

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



ANNUAL REPORT 2017





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MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Dear Director Williams and the Citizens of Montana,

The following pages provide an overview of the Law Enforcement Division's accomplishments over the last year. Not only did 2017 bring significant obstacles and challenges for the division, it also demonstrated the resolve, determination and flexibility of Montana Game Wardens to adapt to and overcome those challenges. This annual report serves to capture and present that information.

The detection of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Canyon Ferry and Tiber Reservoirs was the first of many new challenges. Game Wardens seamlessly adjusted to the new emphasis on AIS detection efforts, AIS inspection stations and AIS decontamination stations across the state. This critical work will continue to be a challenge as well as a priority for not only for the Enforcement Division but for the entire agency.

The recent discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Montana has now set the stage for our latest challenge. The enforcement division has and will continue to dedicate hundreds of hours programmatically coordinating CWD hunts, facilitating and leading sample collection, organizing checkstations and working with landowners, hunters, and other stakeholders for the foreseeable future as the prevalence of CWD is determined.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Enforcement Division however, has been the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding of personal services (pay). The 2017 legislature funded the division with 30% P-R funds; as opposed to 3 to 9% in previous years. P-R funds are strictly prohibited from being used for law enforcement duties. As such, Game Warden efforts dedicated to proactive conservation law enforcement, state parks enforcement, water safety enforcement and criminal investigation of poaching activity in Montana were drastically impacted.

Arguably, one of the most dangerous jobs in law enforcement is that of a Game Warden. We work alone, without close back up, in areas with limited communication and nearly everyone we encounter is armed. Despite the dangers, risks and hazards of protecting our wild resources and the challenges AIS, legislative Pittman-Robertson funding and CWD has presented, Montana's Game Wardens commitment and dedication to the mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks continues strong and unwavering in serving and protecting Montana, The Last Best Place.

Sincerely,

Dave Loewen, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

MONTANA GAME WARDEN



OATH OF OFFICE

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Montana and that I will discharge the duties of my office as a Fish, Wildlife and Parks Game Warden with fidelity (so help me God).

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

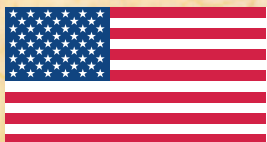
I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or

friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession: Law Enforcement.



Law Enforcement Division Priorities

OFFICER SAFETY

Our most important resource is our personnel. In 2017, 129 law enforcement officers nationwide were killed in the line of duty, 45 of whom were feloniously killed in the line of duty—including Montana's Broadwater County, Deputy Mason Moore. The safety of Montana's Game Wardens has been and will continue to be a priority for the agency and the division. An aggressive training program where safety, proficiency, skill and knowledge are a common theme will continue within the division. Training and implementation of best practices and procedures that keep Game Wardens safe while at the same time keeping conservation law enforcement relevant and on the cutting edge of technology will continue to be emphasized as we move forward.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Wildlife crime worldwide continues at an epidemic rate. The mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks places the protection and preservation of our wild resources as an agency wide priority and the underlying foundation for the work we do. Through proactive law enforcement and sound professional criminal investigations, Montana's Game Wardens are dedicated to the protection and preservation of Montana's priceless fish, wildlife and parks resources and providing for safe recreational opportunities. Public involvement with resource protection through the promotion and use of TIPMONT will continue to be an emphasis within the law enforcement program.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Public trust, professionalism and conduct are the foundational tenets upon which our Oath of Office and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics are built. As public employees, the Game Wardens of the Enforcement Division are committed to upholding and demonstrating this by continuing to deliver fair, consistent and impartial law enforcement without compromising officer safety or weakening officer discretion.



PARTNERSHIPS

Game Wardens are more often the face and voice representing Fish, Wildlife & Parks in our local communities. Continuing to grow and strengthen existing relationships while developing critical new relationships with sportsmen and women, constituency groups, landowners and all Montanans has been a traditional strength of Montana Game Wardens and will continue as we strive to meet the challenges of an everchanging and evolving landscape.

TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology clearly plays an increasingly important role in nearly all aspects of modern law enforcement. The enforcement division will continue to explore employ and leverage technology to our advantage to streamline administrative tasks, enhance officer safety, collect relevant enforcement data and enable more efficient use of time.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Up-to-date, defensible, enforceable and reliable policy in a 'develop, implement, review and revise cycle' is integral in any law enforcement organization. The enforcement division will continue with consolidating and modernizing existing policy, developing needed policy and purging obsolete policy.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The division will certainly continue to be faced with new and unforeseen challenges while at the same time being tasked with adapting to the AIS, CWD, and PR funding challenges we currently face. Increased public and agency demand on Game Warden time coupled with an ever-changing work environment will require Montana Game Wardens to remain relevant, keep an eye to the future but never lose sight of our past.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Enforcement Division

Dave Loewen

Chief of Enforcement

Ron Jendro

Assistant Chief of Enforcement

Commissioned Headquarters Staff

JD Douglas, Warden Captain

Justin Gibson, Training Officer

Phil Kilbreath, Recreation Program Manager

Mike Lee, Commercial wildlife permitting

Noncommissioned Headquarters Staff

Chris Fetherston, Admin Supervisor

Laura Juvan George, Admin spec.

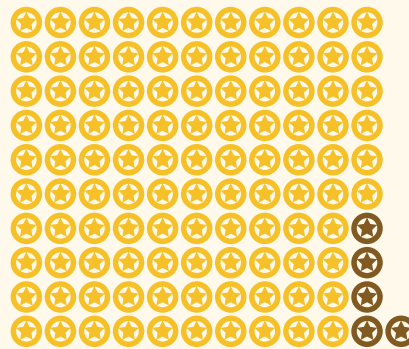
Glen McOsker, Technology specialist

Brian Shinn, TIPMONT program

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- ▶ TIPMONT
- ▶ Recreational Boating Enforcement
- ▶ Special Investigations
- ▶ Commercial Wildlife Permitting
- ▶ Field Training Evaluation Program
- ▶ Statewide training
- ▶ Hiring

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION STATS



Total staff:

111

Total commissioned
officers:

106

Average
game warden
time in service:

12.05 years

“Enforce the law without fear or favor.”

—W.F. Scott, Montana's first Game Warden, 1901



Montana Game Warden

FWP MISSION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generation.



THE BADGE

The badge worn by Montana game wardens is a unique symbol of our profession and our professionalism. It is a symbol of courage, honor, integrity, truth, justice and service. The badge represents our commitment to selfless service to the people of Montana by the expression of our core values:

- ✪ Public service
- ✪ Public Trust
- ✪ Honoring tradition and heritage
- ✪ Working with landowners
- ✪ Using science
- ✪ Leadership
- ✪ Stewardship
- ✪ Valuing our team

OATH OF OFFICE

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REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A GAME WARDEN

- ▶ Bachelors degree
- ▶ Extensive background investigation
- ▶ Medical evaluation
- ▶ Psychological evaluation
- ▶ Graduation from Montana Law Enforcement Academy
- ▶ Completion of Field Training and Evaluation Program
- ▶ 1 Full year of probation after hire





Region 1

Region 1 Information

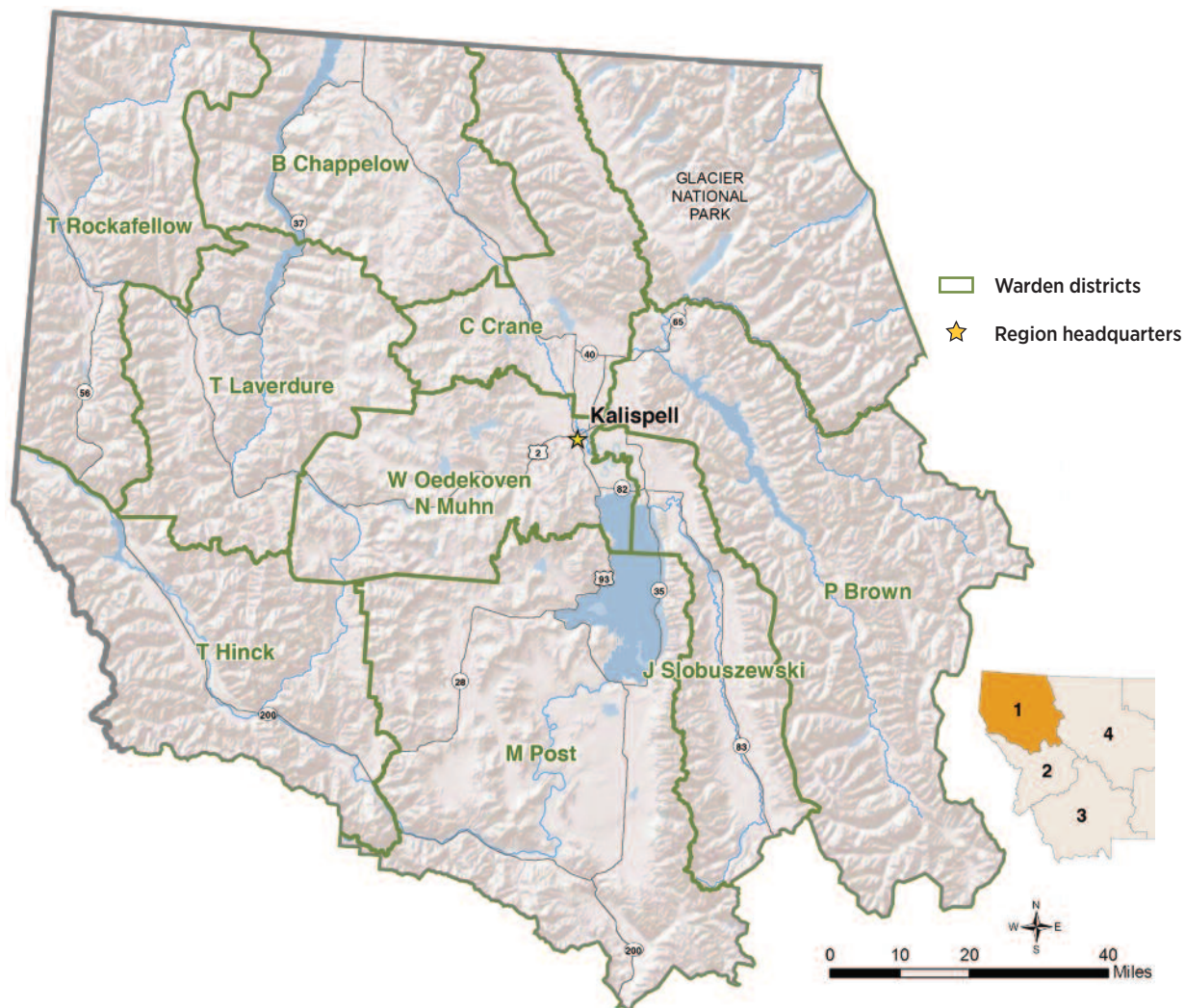
Montana FWP Region 1 Headquarters
490 N Meridain Rd
Kalispell MT 59901
406-752-5501

Block Management735,000 acres
Public land8,446 square miles
Fishing access sites32
State parks42

Game Wardens

Lee AndersonCaptain
Jon ObstSergeant
Nathan ReinerSergeant

Chuck BartosKalispell
Perry BrownColumbia falls
Ben ChappelowEureka
Chris CraneWhitefish
Troy HinkThompson Falls
Tamie LaverdureLibby
Nathan MuhnKalispell
Chris NeuKalispell
Wes OedekovenKalispell
Morgan PostPolson
Taylor RockafellowTroy
Justin SlobuszewskiBigfork



Region 2

Region 2 Information

Montana FWP Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula MT 59804
406-542-5500

Block Management566,000 acres
Public land7,140 square miles
Fishing access sites72
State parks11

Game Wardens

Joe JaquithCaptain
Dan CurtinSergeant
Aaron BergSergeant

Terry AlthausPhilipsburg
Tom ChianelliMissoula
Chris HamiltonMissoula
Joe KambicWhitefish
Bill KoppenSeeley Lake
Kyle MillerMissoula
Lou RoyceDarby
Derek SchottMissoula
Ezra SchwalmLincoln
Justin SingleterryStevensville



Region 3

Region 3 Information

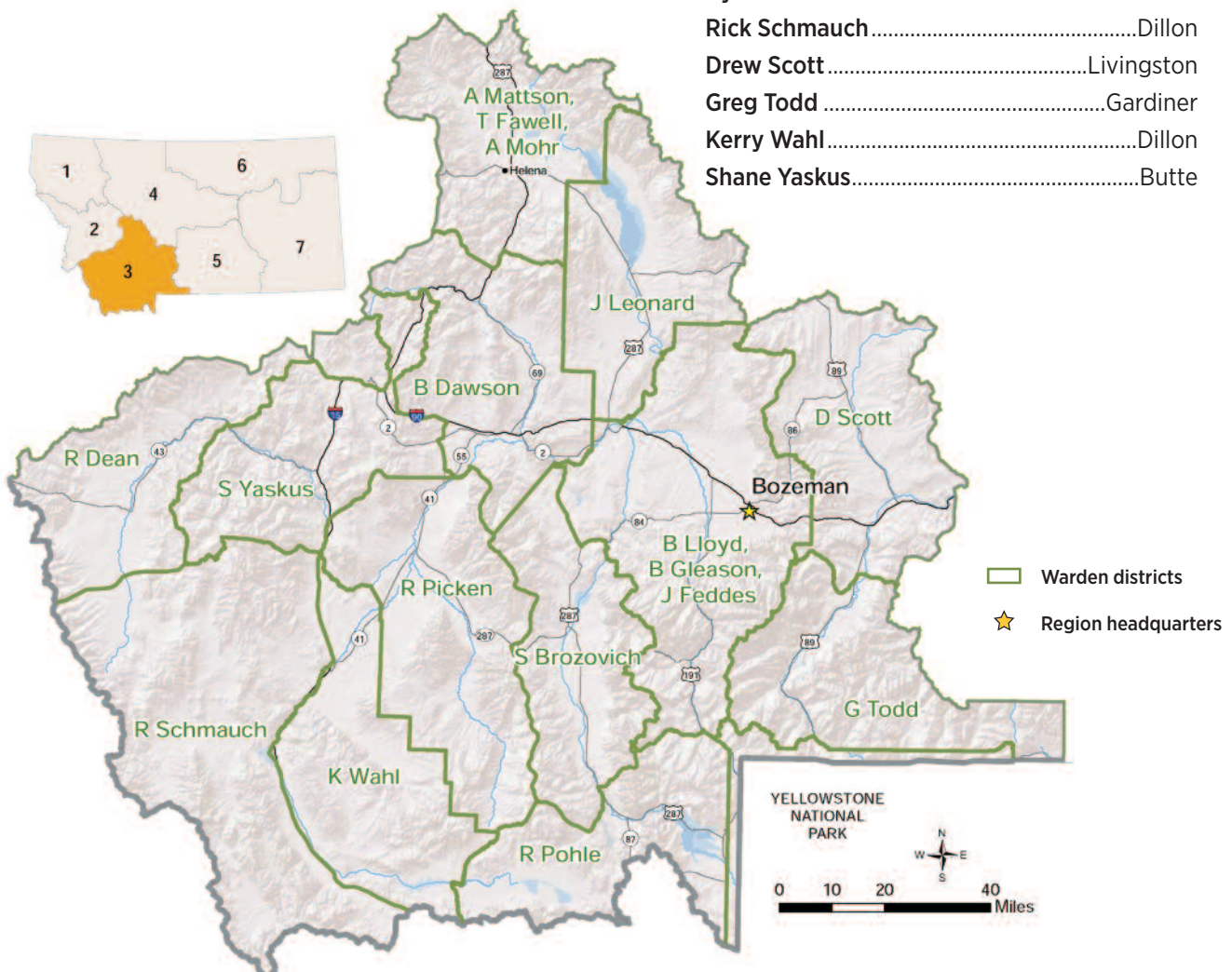
Montana FWP Region 3 Headquarters
1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman MT, 59718
406-994-4042

Block Management541,000 acres
Public land10,914 square miles
Fishing access sites87
State parks9

Game Wardens

Adam PankratzCaptain
Matt WempleSergeant
Coy ClineSergeant
Justin HawkalukSergeant

Shane BrozovichEnnis
Bill DawsonBoulder
Regan DeanButte
Timothy FawellHelena
Justin FeddesBozeman
Ben GleasonBozeman
Josh LeonardTownsend
Brian LloydBozeman
Alex MattsonHelena
Andrew MohrHelena
Robert PholeWest Yellowstone
Ryan PickenSheridan
Rick SchmauchDillon
Drew ScottLivingston
Greg ToddGardiner
Kerry WahlDillon
Shane YaskusButte



Region 4

Region 4 Information

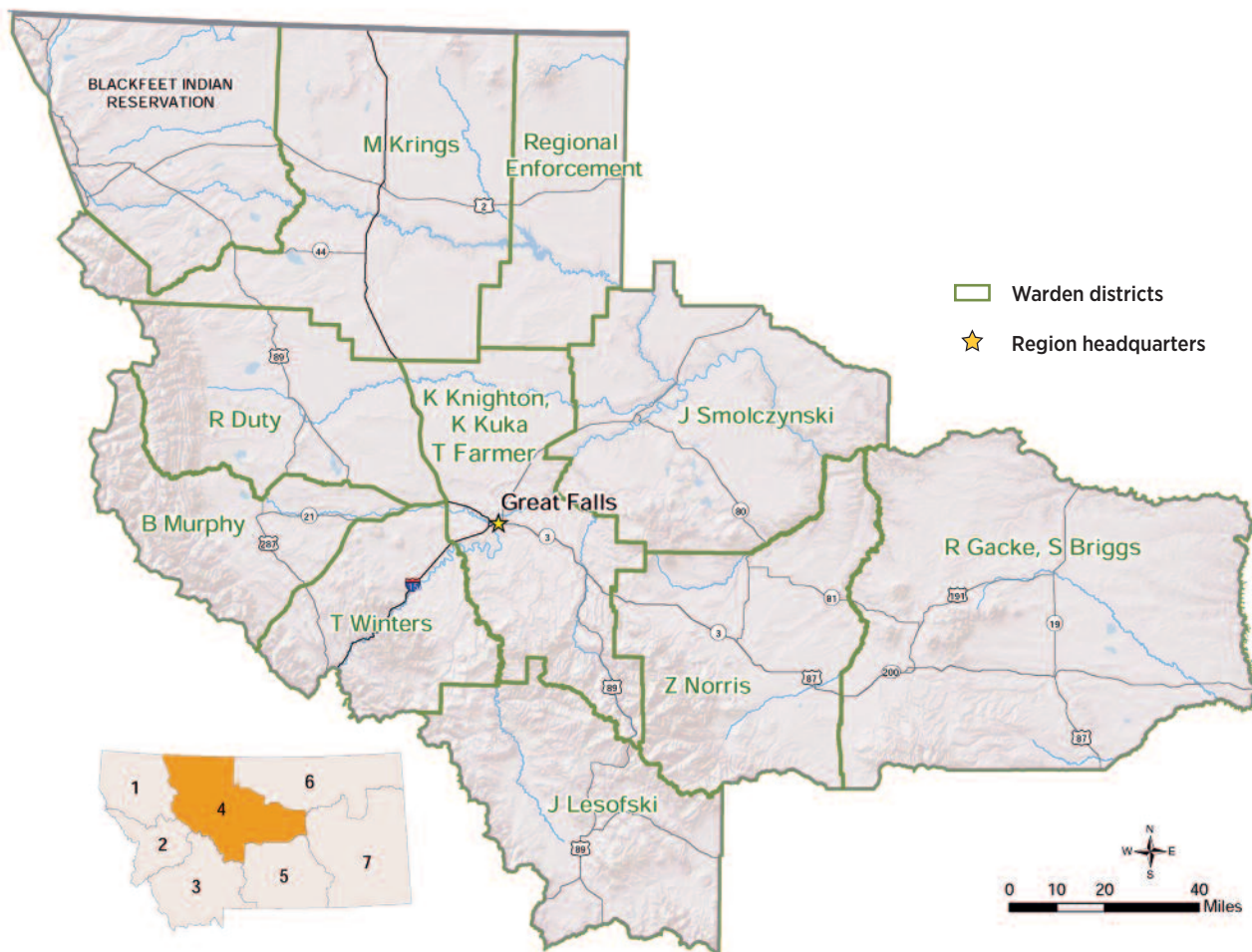
Montana FWP Region 4 Headquarters
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

Block Management1,240,000 acres
Public land7,657 square miles
Fishing access sites55
State parks5

Game Wardens

Dave HollandCaptain
Brett LoganSergeant
Kyle AndersenSergeant

Shawn BriggsLewistown
Rod DutyChoteau
Trenton FarmerGreat Falls
Trey GackeLewistown
Keith KnightonGreat Falls
Mike KringsConrad
Kqyn KukaGreat Falls
John LesofskiWhite Sulphur Springs
Brady MurphyAugusta
Zac NorrisStanford
Jim SmolczynskiFort Benton
Tegan WintersCascade



Region 5

Region 5 Information

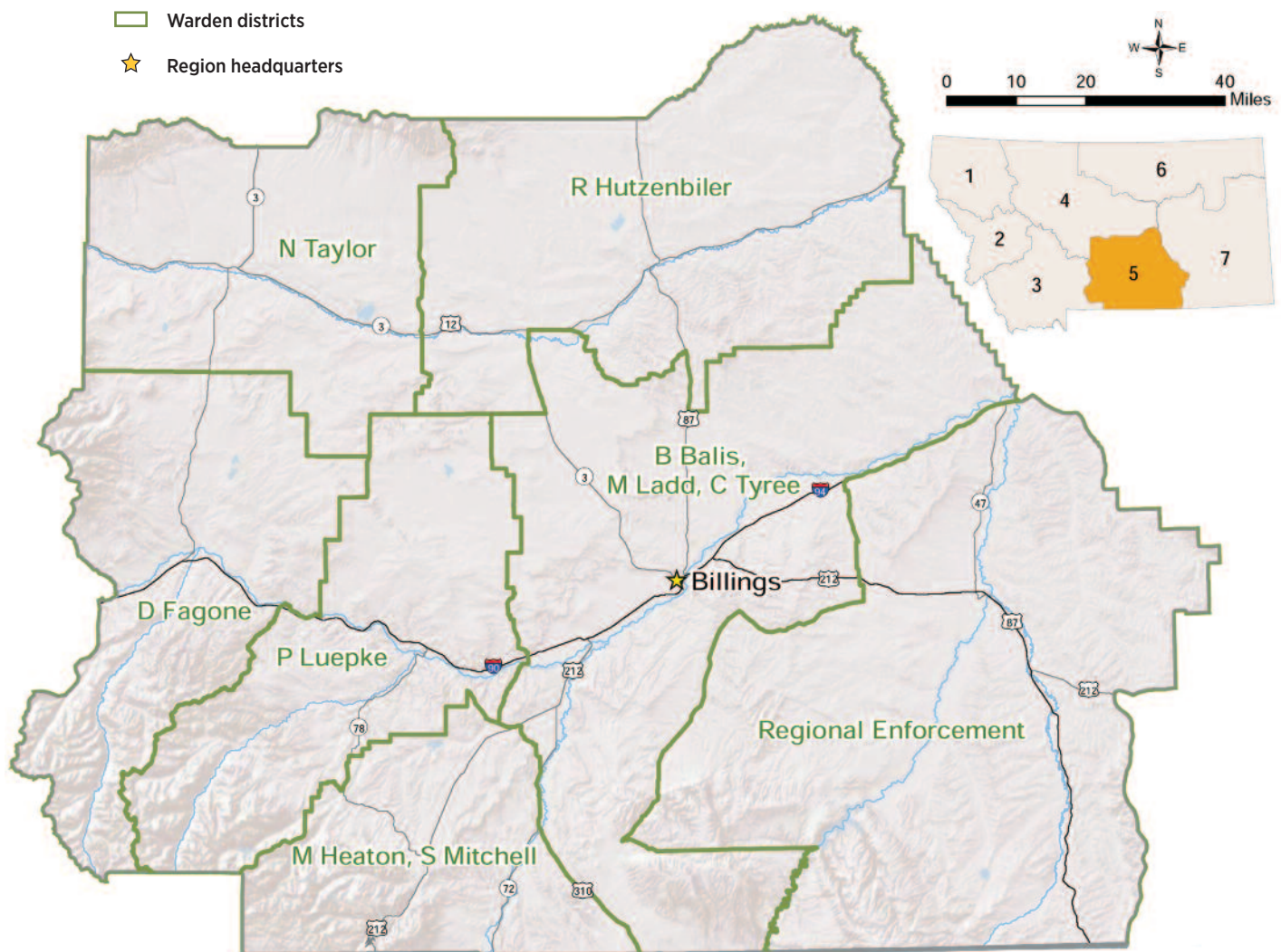
Montana FWP Region 5 Headquarters
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

Block Management611,500 acres
Public land3,279 square miles
Fishing access sites47
State parks6

Game Wardens

Harold GuseCaptain
Chris AndersonSergeant

Brad BalisBillings
Derek FagoneBig Timber
Matt HeatonRed Lodge
Randy HutzenbilerRoundup
Matt LaddBillings
Paul LuepkeGreat Falls
Skyler MitchellCooney SP
Nick TaylorHarlowton
Courtney TyreeBillings



Region 6

Region 6 Information

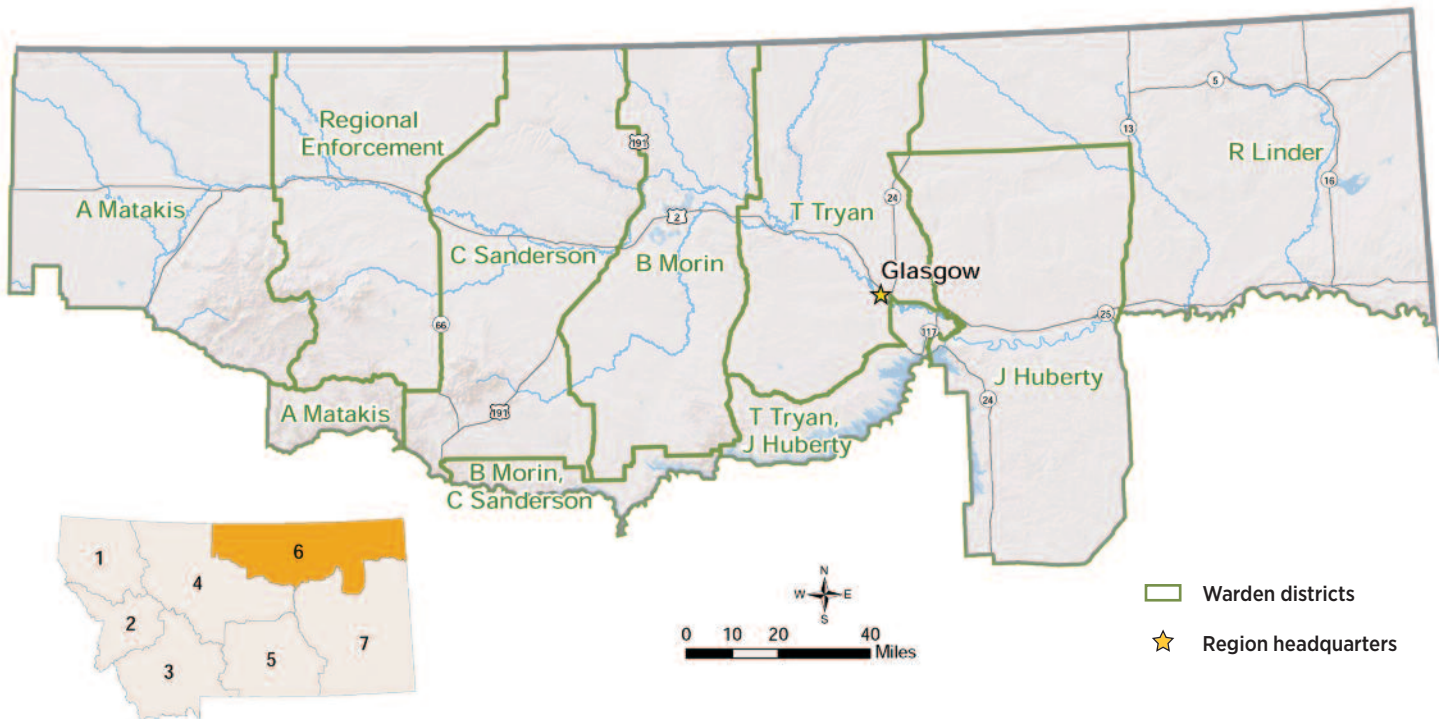
Montana FWP Region 6 Headquarters
54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 595230
406-228-3700

Block Management1,366,570 acres
Public land7,335 square miles
Fishing access sites16
State parks1

Game Wardens

Ron HowellCaptain
Shane RenoSergeant

John HubertyFort Peck
Ryan LinderPlentywood
Andrew MatakisHavre
Ben MorinMalta
Chase SandersonMalta
Todd TryanGlasgow



Region 7

Region 7 Information

Montana FWP Region 7 Headquarters
352 I-94 Business Loop
Miles City, MT 59301
406-234-0900

Block Management2,206,410 acres
Public land7,075 square miles
Fishing access sites21
State parks4

Game Wardens

Jack AustinCaptain
Todd AndersonSergeant
Chris KerinSergeant

Brooke JohnsonGlendive
Ryan KarrenSidney
Ryan KassonJordan
Connor LangelColstrip
Zach PhillipsBaker
Kyle QueerBroadus
Jordan StraleyDecker



2017 REPORT



Fisheries/Fishing Access Site Enforcement

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating fishing in the state of Montana through the use of effective, professional conservation law enforcement.

The 2017 legislature passed legislation expanding the FWP Aquatic invasive species (AIS) program in response to the discovery of invasive mussels in Montana. This discovery, changed the nature of FWP Warden's summer field work, putting a much larger emphasis on the AIS program. Wardens spend their time enforcing regulations in three main areas:

1. Enforcing regulations pertaining to AIS quarantine areas.
2. Enforcing mandatory inspection for traveling watercraft.
3. Enforcing mandatory inspection before launch for out of state boats.

Montana Game Wardens enforce the rules and laws regulating fishing in the state of Montana. Wardens patrol the field, contact anglers, check licenses and ensure compliance.

Additionally, the Fishing Access Site Program is part of the Fisheries division. Wardens patrol Fishing access sites, investigate crimes committed in the sites and insure users are following the regulations.

Fishing Access Sites at-a-glance:

- ▶ Montana has 336 fishing access
- ▶ Approximately 3.9 million people use a FAS annually. FAS are used for fishing, boating and other recreation
- ▶ Approximately 40.7% of FAS users do not purchase a fishing licenses



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

FAS violations investigated:	157
Fishing violations investigated:	477
Angler contacts:	27,836

AIS CITATIONS AND WARNINGS ISSUED

Violation	Warnings	Citations
Failure To Stop at Invasive Species Management Area Check Station	297	79
Violation of Invasive Species Management Area Regulation	11	4
Transfer or Possession of Invasive Species	1	0

FISHERIES CITATIONS ISSUED—TOP FIVE

Violation	Citations
Fish Without a License	278
FWP Rule (slot limit, overlimit etc)	106
Closed Season	49
Possess Unlawfully Taken Fish	1
Fishing While Privileges Suspended	1

COMPARISON OF ANGLERS CONTACTED AND TOTAL ANGLING CITATIONS DETECTED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2017

	2016	2017
Anglers Contacted	34655	27836
Total Fishing Citations	694	472

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.

Wildlife Enforcement

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating the take of wildlife in the state of Montana through the use of effective, consistent, and professional conservation law enforcement.

The enforcement division has a variety of tools available to accomplish their wildlife duties.

Wardens routinely patrol large districts contacting hunters/trappers and responding to complaints.

The enforcement division has a corps of dedicated criminal investigators whose duties are to investigate and help prosecute large wildlife crimes.



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

Hunting Violations Investigated:.....	1,284
Trapping Violations Investigated:	65
Wildlife Investigations:.....	778
Urban Wildlife Calls:.....	1,836
Wildlife Management Area Investigations:.....	41

TOP 10 HUNTING CITATIONS

Violation	Citations
Commission Rule Violation	383
Hunting Without Landowner Permission.....	257
Unlawful Possession of Game	119
Hunting Without a License	75
Loan And Transfer of License	62
Waste Of Game	60
Hunting During Closed Season	50
Shooting From the Road.....	48
Feeding Wildlife	38
Unlawful Use of Equipment.....	26

COMPARISON OF HUNTERS CONTACTED AND TOTAL HUNTING CITATIONS DETECTED IN 2016 AND 2017

	2016	2017
Hunters Contacted	30,088	27,886
Hunting Citations	1,201	1,484



Parks Enforcement

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating State Parks and Fishing Access Sites in the state of Montana Through the use of effective, professional conservation law enforcement.

Montana State Parks at-a-glance:

- ▶ 55 State Parks in Montana
- ▶ 2.66 Million visitors to Montana's State Parks Annually
- ▶ 4 Parks FTE in FWP Enforcement

State Parks Offer:

- ▶ Water Based Recreation
- ▶ Camping
- ▶ Native American Cultural Heritage sites
- ▶ Historical sites
- ▶ Urban Parks



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

3,405 hours spent performing 2,100 Park Patrols
 7,266 Park users contacted
 180 Park cases investigated

TOP 10 STATE PARKS CITATIONS

Violation	Citations
Violation of Park and Department Rules.....	39
Boating Violations	36
Fishing Without a License	15
Destroying State Property	12
Fail to Pay Fee	5
Traffic/Motor Vehicle Violations	4
Driving Off Road	4
Camping Violations	3
Criminal Mischief	2
Unlawful Fire	1

COMPARISON OF TOTAL PARKS PATROLS AND PARKS CITATIONS IN 2016 AND 2017

	2016	2017
Parks Patrols.....	3,776	2,100
Total Citations	180	168



Recreational Boating Safety Program

The Objective of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Recreational Boating Safety Program is to save lives, reduce boating accidents, and to protect and enhance recreational boating opportunities for Montanans through the positive use of law enforcement and education.

Boating Fatalities in Montana:

- ▶ 136 people have died in boating accidents in Montana since 1998
- ▶ 67% of the fatalities occurred in accidents involving non-motorized watercraft
- ▶ 33% of the fatalities occurred in accidents involving motorized watercraft.
- ▶ 77% of the victims were male, 23% female.
- ▶ 61% of the fatalities were not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident
- ▶ The leading cause of death in Montana boating accidents is drowning at 88%



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

Wardens Contacted	12,725 Boaters
Wardens Conducted Boating Safety Patrols	198
Wardens Conducted Public Presentations	26
Wardens Investigated Boating Accidents	18
Montana Fatal Boat Accidents in 2017	2
Boating Calls for Service	116

BOATING VIOLATIONS DETECTED

Violation	Citations	Warnings
Insufficient Number of Lifejackets	104	94
Under 12 No Lifejacket	29	17
No Registration Decal	25	64
Fail to Wear Lifejackett (PWC)	20	8
Towing Without an Observer	18	7

COMPARISON OF BOATS CONTACTED AND TOTAL BOATING CITATIONS DETECTED IN 2016 AND 2017

	2016	2017
Boat Contacts	15,102	12,725
Boating Citations	277	246

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.



2017 General Enforcement Efforts

CITATION BY TYPE

Hunting.....	1,484
Fishing	472
Water safety	246
Other	168
Park/FAS/WMA.....	168
Aquatic Invasive Species	83
Snowmobile	56
Trapping	38
Outfitter/Guide.....	24
State Lands.....	23
Off-Highway Vehicle.....	12
Stream Access.....	11
Alcohol	10
Traffic	8
Commercial.....	5
Drug.....	4
Residency	3



As of July 1, 2017 all captains, sergeants, wardens and investigators are tasked with completing 640 hours of Pitman-Robertson eligible activity each year. P-R funds cannot be used for Law Enforcement Activities.

Pitman Robertson Eligible Activities

Urban Wildlife (bear, bison, deer, elk, lion, moose, other)	
Game Damage	Public Meeting
Hunter Access	Division Assist
Non-enf Training	Hunter Education
Public Contacts	PR Admin
Wildlife Human Attack Investigation	

2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Landowners contacted	5,106
Hours spent patrolling Block Management areas	2,275
Hunters checked on Block Management areas	4,195
State land users contacted Contacts	1,959
Public assists.....	361
Commercial inspections conducted.....	271
Check stations conducted	109
Game damage responses	159
Hunter education classes	46
Wildlife/human attack investigations	27

TOP TEN CITATIONS BY LOCATION

Private Property.....	922
US Forest Service	358
Lake	221
Fishing Access Site	198
River	184
State Park	131
Block Management Area.....	130
Other	128
Check Station	118
DNRC State Lands	104

TOP 5 CITATIONS ISSUED BY GAME WARDENS

Violation of Commission or Department orders or rules.....	592
Fishing without a license	280
Fail to obtain landowner permission for hunting	259
Unlawful possession of game animal, bird or fish.....	122
Insufficient personal flotation devices.....	106

TOP 5 WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED BY GAME WARDENS

Violation of Commission or Department orders or rules.....	594
Failure to stop at invasive species management area check station.....	297
Failure to obtain landowner permission to hunt	125
Fishing without a license	114
Insufficient Personal Flotation Device.....	94

2017 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WARNINGS VS. CITATIONS

Written Warnings	2,262
Citations.....	2,815
Total Public Contacts	91,325

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.

REGIONAL PITMAN ROBERTSON EFFORTS JULY 1 THROUGH DEC 31ST

R1	4614.2 hours	R2	5627.75 hours	R3	7234.5 hours
R4	4561.65 hours	R5	5017.8 hours	R6	2687.5 hours
R7	2303.9 hours				

2017 New Game Warden Hires



Trenton Farmer
Great Falls



John Huberty
Fort Peck



Ryan Kassin
Jordan



Keith Knighton
Great Falls



Nathan Muhn
Kalispell



Zac Norris
Stanford



Kyle Queer
Broadus



Justin Slobuszewski
Bigfork



Gregg Todd
Gardiner

Make the call.



Would you like to wear the badge?

A career as a Montana Game Warden requires:

- ★
Bachelors degree
- ★
Good moral character
- ★
Interest in the outdoors
- ★
Willingness to work anywhere in the state



Contact Warden Training Officer
Justin Gibson at 406-444-4726



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