:18
IP Address: 149.22.84.115

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Christine Giannini
City/Town:	Olympia
State/Province:	WA
Email Address:	c.gian7@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

A collared Yellowstone wolf has been killed in unit 313, along with 5 other wolves in units 313 and 316. These units should be closed now. Yellowstone wolves should be protected when they leave the park as they are within the Park. It should be illegal to kill them as they are part of the Yellowstone ecosystem. These wolves belong to all Americans. They are important members of their packs. Montana needs to respect and protect Yellowstone wildlife.

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 9:07:19 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 9:15:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:53
IP Address: 98.97.45.237

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **John C. Locke**
City/Town: **Frenchtown**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **rustynutsvtp@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

The truth is spoken with few words.
Grizzly bears NEED to be delisted.
I have seen more Grizzlies on my ranch this year than black bears.
I trap wolves, and and have NEVER caught a bear.
All this proposal is doing is limiting the trappers ability to trap.
Which clearly the subtle intent of such legislation.
John C. Locke
Bear Paw Ranch
Huson, Mt.

#56

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:01:18 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:04:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 174.234.1.228

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Chris George
City/Town:	Libby
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	PATRIOTFARMS2016@GMAIL.COM

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

It's preposterous that we have to wait an entire month after idaho opens thier wolf trapping season when the reason is grizzly bears in both states. More bears are killed by fisherman in montana than any trapper. Hopefully we can get them off the endangered species list so we can properly manage our over abundance of wolves.

#57

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:13:25 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:34:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:42
IP Address: 174.204.69.68

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Robert Roman
City/Town:	POST FALLS
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	greattempest@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear commission,

More damage is done to the grizzly bear population by automobile and train collisions than by any trapping activity ever! Stop discriminating against trapping! You could better serve the grizzly bear by requiring ALL auto and train traffic to proceed at no more than 25 miles per hour in the federally declared grizzly bear area on all tracks, and roads, including the interstate highway system. The only other workable plan would be to implement the long overdue delisting of the grizzly bear!

Thank you,
Robert Roman

#58

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:25:14 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:42:58 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:43
IP Address: 174.218.172.209

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	D. Steintl
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	Steintl@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

As a resident of Montana, my family and I fully support wolf trapping and furbearer trapping. I am disappointed by the continued restrictions being placed on trapping. The implementation of jaw size restrictions in certain situations seems overly restrictive to me, as similar restrictions do not appear to be ordered when other human situations cause grizzly bear impacts or deaths. A grizzly killed by a vehicle or train does not trigger vehicle sizes or train sizes to be restricted. It seems overly punitive to trappers that these restrictions continue, while trappers are not the ones impacting grizzly populations as much as other industries. These restrictions seem rooted in environmental extremist attempts to ban trapping. Science supports trapping in Montana, and I support trapping. Thank you.

#59

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:41:21 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:43:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:30
IP Address: 72.175.97.200

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Guy Kempthorne
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	burlingtonfence@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please make these regulations viable for the wolf trapper. Six weeks is not enough time and there is a huge financial obligation and time to run a wolf trap line. We need to mange these wolves and trapping is a very effective tool to do that. Thanks for your time, Guy

#60

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:24:54 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 6:51:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:37
IP Address: 216.14.233.180

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Betty Potter**
City/Town: **Greenough**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **pfamilytrust@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

There should be a buffer zone around Yellowstone because wildlife including wolves do not know where boundaries are.

All wolf deaths no matter the cause should be counted in the quota and areas should be closed before quotas are met when they have gotten close.

Traps should be checked daily and set away from any public use areas.

I think trapping is cruel and kills more animals not targeted. It is no longer a humane way of killing and is mainly just a way people show their disrespect for wildlife like running over wildlife with machines.

Wildlife are having a hard enough time surviving due to human incroachment into their homes without being continually being harassed by some form of hunting nearly 365 days a year.

It is getting so there are more people coming to see wildlife in the wild than people wanting to kill everything they see.

I think trapping needs to be banned.

#61

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:05:31 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:08:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:09
IP Address: 98.244.81.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Beal Family
City/Town:	Charlottesville
State/Province:	VA
Email Address:	dbeal1286@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Our families strongly oppose the unregulated trapping and hunting and exceeding of quotas that is going unchecked. As yearly visitors to your state, specifically to view Wildlife, these animals are important to all of us and should not be made to be killed in such numbers to satisfy the interests of a very small percent of people

#62

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:06:31 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:10:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:22
IP Address: 24.184.90.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **J.P.**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I feel that there should be consequences when quotas are exceeded, and 316 should be closed. I am strongly against the amendment proposed by Commissioner Burrows. It is unsafe for our pets.

#63

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:09:12 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:11:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:54
IP Address: 98.244.81.239

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Murphy**
City/Town: **Family**
State/Province: **AZ**
Email Address: **airmurphy921@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

We are appalled that hunting and trapping numbers are going unchecked and exceeding quotas. These traps are also putting, endangered or untargeted animals at high risk. Please stop the senseless and wasteful killing. These animals serve an important part in keeping our ecosystem healthy and they are for all of us to enjoy.

#64

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:11:28 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:12:39 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:10
IP Address: 24.184.90.42

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am concerned that unregulated trapping will threaten other species including Grizzlies.
Thank You for your consideration.

#65

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:15:39 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:31:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:16:18
IP Address: 172.56.200.128

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: EIAN THOMAS
City/Town: Bonner
State/Province: MT
Email Address: boweatelk@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I believe that forcing trappers to get multiple licenses is absurd. It would be like making every deer hunter get a license for every property they might hunt deer on. Furthermore I fully believe that the wolf season is far too restricted. Lots of packs don't even come back through in the 45 days our season is now. I believe fully that all of these proposed changes are completely unnecessary.

#66

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:28:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:36:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:44
IP Address: 216.147.123.222

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Stephen Coale
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	scoale@coaleandcompany.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Regarding wolf trapping season dates outside of the court ordered geographic area, I would like to see the season start on 11/1. Most trappers start trapping coyote and fox on 11/1 as they have primed up. Wolves would be prime too. This earlier start would help off-set the latter start in the court ordered area.

It is much easier to trap wolves with foot traps in November than in Jan and February.

#67

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, November 05, 2024 4:41:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 9:41:09 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 65.131.200.190

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Larry D Rattray
City/Town:	Proctor
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	rattpak@centurytel.net

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Director and Commissioners,

Please stick with me. I know it is long, but it is important.

I have taught Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education for 30 years and while I realize that I will soon not be able to participate much longer, I am saddened that the department is not trying to save some of the ungulates so that our Youth may have a fraction of what I have enjoyed for so many years. Wolves have decimated the ungulate herds in Northwest Montana. The Department acknowledges that the area has too much cover to count how many elk, moose and deer are living there. But they make no allowance to the number of wolves hunters see that they use to base the wolf population. But, they will acknowledge that we have 500, or nearly half of the entire wolf population. Where I used to be able to bugle over a canyon where I would often get 2,3, or even more answers, now I can travel from ridge to ridge and never get an answer. And, if you do, they have learned that making noise attracts wolves and it is best to keep quiet.

One point of the proposed regulations that I think needs to be addressed is the trap size restriction if a Grizzly is caught early. Some of the best traps made today are 6 inch and are helpful in breaking through snow and frost. Many recreational trappers are using a 6" jaw spread for coyotes and it is wrong to make them pull their line in the unlikely event that a grizzly is caught. Catching one Grizzly would be extremely unlikely so the odds of a second one is even more unlikely and that is just not a good reason to penalize a large portion of the coyote trappers.

The Department is proposing an additional permit for non-game and predators. Is this to distinguish between recreational and professional trappers? Does it really matter if who catches a wolf? This makes no sense because the department has a list of everyone who buys a trapping license and there is a survey to be filled out at the end of the season. This is just one more opportunity to create paperwork that has no value. We have a meeting in the spring that we have always shared any information that the Biologists have requested and we are proud of working with the Biologists to make sure the regulations work for everyone. What purpose does it serve to require a trapper to run down each landowner that has asked him to trap predators. I can see some landowners wondering if this is a liability release for the trapper or the Department. Is this another challenge or hurdle to persuade the trapper to quit. We are already required to report non target captures. Why is this being revisited? Adding challenges to the trapper is not going to make the people who do their research on the Disney channel not ask for the same things. Conceding anything just gives them more room to ask for something else. Their goal is to make trapping too much effort and get some to hang it up.

Setbacks – Simplify the regulations with 50 foot setback on roads that are open for vehicular traffic. If the road is open, a 50 foot setback allows a person an opportunity to exercise their dog. Basing the setback on which animal is targeted is not being fair to the public because there will be traps 50 feet from the road. If the road is closed, there should be no setbacks. Why does it matter if the road was open 2 or 3 months ago? How is anyone supposed to know if it was or not? Not all gates have signage to let us know if it was supposed to be open. Does it matter if the dog is caught in a coyote trap or a wolf trap? If someone is not familiar with how a trap works, they will possibly need help to release their dog, and this is not a life threatening experience. Tags are required on each trap and with a couple of phone calls can cure the problem. Despite the image some people paint, the traps do not rip off the legs of a dog and these are the same traps that were used to capture the wolves that were released here.

A few years ago, the Commission approved no setbacks, with a few exceptions, in Sanders County and has had no problems. Commissioner Burrow's amendment is a good step in the right direction. The department reviews the wolf regulations every year so there is no reason to not give it a try in more areas. Sanders County's success shows that the trappers are not setting traps where there are pedestrians walking their dogs and if they are, they are posting signage to alert everyone that there are traps in the area. It works, and we need to expand this to other areas. Mineral County is a prime example where this makes sense. The country is so steep that the wolves run the roads and cut across from one road to another. They can't smell any lure 150 feet from the road. If you cannot locate private property to trap on, you are wasting your time. My friends have trapped over 40 wolves in Mineral County and only 1 has come off Public land because of the restrictions in place. I am glad that Commissioner Burrows realizes that this will help the Department reach a livable population of wolves. The Department should be endorsing this idea. Who wrote the response to the Commissioner's amendment to oppose reducing setbacks? I am disappointed that the Department would ignore the requirement that the Legislature gave them to reduce the number of wolves.

Since we are restricted by a judge playing biologist, we should increase the hunting season. There is no reason to not have hunting open on private land for 365 days a year and only closed on public land for 6 weeks starting on the first of April to allow the pups to get large enough to leave the den. No one is going to mistake a Grizzly for a wolf when hunting. The legislature passed laws to reduce

Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

the wolf population, and the Department is trying to say a 4 wolf reduction is meeting that requirement and it is not. It is past time to step up and start reducing the number of wolves. Wolves are tough to hunt or trap. If we are going to save our ungulate population, we need all the help we can get. Our Elk, Moose, and Deer are too important to ignore their plight. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I hope you can see your way to help save some of the ungulates for our Future Generations.

Larry Rattray
Proctor, Montana

#68

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:11:27 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:14:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 71.32.52.6

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Jean Brennan
City/Town: Hamilton
State/Province: MT
Email Address: jnbrennan45@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please end the horrendous trapping of our wildlife. So barbaric!

#69

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:23:03 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:23:55 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:51
IP Address: 72.143.197.141

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Nelson
City/Town:	South salem
State/Province:	NY
Email Address:	nbreadfan@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Losing our Keystone species is absolutely devastating to an already fragile ecosystem-- indiscriminate killing must end for all. Native Wildlife--this is poaching. This is horrible! They call themselves hunters but this isn't hunting! This is murder! Not sure how you can even look at yourselves in the mirror!

#70

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, November 06, 2024 5:58:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:28:16 AM
Time Spent: 16:30:13
IP Address: 184.167.247.241

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kimberly
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kimberly.a.hightower@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please consider the lives of other intelligent, sentient beings as valuable! Take their perspective, and imagine how you would feel if these acts of abhorrent cruelty were inflicted upon yourself, other humans you know, or companion animals. Imagine if these innocent, wild souls were your own dogs -- who share the same right to life, intrinsic value, capabilities, and right to not suffer. They are equally intelligent and emotional as any dog or other animal, and they are as capable of suffering as you are. It is time to end these archaic practices and get real: human supremacist values are a thing of the past, and they don't hold up along views of one's self as an upstanding, morally conscious, compassionate human.

Please consider ending trapping and unfair, cruel hunting practices, and upholding your moral responsibility as a human to do right by others - human and nonhuman.

#71

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:36:40 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:46:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:57
IP Address: 184.166.75.152

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Michael Koeppen**
City/Town: **Florence**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **mikekoeppen@icloud.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I understand that Commissioner Burrows has proposed amending the trapping setback regulations in Ravalli County for wolves and other furbearing animals. I am very opposed to this amendment! First of all, the current setbacks do not inhibit trapping one bit. They can trap all they want with the current setbacks. Perhaps moving traps back seems a little inconvenient to trappers, but you need to remember that the vast majority of the public does not trap, and they and their pets deserve the small amount of protection the setbacks provide. Second, I have had dogs trapped twice, one by a conibear trap placed right in a trail (Kootenai Creek, Ravalli County), and the other placed a couple of feet off the trail. Please do the right thing and reject this ill conceived proposal.

#72

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 11:15:04 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 11:24:10 AM
Time Spent: 00:09:05
IP Address: 47.37.53.206

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	J Willis
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	fia@bresnan.net

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Removing setbacks for traps of all kinds will negatively affect the safty and desire of the public to get out and enjoy our forests. This in turn will negatively our economy. Is it really in the best interest to have such a negative effect on both our residents and those who come to visit and experience the wonder of our forests? I don't think so. Follow the money don't change the current regulations.

#73

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, November 04, 2024 8:42:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 11:33:31 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 98.97.40.243

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Foundation for Wildlife Management
City/Town:	Ponderay
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	info@f4wm.org

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

FWP trapping and wolf season proposals

Thank you for your continued efforts directed at obtaining management authority of the growing Grizzly Bear population in MT. Although we at the Foundation for Wildlife Management understand the intent of these efforts, we cannot support all aspects of your proposal for the following reasons.

- The authority to regulate coyote trapping does not fall within FWP jurisdiction.
- Requiring supplemental licenses for already licensed trappers is a burden trappers should not face. (If annual mandatory reporting of trapper efforts is needed for FWP to record targeted trap nights per species, perhaps that would provide the much needed data to properly defend trapping as the targeted management tool it is?)

Commissioner Burrows Amendment:

We at F4WM support the amendment as proposed, and appreciate Commissioner Burrows research, and his effort to maximize trapper opportunity, while continuing the effort to minimize land user conflicts by excluding the roadways being utilized by other land user groups during that time frame.

Opposition to this amendment will never be content, as their goal includes ending trapping all-together. Trappers are unjustly viewed as the "Cause" of land user conflicts any time they arise, but the truth is, trappers have just as much right to utilize our public lands as any other user group, those other groups should be making concessions to avoid these conflicts just as commonly as trappers are forced to make concessions to avoid conflict.

Following Legislative Direction:

Given that:

- FWP was directed legislatively to reduce wolf numbers
- MT wolf populations have not fluctuated much more than sixty wolves up or down in the past ten years
- Wolf trapping efforts have been hamstrung by Federal Court order

What is FWP doing to reduce wolf numbers? We at the Foundation for Wildlife Management would propose the following:

- A Statewide wolf harvest quota that replaces all unit or regional quotas
- Year-round hunting seasons that only close when the established quota is met
- The use of thermal imaging for wolf hunting be allowed in all units

Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you for all you do for Montana Wildlife and Sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Justin Webb

Executive Director for Foundation for Wildlife Management

justin@f4wm.org

#74

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 11:40:07 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 11:45:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:09
IP Address: 35.133.56.53

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Renelle Braaten
City/Town:	Havre
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	renelle.braaten@enell.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

We must reject Borrows amendment. Montana is built around it's wildlife and recreation. Trapping as a whole should be stopped but Borrows amendment is beyond and very dangerous to people and animals. Please reject!

#75

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:00:25 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:10:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:03
IP Address: 164.152.181.89

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Stephanie Becker**
City/Town: **Harrison**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **beckfarm94@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

My husband Mike and I would like to see NO trapping of wolves, and certainly none on Public Lands. Until that happens we urge you to include the following regulations: # 24-hr trap checks; #Trap signage; #NO BAIT allowed; #absolutely NO SNARING ON PUBLIC LAND; # no RAM-powered snares;
Quota overages should be reduced from the current season quota; and #mandate TRAP SETBACKS for traps along all public roads.

#76

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:11:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:14:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:30
IP Address: 174.231.80.113

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Natasha Osborn
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	frognchase@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I oppose Burrows' amendment to remove trap setbacks from roads! This is a populated County with a ton of people hiking, snowshoeing, skiing on roads. More dogs will get trapped and will give trapping terrible press. Please don't allow this!

#77

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:47:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:52:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:24
IP Address: 146.75.175.0

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	KC
City/Town:	Eureka
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtaudubon@wildlifelover.net

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please close unit 316 immediately and reduce wolf killing quotas by 50%.
Thank you.

#78

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:46:19 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 12:52:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:26
IP Address: 99.53.222.179

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Denise Shearer**
City/Town: **Grand Rapids**
State/Province: **MI**
Email Address: **deniseshearer@att.net**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please defeat this proposal. It causes pain and suffering and would also be a danger to humans and pets. Nothing is as cruel as death by snare or trap . please keep existing protections in place. Thanks

#79

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:25:31 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:27:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 38.141.44.1

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Gail Zella
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	gazellus@juno.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please stop all trapping, snares, etc/

#80

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:21:21 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:30:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:00
IP Address: 208.123.199.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **TERRY ZINK**
City/Town: **MARION**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **zinksbigskyarcherytargets@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I believe that we need rethink the regulation and start dates for wolf trapping season. There is a chance the the currant federal judge in Missoula may be replaced with President trump taking office and the are talks the the Flathead Valley's Judge Dan Wilson may be up consideration, a conservative. That would hopefully change some things as far as the grizzlies and wolves. We cannot lose 60 days of wolf trapping, the damage will take a long time to fix.

Thank you, Terry L. Zink

#81

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:42:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 1:58:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:42
IP Address: 192.161.70.109

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **wildlivelihoodscoalition@gmail.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. Wild Livelihoods represents over 200 Montana business whose livelihoods are dependent on wildlife and tourism. We submit this public comment to formally reiterate the court-established geographic area for Region 3 with the date restrictions of January 1st - February 15th are not reflected in the wolf regulations and they absolutely must be.

Respectfully,
The Wild Livelihoods Business Coalition

#82

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:25:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:29:30 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:18
IP Address: 38.43.18.33

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Shane Hayes
City/Town:	Menan
State/Province:	ID
Email Address:	activeinvestment29@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please use sound science, and not emotional arguments. Populations need to be controlled to be a viable tool.

#83

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:28:02 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:29:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
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 Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

November 7, 2024

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

RE: Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposal for the Fall 2024-Winter 2025 wolf trapping regulations. 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.

We strongly oppose continuing to allow snaring of wolves in Montana as it will certainly result in injury and death to other wildlife species, including listed species such as grizzly bears and lynx. While the trapping method restrictions imposed by the recent court order could mitigate some impacts to grizzly bears, we recommend that these restrictions be applied statewide to accommodate continued range expansion of this species. Trapping end dates should also be flexible to allow for early emergence of grizzly bears from denning sites. Snares present a real and significant danger to the health and safety of all animals on public lands and the risk posed by this method of trapping is simply unacceptable.

We ask the Commission to reject the use of these methods of take across Montana as they have no ethical or science-based justification. Additionally, we request that the Commission reject Commissioner Burrow's amendment because it expands use of these methods through wide-scale reduction in trapping setbacks in region 2.

Thank you,

Eric Clewis
Senior Representative, Northern Rockies
Defenders of Wildlife

#84

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:19:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:37:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:36
IP Address: 72.174.18.52

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Bert Lindler
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: blindler@montana.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

My wife and I enjoy cross-country skiing on closed Forest Service roads accompanied by our two labrador retrievers. Trapping setbacks greatly reduce the possibility that our dogs will inadvertently be caught and possibly injured or killed in a legal set. Please do not pass the amendment proposed by Commissioner Burrows that would eliminate all setbacks on all Ravalli County roads closed to motor vehicle and OHV use during the designated trapping season as well as roads seasonally closed to motor vehicles and OHV's that are lawfully open for over snow vehicles.

#85

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:40:52 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 2:43:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:17
IP Address: 63.153.104.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Keith Kubista
City/Town: Stevensville MT
State/Province: MT
Email Address: kredtailhawk@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Trapping and wolf season proposals.

I am encouraged the Department is striving to gain state management authority of the recovered grizzly bear population.

However, there are serious flaws in the proposal so I urge you not to proceed with the predatory animal supplemental permit and privacy invading declaration portion.

I see no authority for management or enforcement of these provisions and believe they were coerced manuevers by the anti-trapping crowd.

I am concerned with the unintended consequences this proposal creates, by requiring people protecting their chickens to purchase a conservation license per MCA 87-6-302 prior to obtaining the "free" supplemental permit and risking their right of privacy in accordance with Article II Section 10 of the Montana State Constitution.

I am in full support of the Burrows amendment to modify setbacks on the 4 Ravalli County roads listed within the amendment.

#86

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 3:48:50 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 3:51:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:13
IP Address: 208.73.250.125

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Dianne Holland**
City/Town: **Wellington**
State/Province: **CO**
Email Address: **dsbholland@aol.com**

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please do not remove the trapping setbacks! This is disgusting don't you care about the safety of children and pets? The setbacks need to be kept in place for public safety!

#87

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:07:09 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:11:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:27
IP Address: 129.222.101.202

Page 1

Q1 Respondent skipped this question

Contact information:

Q2
Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Shooting 5 wolves when there is a limit of 3 for the region should be considered illegal regardless if they "meant to" kill 5. There has to be better oversight. Another pack has been decimated because of the hunt. It is not serving any purpose other than uncontrolled slaughter.

#88

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:14:14 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:17:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 98.97.116.159

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Heather Moos
City/Town:	Billings
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	casagranadaheather@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am appalled that Burrows would submit an amendment to remove all trap and snare setbacks in Ravalli county during the wolf and furbearer trapping seasons on public roads closed year-round and those closed seasonally. This is extremely dangerous for humans, their pets and innocent wildlife. Please reconsider what this will affect.

#89

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:50:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:51:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:49
IP Address: 50.207.42.70

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Patrick Kelly-Fischer
City/Town: Denver
State/Province: CO
Email Address: patrick@publicinterestnetwork.org

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

I'm writing today in regards to the proposed wolf trapping season.

Wolves are an iconic species in the West, and a cornerstone of healthy ecosystems. The recent turn toward more aggressive hunting could put us on a road toward practices that would be truly devastating for this magnificent animal.

In particular, trapping as proposed will run a high risk of indiscriminately killing non-target species, some of which are still listed as endangered.

Attached are the names of 13,201 concerned Americans -- many of them Montanans -- who signed the following petition:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commissioners,

Bringing gray wolves back from the brink of extinction is one of our nation's great conservation success stories.

But in recent years, too many wolves have already died in Montana — and another hunting season will only add more cruelty to the mix.

Trapping is one of the most horrifying ways that a wolf can die — but wolves aren't the only victims of trapping.

A baited trap doesn't know what animal is stepping in it — and that means endangered grizzlies and lynx can be snared as well.

We, the undersigned, urge you to end the wolf hunts.

We hope that you'll bear this input in mind as you finalize plans for this season.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patrick Kelly-Fischer
Board Member, Environmental Action

#90

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:47:34 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:53:45 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:10
IP Address: 131.36.208.17

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Patrick McFadden
City/Town: Troy
State/Province: MT
Email Address: hinterlandr@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

My family and I are all opposed to the new restrictions being considered for trapping wolves. The idea that grizzlies are a bycatch of wolf trapping is simply not true - and we have never heard of a grizzly in any trap in our area (Lincoln Co and surroundings). Those who filed the lawsuit know it, and are simply fishing again for a reason to stymie delisting of the grizzlies. Please do not institute more restrictions due to legal lawfare on sportsmen and conservation.

#91

COMPLETE

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Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:57:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:48
IP Address: 174.234.5.84

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Mica Costerousse
City/Town: Seeley Lake
State/Province: MT
Email Address: micacosterousse@att.net

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I do not agree with Commissioner Burrows' proposed amendment to remove trap and snare setbacks. These setbacks exist to protect the public and their pets. It's bad enough signage isn't required. While you allow trapping and snaring, you should also take into consideration that citizens utilize the same lands for recreation. Please DO NOT remove setbacks!

#92

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:53:13 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:58:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:09
IP Address: 65.144.133.80

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Michelle Holihan
City/Town:	Gardiner
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mtnmichelle@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am concerned that trapping in Unit 313 will affect wolves which have already gone over the hunting quota by 2 wolves set for the current season. I support my family by guiding in Yellowstone National Park, as do many other members of the local community and trapping on the edge of Yellowstone has as deleterious effect on our wildlife viewing abilities.

#93

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:04:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:04
IP Address: 98.97.32.96

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Daniel Ritter
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	ritter4@mac.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please do not change the road setback requirements for trapping (Burrows amendment). I walk my dogs on closed roads all the time and don't want to be locked out of public lands to benefit a few trappers. Public safety should be a priority when it comes to the use of lethal traps on public lands.

#94

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 4:26:23 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:09:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:16
IP Address: 35.150.118.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: John Sheetz
City/Town: Livingston
State/Province: MT
Email Address: sheetzj83@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I wish to comment on the proposed Wolf & Other Species Trapping Regulations Within And Outside The Geographic Scope Identified By Federal Court Order. Rather than delve into the details of the proposed regulations, I ask that you all step back and reconsider the unconscionable practice of trapping in general. I would have hoped that, as supposedly enlightened human beings, we would have - as a species - by now come to terms with the fact that such a barbaric practice should not be regulated, but outlawed. The pain and suffering that is heaped upon a countless number of animals through this practice is unimaginable. And to assume that all trappers abide by FWP regulations, regularly check their traps, and practice fair chase principles is absurd. Not to mention the "collateral damage" that occurs with respect to pets and other animals that inadvertently encounter a trap. I am a lifelong outdoorsman and have hunted and fished all my life. To be candid, trapping and trappers are as repugnant to me and many others as poaching and poachers and other unethical practices and practitioners. Please move FWP into modern times, have more respect for creatures - especially the sentient species addressed in these proposed regulations. Abolish trapping. Thank you.

#95

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:10:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:58
IP Address: 75.233.40.169

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	KATHRYN Adele YOUNG
City/Town:	Albuquerque
State/Province:	NM
Email Address:	youngk215875@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

As someone who spends time in Montana, along with that tourist dollars, I find trapping to be barbaric. It is disturbing to me that input on these regulations was only obtained from trappers, furbearers and livestock owners. That is a very unbalanced and makes it very clear don't really care about the input from the public at large. Continuing to trap large predators, for sport or otherwise, is detrimental to us humans.

#96

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:16:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:17
IP Address: 69.145.21.27

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	stacy lewis
City/Town:	Hamilton
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	stacymat@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

As a dog owner, avid cross-country skier and fat tire biker, I am strongly against the removal of the required 50' setback for furbearer traps and 150' setback for wolf traps for several reasons:

1. Public Safety Concerns:

- Allowing traps to be placed directly on or alongside public roads increases the risk to pets and children who frequent these areas with their families. The absence of required signage exacerbates this risk, making it difficult to avoid dangerous areas.

2. Negative Impact on Recreation:

- The Bitterroot National Forest is a popular destination for outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, running, hiking, and nature walks. Traps placed near these trails and roads can deter people from visiting these areas, reducing the overall enjoyment and use of public lands.

3. Animal Welfare:

- The use of injurious traps like massive leghold traps, strangling snares, and quick kill body-crushing conibears is inhumane. These mechanisms can cause severe suffering and injury to wildlife, pets, and even non-target species, often leading to a slow and painful death.

4. Limited Benefit for a Small Group:

- Less than one-third of one percent of Montanans purchase a trapping license, meaning a very small minority benefits from the removal of these setbacks at the expense of the majority who use public lands for recreation and enjoyment.

5. Economic Impact:

- Increased incidents of pets and other animals being caught in traps can lead to significant veterinary costs for owners, as well as potential legal and medical costs in cases where people are injured. Organizations like Trap Free Montana often bear the financial burden of helping with these medical bills.

6. Environmental Impact:

- Trapping can disrupt local ecosystems by indiscriminately reducing populations of both target and non-target species. This can have cascading effects on the biodiversity of the area, harming the environmental health of the forest.

7. Ethical Considerations:

- Many argue that the practice of trapping is ethically wrong due to the unnecessary pain and suffering it causes. Public lands should be a place where animals and humans can coexist peacefully without the threat of inhumane practices.

8. Community Opposition:

- There is significant opposition from winter recreationists and other community members who value the safe and humane use of public lands. The removal of setbacks disregards the concerns and well-being of these residents and visitors.

These arguments highlight the myriad of reasons why the removal of the 50' and 150' setbacks for traps is detrimental to public safety, recreational enjoyment, and animal welfare.

I appreciate your consideration.

#97

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:13:00 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:20:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: 35.150.118.136

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Melissa Fitzgerald
City/Town:	Livingston
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mjfcaf@yahoo.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Outlawing animal trapping is a critical step in ensuring that we protect wildlife, promote ethical treatment of animals, and preserve the delicate balance of our ecosystems. Here's why.

1. Unnecessary Cruelty to Animals

Traps are designed to capture and hold animals in ways that often lead to immense suffering. Animals can endure broken bones, deep wounds, and prolonged pain as they struggle to escape. Many animals, such as coyotes, foxes, and bobcats, can suffer for days before being discovered—if they're discovered at all. The suffering that these creatures endure is both inhumane and unacceptable in a society that values compassion and respect for life.

2. Non-Target Species Suffer

One of the most tragic aspects of animal trapping is the unintended capture of non-target species. Pets, endangered animals, and even harmless wildlife can become victims of traps that were set with the intent to capture a different species. For example, dogs, cats, and even birds often fall victim to traps, leaving them severely injured or killed. These accidental captures disrupt ecosystems and result in unnecessary deaths of innocent animals.

3. Risk to Human Safety

Traps do not only harm animals—they can pose significant risks to human safety as well. People walking in the woods, hikers, and even children can inadvertently become caught in traps. In some cases, traps have been designed in ways that could cause serious injury to people, including broken limbs or worse. By outlawing trapping, we reduce the risks to human life and make public spaces safer for everyone.

4. Ecosystem Disruption

Animal trapping is not just harmful to individual animals; it can have ripple effects throughout entire ecosystems. Trapping can unbalance food chains, as it removes key species from their natural roles in the environment. For instance, predators like wolves and coyotes play vital roles in controlling rodent populations. When they're trapped, it can lead to overpopulation of prey species, creating ecological problems that affect plant life, other animals, and even human agricultural activities.

6. Changing Public Attitudes Toward Animal Rights

Society's awareness and sensitivity toward animal rights have evolved significantly. As we grow more aware of the sentience of animals and their capacity to experience pain, we must apply these values to the way we treat wildlife. Banning trapping is part of this moral progression—a step toward a more compassionate and just world where animals are treated with respect and empathy.

7. Global Trends Toward Protection

Around the world, countries are increasingly recognizing the need to protect animals from inhumane practices like trapping. Nations in Europe and parts of Canada have already implemented significant restrictions or outright bans on animal trapping.

The practice of trapping does not belong in a modern, ethical society. By outlawing it, we would send a clear message that we value life—human, animal, and the delicate ecosystems that sustain us. A world where animals are no longer subjected to cruel traps is a world that reflects our highest ideals of compassion, respect, and stewardship of the Earth. Let's choose progress over cruelty, and stand up for a future where all creatures are allowed to live free from suffering.

#98

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:22:06 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 5:26:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:34
IP Address: 38.141.44.5

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	Katharine Stone
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kroestone@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

I am adamantly opposed to Commissioner Burrows' amendment regarding trap setbacks in Ravalli County. I was a token female non-trapper on the sham of a TAC in 2019, but the importance of setbacks was one topic the group could agree on. Even MT FWP agrees it's a bad idea.

#99

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:43:46 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 7:48:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:04
IP Address: 63.153.15.217

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Eleanor Clark
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: Eleanorwclark@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

This trapping/hunting of Yellowstone park wolves has to stop! The buffer isn't working. Yet another pack is demolished. These are wolves who have value to the American public. Not just a single hunter. Also the running down of animals with snowmobiles and four wheelers is not fair chase or ethical in any sense. Do your jobs- stop this inhumane senseless attack on wildlife. The public and these animals deserve more.

#100

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:40:11 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:46:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:43
IP Address: 35.133.61.142

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name:	john c mc Neal
City/Town:	deerlodge
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	hw14hlp@aol.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

leave the wolf trapping season alone if you want to do something spend your time developing a plan for the grizzle bears!

#101

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:16:56 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:53:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:04
IP Address: 76.87.231.75

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Rene Hersey
City/Town: Wilson
State/Province: WY
Email Address: renehersey@icloud.com

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Hello Commissioners,

I have a concern regarding two things-

The 48 hour time period in the category "48 hours after FWP is aware of and has publicly noticed the capture of any grizzly bear" 48 hours is a very long time for FWP to wait before addressing the damage and critical condition of a trapped bear. These bears are an endangered species and as such your FWP has an obligation to contact USFWS immediately.

Please change to "as soon as FWP is aware and has publicly noticed the capture of any Grizzly Bear."

The next concern I have is under the same section-"48 hours after FWP is aware of capture of any Grizzly"-

A breakaway lock device installed on the loop end designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied;

How can this be safe if an orphaned almost 2 year old cub has lost their mother and is travelling solo, if they become trapped by a snare this snare will not release because a 1 year and a 1/2 Grizzly cub won't be capable of applying 350 lbs of force and would not survive being caught in a device such a snare.

My example to drive home my point is that in Wyoming Grizzly 399s 1 year 8 month year old cub is an orphan now. If she were to be snared she would need help to be released immediately.

As Grizzly Bears travel farther to find berries (Jackson Hole had no berries this fall), more orphans will be the norm because there still are not enough flashing signs alerting drivers that Grizzly moms w cubs are on the road. More incidents w traps and snares will happen.

I urge you to take my suggestions.

Thank you,

Rene

#102

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 3:04:04 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 9:40:09 PM
Time Spent: 06:36:05
IP Address: 97.121.208.156

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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

Q2

Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

Please see letter submitted via email to fwpwld@mt.gov on behalf of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

#103

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, November 07, 2024 8:10:34 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, November 07, 2024 10:01:15 PM
Time Spent: 01:50:40
IP Address: 98.127.138.184

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Q1

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Please comment on Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Wolf and Other Species Trapping Regulations. MSGA represents ranchers in all regions of the state who have a long-standing history with utilizing trapping and snaring as a management tool to protect livestock from coyote depredation.

MSGA also has long been an advocate for state managed grizzly bears and the delisting of the species. We have supported the actions Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has taken toward this goal. MSGA continues to advocate for genetic connectivity between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), as well as support producer programs like the carcass pickup program and the use of preventative, non-lethal management tools. Most recently, MSGA has even taken a step further, and intervened on behalf of FWP in the Flathead Lolo Bitterroot Citizen Task Force v. the State of Montana lawsuit, defending the department's actions regarding predator trapping.

MSGA appreciates FWP's attempt to identify and provide solutions for potential vulnerabilities that may impact the decision to delist the grizzly bear by the United States Fish Wildlife Service (USFWS). However after reviewing the proposed regulation, MSGA needs to highlight two areas of concern.

Affidavit Requirements

The proposal requires trappers who are trapping for livestock protection purposes to sign an affidavit that includes the landowner's name and county. MSGA understands the legal protection in place and we further understand the protection of information afforded by FWP's assurances of privacy, however we want to eliminate any use of producer information and disagree with the premise that this information is necessary at all to successfully implement this regulation. Additionally, we recognize the proposed declaration includes an acknowledgement of landowner permission, but have concerns a landowner's name could be written without their knowledge and would not know until an enforcement action was taken. We believe the same result can be achieved by the department assuming trapping and snaring is being done for livestock depredation and those who are choosing to trap for recreational purposes can self-identify whether through an affidavit or other process. This is only further highlighted with the fact that the additional trapping and snaring requirement of 48 hours after a grizzly bear is caught in a trap is only for recreational trapping. MSGA would request that there be a shift for the affidavit requirement from livestock protection to recreation.

Preferred Regulation Sunset if Delisting Petition is Unsuccessful

As the regulations currently read, the regulation will have to be reviewed by the commission each August. It is expected that we will see a grizzly bear delisting decision from USFWS in early 2025. MSGA asks that the regulations include a sunset clause if we do not see a delisted status next year. If the decision is made to keep grizzly bears on the Endangered Species list, then it becomes clear that regulations on coyote trapping are irrelevant to a listing decision and therefore do not need to remain in place. MSGA seeks to ensure that the rules will not be brought forward for Commission approval in August of 2025 if grizzly bears maintain their protected status.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these points.