



Montana Trapping: 2024-2025 Season

FWP'S PROPOSAL: The following trapping restrictions are contingent upon the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission's annual approval.

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. Trappers conducting trapping activities for livestock protection must complete and sign an affidavit identifying the producer's name, that the producer has provided permission for trapping activities to occur on their private or leased property, and the county where such activities will occur. Recreational trappers¹ are not required to complete an affidavit but must still obtain the Supplemental Trapping Permit. Both recreational trappers and those conducting trapping activities for livestock protection must adhere to the Fish and Wildlife Commission's "Non-target Capture Requirement" rule, as it relates to reporting.

Effective 48 hours after FWP is aware of the capture² of any grizzly bear (after Sept. 1), ALL recreational 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), between Feb. 16 – Dec. 31 must adhere to the following regulations:

- All foothold traps used in ground sets (regardless of the target species) must have an inside jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 1/2 inches.
- The use of snares is not allowed unless they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
 - o The snare is equipped with a breakaway lock device installed on the loop end and designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied;
 - o The snare is fastened to an immovable object solidly secured to the ground (i.e., the use of drags is unlawful); and
 - o The top of the loop of the snare is not placed more than 26 inches above the ground; in snow, 26 inches is measured from the compacted snow in a trapper's footprint established by the full body weight of the trapper.

¹ "Recreational Trappers" means any trapper conducting trapping activities that are not undertaken in connection with livestock protection.

² "Capture" means evidence establishing that a grizzly bear was caught in a lawful recreational or livestock protection trap or snare, or a grizzly bear is actually caught and released from a lawful recreational or livestock protection trap or snare. This excludes any "capture" by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks or United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Wildlife Services. FWP will provide public notice of any capture.

Wolf Trapping:

- Wolf trapping will occur between Jan. 1 – Feb. 15, inside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order (see map, below).
- Wolf trapping outside of the geographic scope identified by federal court order will begin the first Monday after Thanksgiving (Dec. 2, 2024) and close on March 15.

Additions to Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Animal Welfare³:

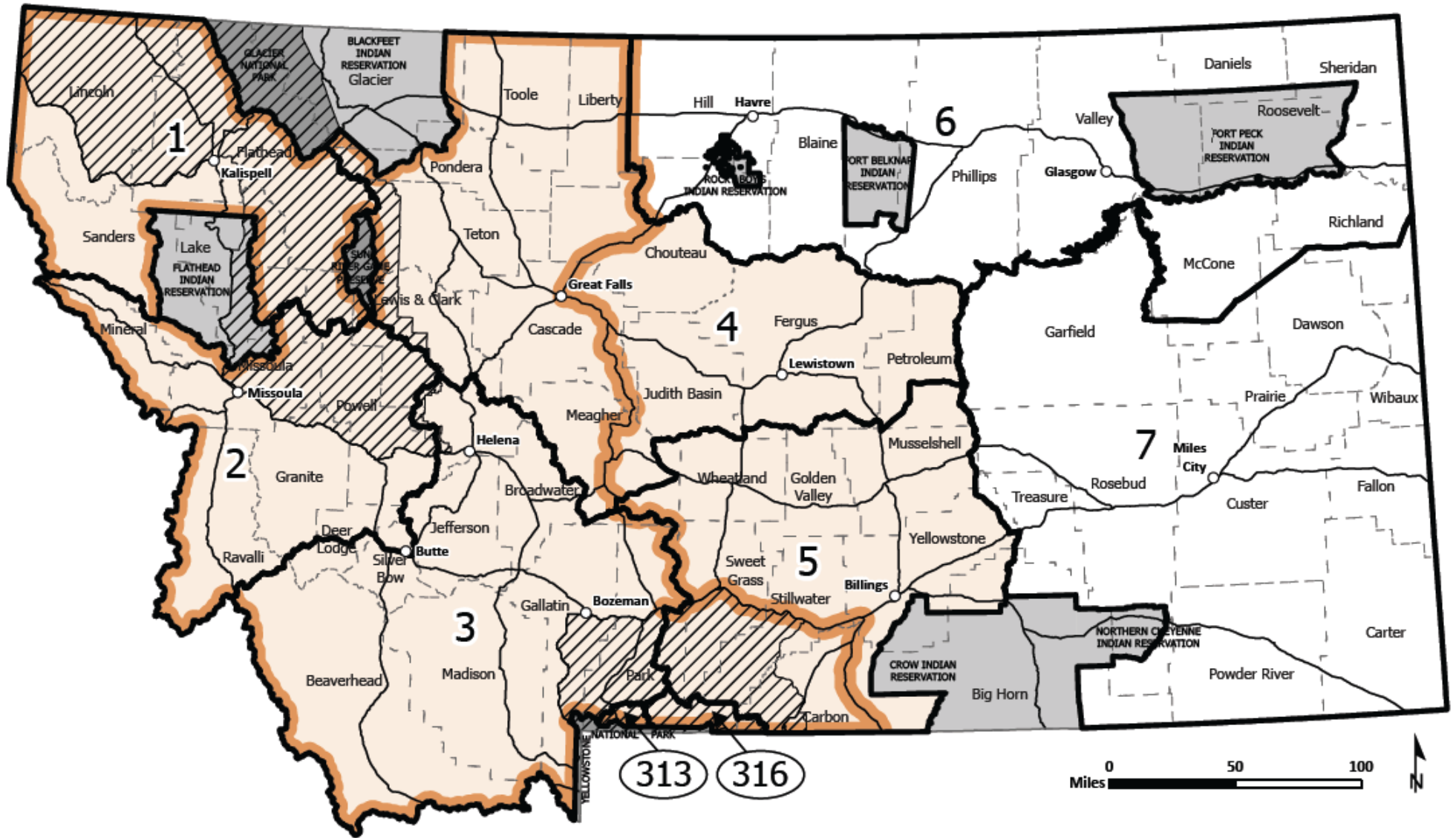
- a. Recreational wolf trappers are encouraged to follow the “Best Management Practices for Trapping Wolves in the United States,” which is published by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The best management practices for trapping wolves are as follows:
 - i. Check wolf traps before 12 p.m.;
 - ii. See below regarding type of trap and padded vs. offset and/or laminated:

b. Trap Category	Jaw/Frame Characteristics	Inside Jaw/Frame Spread at Dog*	Inside Width at Jaw/Frame Hinge Posts*
Coil-spring	Padded	$5^{3/16} - 8$	$6^{7/16} - 8$
	Offset and/or laminated or wide jaws.	$7^{1/8} - 7^{1/2}$	$7^{3/8} - 7^{7/8}$
Longspring	Padded	$6^{3/8}$	$5^{13/16}$
	Offset and/or laminated.	$6^{1/8}$	$5^{13/16}$
Power Activated Footsnare	Smooth, round rod, $1/8$ inch cable.	8	$7^{3/4}$

*inches.

- iii. When snaring for coyotes, trappers are encouraged to set the length of the cable at a minimum of 96 inches (8 feet).
- iv. Trappers are encouraged to avoid setting traps if grizzly bear are observed in an area or if grizzly bear tracks are identified.

³ These additions are not subject to the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s annual approval. Once approved, they will remain in the regulations unless removed.



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- Wolf Region/Management Unit
- Wolf Trapping Season: January 1, 2025 - February 15, 2025
- Lynx Protection Zones
- Minimum 10-pound Trap Pan Tension Area
- Closed to Hunting
- Closed to Hunting for Game Animals