

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 08, 2017 3:35:08 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 08, 2017 3:50:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:12
IP Address: 65.219.130.11

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Paul Bradley
City of Residence: Livingston
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am a long time trapper in montana, the requirement on swivels needs to be modified to not apply to conibear type traps. these kill immediately or miss totally so no swivel needed. If you set a time requirement between checks 72 or 48 hours as big storms can force the trapper to stay off his line for a few days.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:21:49 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:28:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:33
IP Address: 216.129.227.9

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Daniel J Otis
City of Residence: Billings
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am in full support of mandatory trappers ed but also feel that you should grandfather all that have already taken the class. As far as the modifications piece, out of all the traps I own if you set that in place, I will no longer be able to trap. As a trapper that only traps to protect livestock, I'm more worried about holding the animal than making sure they are comfortable. I also totally disagree with a 24 hour trap check.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, June 11, 2017 5:52:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:14
IP Address: 199.190.61.230

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Harold Johnson
City of Residence: Plentywood
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

As a lifetime Montana Resident and a Montana Hunter, Fisherman, and Trapper I am in favor of the recommendations put forth for the new regulations on Trapping in Montana. I agree completely with the recommendations put forth by the trap committee and commend them for the time they put in working on this topic.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:08:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:12:19 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:06
IP Address: 74.38.124.66

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Barbara Booher
City of Residence: Troy
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

My name is Barbara Booher, a native Montanan, and my comment is that I want FWP to join the rest of the nation in adopting a 24 hour trap check regulation. This regulation should be in place in any and all youth trapping education. In 2005, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies published a Trapper Education Manual that urges trappers to “make a commitment to check your traps at least once every day” in order to reduce suffering, more quickly release nontarget animals, and actually improve success (by, for example, reducing the chance of predation on an animal caught in a trap). It is imperative that teaching have some generally accepted standard on which to base education. Unfortunately, Montana remains one of the last states in the country that does not require traps to be checked with any regularity (except those set for wolves and, in some places, bobcats). This is a problem because studies have shown that the longer an animal spends alive in a trap, the more severe its injuries can become, and the lower the likelihood that “nontarget” animals will be able to be released alive. As a non-consumptive consumer of our public lands, I am disappointed that the FWP cares only about trappers and not the rest of the tax paying public. Wildlife and the public land on which it resides belongs to us ALL not just to trappers. Where are our needs and opinions represented on the FWP commission? NO WHERE! No representation of the nonconsumptive public land user by the FWP commission is not an acceptable or sustainable condition.

Submitted by,

Barbara E. Booher
2533 Rocky Draw Road
Troy, MT 59935

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:31:02 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:34:32 AM
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IP Address: 69.51.88.115

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	lee powers
City of Residence:	boulder
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I think the class is a good idea. I do not agree with the trap modification being pushed in one years notice. I am ok with it being a 3-5 year plan but one year gives the guy trying to replace everything no chance what so ever. thank you for your time.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent:	00:10:36
IP Address:	162.217.231.190

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Pat Price
City of Residence:	Eureka
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Why on earth would you require someone to go through a mandatory trapper education class to trap skunks. If you are not going to manage the skunks, then let people trap them on their property. In addition, there is no way to enforce the requirement. Are you going to have wardens go door to door checking to see if people are trapping skunks? What's the point of this? Further, what is the definition of "most people"? Who decides this? This is so poorly written and conceived that it is actually difficult to discern what you are attempting to achieve. As far as increasing the otter harvest from 2 to 3 per year, I can only ask why? Are we being overrun by otters? There can not be any valid, scientific rationale or data for such a move. If you can find some, please send it to me. I spend a great deal of time in otter habitats as a fish biologist and rarely see any. Increasing the harvest will only lead to their populations suffering more than they already do.

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IP Address: 108.174.126.243

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: AMY GREER
City of Residence: CORVALLIS
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support enforcing the use of modified ground-set foothold traps to include center swivels, additional chain swivels, and jaws with minimum offset and thickness to help decrease injuries. This would at the least give a better chance of survival to the non-target victims of trapping after being released.

Exclude trapping on public lands.

Make 24 hour trap checks mandatory with significant consequences if the trapper does not comply, i.e., fines and/or loss of trapping privileges.

Do not increase to otter trapping quota as these mammals are essential to the ecosystem.

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IP Address: 63.153.89.100

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Larry Campbell
City of Residence:	Darby
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

There should be no trapping for sport or profit, only for nuisance control. Predators, especially, should be protected from trapping because of the trophic effects of altering their populations. Trapping for sport or profit is not ethical no matter how it is done. Trapping hurts the legitimacy of fair chase hunting opportunities. Hunters who do not oppose trapping are allowing corruption of ethical hunting and inviting the loss of hunting privileges.

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Time Spent:	00:02:15
IP Address:	63.157.105.236

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	peg brownlee
City of Residence:	florence
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am in favor of mandatory trapper education classes and 24 hour trap checks. I would like to see recreational trapping banned on our public lands. Even though modifications are proposed for traps, it does not eliminate the suffering, cruelty and indiscriminate nature of traps.
Thanks for taking my comments.

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: 00:08:35
IP Address: 150.131.79.107

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Gloria G. Phillip
City of Residence: Missoula
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am for modifications for foothold traps aimed at minimizing injury to trapped animals. Traps as they are now are inhumane and I think the education course should be for all trappers and phase in over the next year instead of two years. I do not think otters and wolverines should be trapped at all. Finally, I am for mandatory trap check times within a 24-hour check so that these poor animals can be put out of their misery. Trappers may say that it is difficult to check these traps within 24 hours, but there is an ethical issue involved with this check. Traps are inhumane.

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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 11:59:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:11
IP Address: 50.110.174.75

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kelly Thompson
City of Residence:	Gardiner
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Archaic practices that endanger the public and all animals need to stop. There is no reason to trap any animal or set these things all over the place where people and non-target or endangered animals are trying to live or enjoy the landscape while out hiking or partaking in various other activities. I am a strong believer that we have textiles and other fabrics that provide greater warmth. There is no need for trapping any longer. These things are all over public lands with no enforcement for checking them and they pose a danger to anyone that gets caught in one of them. Animals can linger for days and die a slow miserable death. No living sentient being deserves to die like that.

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IP Address:	174.198.36.160

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Tracy Schiess
City of Residence:	Kila
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please eliminate the barbaric trapping on public lands. It indiscriminately captures non target wildlife and pets, and is dangerous to our children.

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IP Address: 69.144.35.147

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Wayne Adair
City of Residence: Hamilton
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am completely opposed to recreational and commercial trapping. The quota should be zero.
Sincerely,
Wayne Adair

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 5:58:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 184.105.244.2

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Adam merlino
City of Residence: Stevensville
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Agree with all changes love the class requirement

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 6:42:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:36
IP Address: 174.208.3.41

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Kevin Calloway
City of Residence: Custer
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Let the trappers set the dates and limits so it's done correctly. The politicians that are in control are only in for the money just like D.C. Crooked as hell.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 6:45:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:25:20
IP Address: 174.209.8.163

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jackson Spooner
City of Residence: Dillon
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

The jaw modifications need to be out of the proposal. Is the fwp going to buy me a welder, pay for new up to spec traps and also use their time to weld and modify my 200+ traps? I know I do not have the time or money for these unnecessary modifications that can ultimately do unwanted damage and pain to the animals.

What is so special about January 1, 1985? I was born in 1991, I am a well developed and ethical trapper. I know many people born before January 1, 1985 that should in no way be trapping without having an education course. I know trappers born after January 1, 1985 that have trapped the majority of their life on private land which you do not need a license for if you are trapping coyotes. So they don't buy a license every year for trapping and don't make the 5 year continuous trappers license cut.

All these proposals are doing is trying to make the anti-trappers happy and slowly put an end to trapping all together. Education is the best way to get people doing the right thing not restriction. Restrictions make people upset and ultimately they loose respect for the people making the regulations.

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IP Address: 174.45.65.113

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Todd Barton
City of Residence: Bozeman
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am a huge fan of the trapping class. Always wondered why it wasn't mandated before. Would like to become more aware of opportunities to get involved.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 9:37:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:50
IP Address: 75.175.225.208

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Barbara Jennings
City of Residence: Huson
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Recreational trapping on public lands endangers the public and indiscriminately attacks wildlife

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 16, 2017 10:37:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:35
IP Address: 174.238.144.178

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Alex Rodriguez
City of Residence:	Tucson
State of Residence:	AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Recently there has been a picture of a bear walking with a trap connected to his left front paw. It's a picture worth a thousand words indeed. I ask that these type of traps get banned

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Started:	Friday, June 16, 2017 11:59:52 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, June 17, 2017 12:16:04 AM
Time Spent:	00:16:12
IP Address:	216.228.62.205

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Daniel Liane
City of Residence:	Circle
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support mandatory trappers education as long as sufficient class locations and dates are provided so people don't have to travel an entire day to attend one, and as long as real trappers teach the course. I oppose mandating new trap requirements for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost, how do you know why I'm trapping (if damage control trapping is going to be exempt)? I control trap to mitigate livestock loss twelve months a year, some of those months I also keep fur. There is a big difference in center swiveling a longspring versus a coil spring style trap and how that trap will than perform. Baseplating adds weight which is not desireable for some species. Feel free to call me and I can discuss my reservations about this proposed regulation in more detail. 406-839-0430

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 17, 2017 2:41:17 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 17, 2017 3:00:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:19:18
IP Address: 184.167.252.197

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Del crawford
City of Residence:	Kalispy
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

These courses are completely over reaching requiring a field day and mandating anyone be required to take it.

The cost of modifications to traps will completely drive many people out of the sport. I have near a hundred footholds and it would cost me a fortune to replace my traps or even make the modifications.

Tell these environmental groups to stop trying to run out state. We love this state and the way we are able to recreate. Sure there are irresponsible trappers out there but there are also people who don't obey the law on the other side also. I had all my traps set off while trying to remove muskrats at Harbor Village in Bigfork. First they threw rocks at my floats until they destroyed them and triggered all my traps at the waters edge, the next day they had fully removed my trappps and hidden them under a rock. My traps were damaged and I lost money. There are already laws in place to keep both parties in check and i believe the money spent on "education courses" could be used to fight against the people that are trying to take our rights and freedoms rather than making the sportsman out tone these terrible people.

Please reject these proposed changes and allow for the current regulations to stand just as we did against the proposed regulations that were aimed at closing our waters.

Thanks you,
Del Crawford
Owner and operator of 4C's Wildlife Control
406-261-7310

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, June 17, 2017 10:17:19 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 18, 2017 12:48:07 AM
Time Spent: 02:30:47
IP Address: 162.217.224.133

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Nathan Albertson
City of Residence: Eureka
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

June 17, 2017

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (MT FWP),

Please permit this letter to serve as my submission for public review and comment regarding “Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Seasons and Quotas – Proposed”.

Trapper Education Program and Mandatory Trapper Education:

In regards to MT FWP’s proposal to “establish a Trapper Education Program and Mandatory Trapper Education” requirement taking effect in 2018, I support and urge the passing of this proposal, with one qualifier. The instructors of said course should be active trappers, having successfully participated in trapping seasons in recent, prior years. The substitution of Hunter Education Instructors as Trapper Education Instructors should not be considered. If the purpose of this Trapper Education Program is to urge the use of modern techniques and provide education in regards to trapping, the instructors must be required to have trapped in recent, prior trapping seasons.

Modifications:

In regards to MT FWP’s proposal to require “Modifications” to ground-set foothold traps, (specifically: center swivels, an additional chain swivel, and jaws with minimum offset and thickness) I DO NOT support this measure at all. There are several reasons why and they follow this paragraph. Please be aware, all of the information I quote or list in the remainder of this correspondence is gleaned from either the MT FWP “Hunting Season/Quota Change Supporting Information” (<http://fwp.mt.gov/fwDoc.html?id=81755>) or the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ (AFWA) “Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States” (http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Introduction_BMPs.pdf) documents. All bold type is done by me to bring special attention to the words stated and has been added by myself as emphasis.

Candid and Truthful Facts regarding MT FWP “Hunting Season/Quota Change Supporting Information” and the AFWA “Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States”:

The AFWA “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) are not clear-cut, one size fits all, blanket concepts or ideas to be enacted as a state law to force trappers into one method or piece of equipment. This is clearly stated on page four, in paragraphs three and four:

“Trapping BMPs are intended to be a practical tool for trappers, wildlife biologists, wildlife agencies and anyone interested in improved traps and trapping systems. BMPs include technical recommendations from expert trappers and biologists and a list of specifications of traps that meet or exceed BMP criteria. BMPs provide options, allowing for discretion and decision making in the field when trapping furbearers in various regions of the United States. They do not present a single choice that can or must be applied in all cases.”

“Trapping BMPs are recommendations to be implemented in a voluntary and educational approach.”

The MT FWP document referenced above was clearly written to favor and influence the reader to support the proposed changes. However, that same MT FWP document is at best misleading and at worst an outright falsehood. On page six of the MT FWP document it clearly states in the first paragraph under “Trap Modifications”:

“Montana currently has few regulations mandating the use of certain trap features that have been scientifically demonstrated to reduce injury while maintain the trap’s ability to effectively restrain an animal. Recognizing that these modern features maintain trap efficiency and improve animal comfort after capture, many trappers voluntarily update or replace older traps.”

This sounds fine and yet that is not quite what the AFWA material states. The “efficiency” criteria is outlined on page five of the AFWA document and it clearly states that their recommended BMPs were only required to attain an “efficiency” of greater than sixty percent of the target animals held! If my traps only hold sixty percent of my target animal, I would no longer own those traps and just about any other trapper in Montana would feel very similarly.

In reference to being “scientifically demonstrated to reduce injury” and improving “animal comfort after capture,” this is an outright falsehood if MT FWP is applying this concept to all proposed trap modifications. The AFWA requirements for evaluating a trap were based on a minimum of twenty of the target specimens for each trap evaluated. This is a woefully small sample size and even with such a small sample size, with regards to the proposed modifications of swivels, jaw thickness (or laminations) and offset jaws, the AFWA stated the following:

Swivels – (page nine)

“Proper swiveling is the key to preventing the chain or cable of an anchoring system from binding at the stake, drag or grapple. This is important because it minimizes injury to the captured animal, reduces fur damage and may prevent cable breakage.”

Jaw Thickness (Laminations) – (page ten)

“Expanding the trap jaw thickness with lamination or the addition of rubber pads will increase the surface area of the jaw on a trapped animal’s foot and may influence both animal injury and capture efficiency.”

Offset Jaws – (page ten)

“Offset jaw models allow spring levers on coil-spring traps and spring eyes on longspring traps to close higher upon capture, thereby reducing the chance that the captured animal will escape. In addition, clamping pressure is slightly reduced when levers are fully raised which may improve animal welfare under some conditions.”

At best, the AFWA recommendations regarding “proper swiveling” states this “minimizes injury to the captured animal”. The “scientific demonstration” was on an extremely small sample size and it is the ONLY place in which the AFWA emphatically states that it will do so. With regards to jaw thickness (laminations) the AFWA states this “may influence both animal injury and capture efficiency” yet it does not say in which way it would be influenced. Additionally, with regards to offset jaws, the AFWA states these “may improve animal welfare under some conditions”, but it goes nowhere near the standard of saying it will across the entire spectrum of animals captured.

In essence, there is a concerted effort by the drafters of the MT FWP “Hunting Season/Quota Change Supporting Information” to skew the facts with regards to the information contained within the AFWA BMPs.

A Blanket Approach Does Not Work

As quoted above, the AFWA clearly states that BMPs “do not present a single choice that can or must be applied in

Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Seasons and Quotas - Proposed

As quoted above, the AFWA clearly states that BMPs "do not present a single choice that can or must be applied in all cases". The proposed changes with regards to swivels, jaw thickness, and offsets with regards to some species is ludicrous. Requiring these modifications to traps regarding weasels, mink, marten, and raccoon is foolish at best. If one increases the jaw thickness (weight and surface area of the trap jaws) one will also be required to increase the spring leverage/pressure as well. And an offset jaw for weasels and raccoon, while it might occasionally hold some of these species, will often result in an empty, sprung trap! These proposed modifications cannot and should not be applied to all land sets!

MT FWP Statistics Do Not Add Up

Throughout pages seven and eight of the MT FWP document, the low/high costs of these proposed modifications to trappers are estimated. Swivels (\$0.35 - \$1.50), jaw thickness (\$1.00 - \$3.00), and offset jaws with rounded edges (\$5.00 - \$35.00). In addition, MT FWP used a sample size of 5,000 licensed Montana trappers with an average of 20 traps (I know many trappers in Montana, I do not know very many who only have 20 traps for their line) to configure their economic impact cost estimations to trappers.

MT FWP estimated the economic impact to trappers to be between \$350,000 and \$2,300,000 dollars, and that would include 57,000 hours of time modifying or replacing traps. Taking these figures alone, that would mean an average investment by each licensed Montana trapper of between \$70 - \$460. This is presupposing the trapper does not have to hire the work out and pay for the hourly wage of those working on his or her traps (and this does not include the 11.4 hours, average, each trapper would dedicate to making these changes).

Yet, in calculating MT FWP's own numbers, without counting the compensation for time spent making modifications, this mathematical analysis does not add up! If 5,000 licensed Montana trappers had to modify 20 traps (as per the parameters presented by MT FWP) to meet the modification criteria outlined in their proposal, that would be a cost (again, by the parameters estimated and presented by MT FWP) of \$6.35 - \$39.50 per trap. By MT FWP's own numbers, this would actually result in an economic impact to Montana trappers of between \$635,000 - \$3,950,000! That is a far cry from the estimated numbers presented by MT FWP and still does not include the time invested in making modifications.

Trying to Satisfy Those Who Refuse to Be Satisfied With Trapping

The most outlandish portion of these proposed modification requirements can be found in the MT FWP "Interested Persons" letter, under "Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Seasons and Quotas - Proposed", the number two point, which states in part:

"Persons trapping for purposes of livestock or property protection would be exempt from these requirements".

In other words, by my interpretation, this is simply a nuanced way of saying those trapping on private land will essentially be exempted from being required to make these proposed trap modifications were they to become required. The Montana Wilderness Association claims that roughly seventy-one percent of Montana is privately owned. Those of us who trap the remaining twenty-nine percent of public land will be required to make these modifications if these proposals are adopted.

So, if those who are trapping for purposes of livestock and property protection are exempted from these trap modifications, how in the world would this meet the number two objective of the Summary of Approach on page nine of MT FWP "Hunting Season/Quota Change Supporting Information" which states:

"The objective of this proposal is to improve Montana's trapping program, reduce non-target captures, improved animal welfare, and increased involvement in and support for trapping in Montana, by requiring mandatory trapper education and improving traps by using the latest scientific information from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' trapping Best Management Practices. A side benefit will be to better articulate and incorporate into regulation Montana's ethical standards and practices associated with trapping."

Are we expected to believe MT FWP is so overwhelmingly concerned with an animal's welfare in a trap that essentially only those of us trapping on roughly twenty-nine percent of Montana lands must follow these BMPs, which were originally conceived (as referenced earlier in this letter) to be implemented on a voluntary basis! Where is MT FWP's concern for those animals in traps on roughly the other seventy-one percent of Montana lands?

Additionally, reading on in the “Summary of Approach” in measuring success, these trap modifications are expected to reduce non-target captures, improve animal welfare, and increase involvement in and support for trapping in Montana. Trapping is supported in Montana and that proof is in the fact that we have had multiple ballot initiatives in the past ten years outlawing trapping and Montana voters have consistently voted no on those measures. In addition, recent legislative sessions have tried on several fronts to improve protections for Montana trappers and the biggest obstacle has been Governor Bullock refusing to sign bills into law, which have come across his desk with a majority support from the Montana Congress! Individual trappers know best how to help improve the welfare of trapped animals and they do so under their own ethical and moral guidelines, something you cannot possibly legislate. And, the majority of non-target captures most Montana trappers contend with are domestic dogs which have escaped the control of irresponsible owners, something trap modifications cannot remedy! The proposed measure of success is simply an unreasonable expectation waiting to disappoint.

The bottom line is that regardless of what trap modifications MT FWP tries to forcefully implement on Montana trappers, no trap modification in the world will win over the opinion of anti-trappers to favor or support trapping in Montana. That is a losing proposition in which we as trappers pay the price!

In addition, two years ago, MT FWP made concessions to lynx supporters in an effort to appease their concerns with regards to lynx capture. That lawsuit settlement was made possible by the fact that MT FWP had failed to secure the required permits from United States Fish Wildlife Services in case of an accidental take of a lynx and MT FWP had no other recourse than to concede or risk losing bobcat trapping in portions of Montana. Many trappers in the “Lynx Protection Zone” (incidentally, also only applicable to public land trappers, not private land trappers) were required to modify and acquire new traps to meet the stipulations of those lawsuits (2015). Now, after recently surviving a recent attempt to stop trapping by a ballot initiative (2016), MT FWP decides it is a good time to require Montana Trappers to again modify and acquire new traps by 2019, in an effort to win over the hearts and minds of anti-trappers who will not accept our chosen sport?

Summary

In reading between the lines on this trap modification proposal, it is quite clear that factions within MT FWP have gone to great lengths to misrepresent the facts of the AFWA BMPs and their purpose. In addition, MT FWP is trying to implement the BMPs in a way in which they were never meant to function, as a blanket approach to all land sets. Doing so would negatively impact the number of animals taken by trappers every year and it would not always be best for the animal being trapped. In compiling the economic impact numbers of this proposal, there has been a serious error made as to how much these proposed trap modifications would negatively impact Montana trappers. Last but not least, the reasoning behind these proposed trap modifications, which supposes to be in the interest of animal welfare, would only be applicable to a limited minority of Montana lands being trapped. Instead, if one is to read between the lines of the proposal, it appears to be intended to hamper and severely limit the ability of Montana trappers to approach each trap and scenario individually and to leverage their experience and knowledge to trap their chosen quarry in the most efficient way possible (to include limiting injury to the trapped animal). This all appears to be in an attempt to gain favor with the anti-trapping crowd who are an especially vocal minority in the State of Montana!

These proposed trap modifications can easily be presented in Trapper Education Programs and the individual trappers can choose for themselves what is best for their trapline. I wholly and fully support such a Trapper Education Program and look forward to enrolling in the first local program in the Eureka area.

I cannot and do not wish to see, nor can I recommend for adoption, the proposed trap modifications presented by the MT FWP. Not only are they not needed, these are decisions that should be made by the individual trappers involved in the individual scenarios in which they are trapping on a consistent basis. These need to be decisions left for the individual trapper to make, not the MT FWP!

Sincerely,

Nathan Albertson

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 18, 2017 2:13:03 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 18, 2017 2:29:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:13
IP Address: 69.247.229.219

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: mary ellen bosetti
City of Residence: vero beach
State of Residence: FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

We are a civilized people and know that animals feel pain, want to feed and protect their young, have family units, and need shelter as we do. If we only have species that coexist well with humans, we'll be left with starlings, rats, pigeons and a few dogs and cats. There are incredible consequences when species disappear. Consequences we can't foresee. When wolves on the east coast declined, the deer population exploded and we had an increase in Lyme disease. Animals such as wolves give the world hope. They too, have a purpose and a right to live in peace as we all do. Their lives are difficult enough without humans making it worse. Look into the eyes of your dog, or any dog, and you will the wolf's cousin. I respectfully ask you to please respect for the magnificent creature that they are, and to protect them. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 18, 2017 2:49:05 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 18, 2017 2:53:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:16
IP Address: 99.203.128.102

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	RR Mier
City of Residence:	Muskegon
State of Residence:	MI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is a old and outdated form of recreation many countries do not allow it there was a time that this form was popular but with dwindling animals and dedicated lands the strain on the animals is going to lead to extinction

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, June 18, 2017 4:05:01 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, June 18, 2017 4:13:18 PM
Time Spent:	00:08:17
IP Address:	69.133.13.35

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Bev Perez
City of Residence:	Cincinnati
State of Residence:	OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

My recommendations to the Commissioners encourage science and the humane treatment of wolves and other carnivores. There is nothing "Humane " about trapping. Wolf depredation statistics do not warrant a hunting season. Weather, starvation, disease, poor husbandry etc contribute to the vast majority of livestock death losses. Many of the Trophy Game Management Areas are bordering National Parks and Forests, including Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Shoshone. This means that wolves, who may be more accustomed to the benign presence of humans and vehicles in the Park, can be shot by hunters the moment they cross that invisible boundary and out of protected areas. It is known that some hunters appear to deliberately target Park wolves, especially those wearing radio collars. Any loss of these wolves not only impacts the remainder of their pack, but also the scientific study of the Park biologists. The wearing of an electronic radio tracking device should NOT place an additional target on the individual wolf. The white alpha female from the Yellowstone Canyon Pack was recently poached in Yellowstone National Park. Montana and Yellowstone wolves need your help..Thank you for your time.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
 Started: Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:42:29 PM
 Last Modified: Sunday, June 18, 2017 5:43:23 PM
 Time Spent: 00:00:54
 IP Address: 66.87.77.50

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Teresa Skaggs
 City of Residence: Bargersville
 State of Residence: IN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am not in favor of trapping at all. There is no such thing as humane trapping.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 18, 2017 8:48:32 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 18, 2017 9:37:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:42
IP Address: 216.129.235.10

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Leo Christensen
City of Residence: Harrison
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

The trapper education program is a good way to help with ethic issues that have been brought up. There should NOT be Mandatory trap mods. A blanket approach to trap mods do'es not work for every trap and every species. The economics of making mods mandatory would put a hardship on trappers.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 2:38:44 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:20:38 AM
Time Spent: 00:41:53
IP Address: 107.77.225.227

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Brian Dibbern
City of Residence: Eureka
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I don't support any new regulations. As more and more regulations get piled on it makes it increasingly difficult to continue trapping, let alone get into in the first place.

There's a wealth of information available to new trappers, online, through videos, or trappers associations. It would be nieve to think people are taking interest enough in trapping to make the investment in equipment and time in the field without also learning all they can.

As for myself and trap modification, swivels are in place, laminating would be exceptable, but having replace my traps altogether. That might just be enough to shut me and probably many others down. But maybe that's the idea in the first place, little bites until trapping is gone completely.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 8:37:17 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 8:50:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:13:30
IP Address: 136.33.64.186

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Gail Helfer
City of Residence:	Kansas City
State of Residence:	MO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear sir or madam, I used to love what Montana stood for in my mind. I saw it as some of country's last great wildernesses. But the more I learn about Montana's stance on trapping, the more sickened I've become. Short of fox hunting, I can't think of a more inhumane way for an animal to die than in a neglected trap. It's disturbed me to the point that I and my husband--a former Yellowstone trail guide--have not only canceled our plans to visit this fall, but have changed our will to remove Yellowstone as our primary beneficiary, specifically because we can't stomach the thought of contributing to states that turn a blind eye to wolf poaching and allow such an inhumane practice as poaching. Please prove us wrong. Please put trapping in the history books, and prove that we are better than this. Science supports the need for apex predators to provide for healthy ecosystems. One of the greatest studies in history happened in your own back yard in Yellowstone. What's more, cooperative plans between conservationists and ranchers have shown there are other ways to control predator populations. But even though wolves are polarizing, I can't see how trapping should be. Can you imagine your own family pet caught in a trap? I have and it brings me to tears. It's barbaric and cruel, and that's nothing that the next generation should be taught is okay. Please consider taking a bold stand here and making trapping history. Be the Montana I think of you to be. And our support will come back when you do. Respectfully, Gail Helfer

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:29:09 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:31:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:20
IP Address: 107.77.203.42

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Colleen Shannon
City of Residence:	Edgewater
State of Residence:	MD

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

There is nothing humane about trapping. I recommend a complete ban on trapping. If that can not be done then there should be a mandatory trap check every 24 hours. Please consider science when making decisions about wildlife and the environment.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:41:18 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:47:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:13
IP Address: 71.29.247.97

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Jennifer Willis
City of Residence:	Reidsville
State of Residence:	GA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Leave the wolves alone. Let God and the circle of life have their way. God did not put ANY of the animals on this planet for humans to kill and make them extinct or endangered. All animals need to be preserved and not hunted or killed until they are endangered or extinct. It's time humans wake up. God will make things right, the way he wants it to be.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:40:22 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:41:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:56
IP Address: 204.195.46.58

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Patrice Weidner
City of Residence:	Port Angeles
State of Residence:	WA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am against trapping. It is inhumane.

Wolves are essential to the eco system that supports our lives.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 19, 2017 12:43:28 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 19, 2017 12:44:53 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:24
IP Address:	73.0.148.109

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Laura Defeo
City of Residence:	Hobe Sound
State of Residence:	FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

NO TRAPPING, and NO HUNTING OUR WILDLIFE!!!! SERIOUSLY!!!!!! STOP!!!!!!!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:23:25 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:24:57 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 209.74.228.200

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Valerie Bear
City of Residence: Meadow Grove
State of Residence: NE

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

- . Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
- ~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 5:24:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 5:27:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:07
IP Address: 73.152.24.2

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Judy McMullen
City of Residence: Winchester
State of Residence: VA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to "humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanans under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:04:35 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:06:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:40
IP Address: 50.26.157.206

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Diane Cameron
City of Residence: Amarillo
State of Residence: TX

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is outdated and inhumane. The world is watching, and we need our wolves. Please stop this brutality now.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:05:00 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:09:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:32
IP Address: 50.96.38.98

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Patty Trammell
City of Residence: TECUMSEH
State of Residence: OK

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

I KNOW I AM NOT FROM YOUR STATE BUT WILDLIFE BELONG TO ALL OF US AND THEY ARE WORTH MUCH MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD. IF YOU WANT TOURISTS TO COME TO YOUR STATE YOU WILL BAN TRAPPING AND IT'S INHUMANE TREATMENT.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:18:17 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 7:23:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:29
IP Address: 73.34.249.141

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Lucinda Zancanelli
City of Residence:	Henderson
State of Residence:	CO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I'm from the city and must be naive because I didn't know this type of hunting still goes on. It is very inhumane and extremely appalling to me, especially to animals such as wolves.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, June 19, 2017 7:46:16 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, June 19, 2017 7:46:57 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:40
IP Address:	47.145.160.104

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Vetza
City of Residence:	Cherry valley
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Stop torturing animals

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:42:17 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:45:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 63.153.89.217

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: John R Wilson
City of Residence: Bonner
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the furbearer quotas.
I support the mandatory trapper education.
I Do Not support the mandatory trap modifications. This should be recommended only. Thanks

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:44:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:50:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:00
IP Address: 173.191.180.110

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Sterling & Susan Richards
City of Residence: Newton
State of Residence: IA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

It is almost impossible to comment politely regarding the trapping and other methods used to kill Wolves. One of the most important animals for our planet. We just can't believe that is not recognized in all levels of government.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:05:42 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:06:53 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 74.137.4.44

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Chris Albert, DVM
City of Residence:	Lebanon Junction
State of Residence:	KY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Sirs:

As a veterinarian I am sometimes called to deal with trapped animals. I am acutely aware of the suffering trapped animals feel – both the pain of the ischemia caused by the trap and the fear and anxiety caused when a trapped animal cannot reach food, water or cover.

There are many trapping enthusiasts, and I realize that we live in a world that needs to balance the interests of all stakeholders as much as possible. Accordingly, if trapping is going to be allowed, here are some suggestions that might alleviate the suffering of the trapped:

- 1) A 24 hour trap check. No sentient creature should have to deal with the suffering described above for more than 24 hours.
- 2) Radio collared animals should be released: it is very costly to continually re-collar animals for research.
- 3) Recruitment of trappers should not be encouraged in trapper education courses.
- 4) A Trapping advisory committee should include wildlife enthusiasts.

I am a frequent visitor to your state. I come to appreciate the wildlife. Wildlife should be held in the public trust for all Americans. Trappers are not the only people who have a vested interest in the wild animals that are the heritage of all of us.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Albert, DVM

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 5:05:52 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, June 20, 2017 5:11:51 AM
Time Spent:	00:05:59
IP Address:	97.103.85.157

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Tamara Keck
City of Residence:	Kissimmee
State of Residence:	FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please take the time to do research, look at photographs, and visit animal hospitals or sanctuaries of carnivores which have been caught in traps. Once you see the intense pain, suffering, and damage traps cause, you will no longer feel that the word humane has anything to do with trapping. Wolves and other carnivores are an essential part of Montana's ecosystem and should not be hunted at all. It only takes a bit of time to talk to biologists or others who work with carnivores to understand just how essential they are. Please take the time to look at the study in Yellowstone after wolves were reintroduced to the ecosystem. Trapping is INHUMANE, please consider not only banning the word humane in your attempt to allow trapping but ban trapping all together and consider preserving wolf populations instead. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 6:23:54 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 6:24:36 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:42
IP Address: 69.115.119.238

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Joseph Darling
City of Residence: New Rochelle
State of Residence: NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:14:12 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:15:37 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 216.47.52.159

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Carole Caldwell
City of Residence: Heron
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I think trapping should be banned. There is no need for it in this day & age. Man has always one more harm than good.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:07:03 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:46:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:39:40
IP Address: 63.228.223.162

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jerry McKinley
City of Residence: Great Falls
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I do not oppose a trapper education program.

I oppose the mandatory trap modification requirements. It's too broad and would require me to purchase many new traps. I already use some combination of these modifications.

Some traps can't be center swiveled, but can have additional swivels added to the chain. Some trap jaws can be laminated, but can't be offset. Some traps are used for both water trapping & land trapping. Water trap sets drown the animal and wouldn't need the modifications. Modifications to smaller foot hold traps used for raccoons, marten, mink, etc, in my opinion are an unnecessary modification that probably would require purchase of new equipment, if there are even manufacturers that make such traps.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:27:01 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:37:26 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:25
IP Address: 63.153.95.78

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Laurien Riehl
City of Residence: Missoula
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Fwp,

Just letting you know I support Mandatory trapper education as part of trapping. Trap modification's are O.K. but very unneeded I have caught animals without laminations and offset jaws. I do not see any use for it other than personal preference. I have heard that 48 hour check on traps may be moved to 24 hours and I really think this would be a horrible change I do 48 hour checks and work during the day almost impossible to do every day. I we do go to 24 hour check I will have to double the # of traps I use to make the line more effective. This is due to the fact that most animals will not go near a set for a day or so after I am there. Please go ahead with the mandatory education but leave the 48 hour check and trap mod's up to the knowledgeable trapper. Thanks.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:35:39 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:38:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:29
IP Address: 207.228.78.196

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Janice Gagnon
City of Residence: Sundre
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

It is sad in this day and age to support such an inhumane way of killing anything. There is such a low percentage of people involved in this barbaric trade...it is time to ban it. We are educated now, lets show the world we know what sentient means.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 1:51:03 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 2:04:00 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:57
IP Address: 63.155.125.196

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Vicki Markus
City of Residence: Centennial
State of Residence: WY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am asking you to stop trapping altogether. Trapping is by its very nature inhumane. If you will not stop trapping, I ask for the following things to happen. 1. Mandatory 24 hr trap checks. This allows peoples pets to live and non targeted species to possibly live. 2. If it is a collared wolf, release it. These are research animals. 3. The trapper education classes need to be provided by people other than those who are past or present members of the MT Trappers Assoc. 4. No to a curriculum designed by MT trappers & MT FWP. It should have public input. After all, these animals belong to all of us, not just trappers and game & fish. 5. No organizational recruitment allowed in trapper education classes. 6. More law enforcement to check and monitor trapping. 7. Reestablish a balanced and NEW Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in MT. Sincerely, Vicki Markus

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:13:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:16:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:24
IP Address: 173.73.226.178

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Aina Lusic
City of Residence: Vienna
State of Residence: VA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please reconsider the trapping laws and make efforts to end this practice. This form of hunting is inhumane, cruel, and unpredictable of the outcome. In one case, trapping lead to a pet dog to be in caught and hurt! No more trapping. The risk of a pet or even a human getting caught in these traps are extremely high and it is not worth it! No more trapping!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:56:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:00:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:59
IP Address: 24.143.25.2

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Cher Buchanan
City of Residence: Torrington
State of Residence: WY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

This wrong!! People speak of wolves killing only for the thrill of the kill. They are animals and that's what animals do! What about trophy hunters? That's ok because their humans? Wolves were created by God like every other animal and human. They have the right to be here just as humans do. Killing is killing period and it's wrong!! This is why the eco system is a mess, because people won't leave nature alone. I'm disgusted with human behavior!!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:06:00 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:26:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:00
IP Address: 75.142.51.217

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Margareta Marro
City of Residence: Los Angeles
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Commissioners as a future resident of Montana I am absolutely horrified that your department is considering trapping "humane". Even from a not conservatory point of view there is absolutely nothing humane about trapping. To even use this words means that the commission is supporting the minority of individuals that are in favor of trapping, and not what the majority of taxpayers wants. The commission very much seems to go by the old boy standards and is not a neutral governmental body anymore that is supposed to take care of the environment and wildlife and make fair judgements that are based on actual facts and not special interests. To make statements such as "To increase animal comfort" or "Mandatory Trapper Education will ensure that new trappers have the basic knowledge and skills to trap safely, humanely, and effectively", is not only purposely misleading taxpayers but downgrade unprofessional.

If the commissioners decide to ignore the interest of the majority of taxpayers that are funding their salaries, it may be time for a change in this department.

Best Regards,
Margareta

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 12:17:42 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 12:22:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:51
IP Address: 72.160.58.83

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: McGregor Rhodes
City of Residence: Kalispell
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am an avid hunter, I support the new trapping regulations as proposed. Trapping can be cruel to animals and these regulations will help prevent unnecessary suffering to trapped animals. I personally think trapping for fur is wrong in 2017 and animals suffer in traps. Time to change Thanks for listening to me-- McGregor Rhodes

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 6:47:53 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 6:51:28 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:35
IP Address: 208.163.232.207

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Mary shabbott
City of Residence: Punta gorda
State of Residence: FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Given the evidence, the motives, the bias, and the lack of inclusion with ALL user groups, I do not support the mandatory trapper education class. I do support the trap modifications. I oppose increasing Regions 1 & 2 to 3 otter/trapper. TFMPL continues to request a quota and tagging of beaver, and asks that you do, too! I insist on mandated 24 hour trap checks! There is no such thing as humane trapping, but other than cage traps, and even then, frequent trap checks would reduce the most amount of suffering, additional injury and indiscriminate deaths. The trap checks would apply to all lands!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 7:32:15 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 8:01:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:56
IP Address: 184.164.104.77

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Billy Angus
City of Residence:	Hamilton
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Now, I've said this many times before and I'm gonna continue saying it until this barbaric "tradition" is done away with forever or until this old Earth is blown to Kingdom Come, whichever comes first: Trapping has NO place ANYWHERE in the 21st Century and beyond, and the vast majority of the people (including myself) on this planet are strongly AGAINST trapping and the time is now to end this outdated practice once and for all. We're not in the 1800's anymore and it's time for the so-called "hunters" to evolve into the modern era and find other ways of making a living instead of setting up those ugly monstrosities on public land to kill animals and worse pets and/or children run the risk of getting caught in, resulting in excruciating pain (and even death). Animal fur is no longer fashionable in our modern time, and the time is now to end trapping once and for all! No sugar-coated spin from a government official or death threat from a ruthless redneck hillbilly will make me change my position nor conform to a cruel and outdated practice from a dark past!! If I am killed because I'm against trapping, just remember that I do not fear death and I shall die honorably and become a martyred spirit along side with Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse!! Hoka Hey!!

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, June 21, 2017 7:48:44 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, June 21, 2017 8:06:03 PM
Time Spent:	00:17:18
IP Address:	69.144.147.251

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Dean Chapel
City of Residence:	Deer Lodge
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Is there a study that shows that the changes (trap mods) FWP is considering has a positive effect an anything? I can guarantee there is a negative effect. Kids trying to come up with \$25 or \$30 dollars per trap just to catch a skunk or coyote? Come on. Traps made currently are far and away better traps than those of the '70's with their narrow, cutting jaws. Most traps need no modification, just knowledge on how to use the best trap for the location/animal/situation.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 9:34:13 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 9:36:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:03
IP Address: 73.164.81.129

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Scott Slocum
City of Residence: White Bear Lake
State of Residence: MN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the proposed trap modifications and mandatory trapper education.

Daily checks should be required on snares and non-drowning restraining traps.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:09:39 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:41:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:32
IP Address: 161.7.59.25

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Garett Bacon
City of Residence:	East Helena
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am in support of mandatory trapper education and also request that FWP staff that are any way involved with wildlife and furbearers be mandated to attend the class as well. They need to understand trapping before they can manage it. I competed the wolf trapping course and thought it was a great informational course and FWP did an excellent job presenting it.

I am NOT opposed to having 2 swivels on the trap chain. I already do this and encourage all trappers to recognize the benefit of it. But I do not want this request to become another "trap" to the trappers by "subjective" regulation with a swivel that is not "exactly" located under the base of a trap or "near" the opposite end of the chain. I can see the ambiguity and conflict already if this is mandatory. This would be best handled in trapper education instead of regulation.

I am OPPOSED to the mandatory requirement on trap jaw modifications for jaw thickness and offset jaws. This is a financial hardship. When you factor in the price of furs and the cost to get them, trapping becomes an expensive endeavor. I question the motive behind this as something the Anti-trappers are using to slowly whittle us trappers down. I have caught and released a number of non-targeted animals without padded or thickened jaws or offset jaws and there was not enough cutting or bruising to hurt them from going about their business. ON the trapped animals I keep, I see very little skin breakage if any on their legs. I don't use padded jaws but I heard in the wolf course from government trappers that padded jaws rub through and chafe the skin of the animals leg that causes infection and thus they stopped using them for trapping and re-location animals.

Trappers are doing a management service by keeping furbearer populations in check and healthy. This increase upland birds, and game populations statewide. If you make too many regulations that are this costly, you will lose trappers and incur costs or loss of revenue for other hunting sports.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:12:01 PM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:21:34 PM
Time Spent:	00:09:33
IP Address:	212.242.193.187

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Line Ringgaard
City of Residence: Rising Sun
State of Residence: IN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I insist on mandated 24 hour trap checks in Montana!

I cannot support the mandatory trapper education class. I do support the trap modifications. I oppose increasing Regions 1 & 2 to 3 otter/trapper. TFMPL continues to request a quota and tagging of beaver, and I do, too! There is no such thing as humane trapping, but other than cage traps, and even then, frequent trap checks would reduce the most amount of suffering, additional injury and indiscriminate deaths. The trap checks would apply to all lands!

Sincerely,
Line Ringgaard

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:26:55 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:28:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:14
IP Address: 70.114.242.207

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Tanya Kasper
City of Residence: Wimberley
State of Residence: TX

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

As an advocate for wildlife we ask for mandated 24 hour trap checks! There is no such thing as humane trapping, but other than cage traps, and even then, frequent trap checks would reduce the most amount of suffering, additional injury and indiscriminate deaths. The trap checks would apply to all lands! It is no secret we oppose trapping, but we have to take baby steps or little is gained. Please do the right thing for wildlife and those that enjoy them in the wild and not suffering in a trap for the monetary gain of a trapper.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:45:42 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 22, 2017 5:48:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 108.174.115.83

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Elizabeth Ballard
City of Residence: Stevensville
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Regulations should include a 24 hour mandatory trap check. No adjustments to trap engineering will remove the indiscriminant nature of the traps.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:12:00 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 23, 2017 8:15:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:40
IP Address: 151.229.30.57

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Atlanta Ally
City of Residence:	Kernersville
State of Residence:	NC

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping an innocent animal under any circumstance other than scientific (non-lethal) is despicable. The mind boggles at what pleasure people get over killing animals who are just living their life in nature like every other animal. It is murder, but sadly animals have zero rights, which is wrong in itself. Please rule out the trapping of furbears and other animals and stop the hunting too. These animals are endangered and are important to our environment and eco system. Please act morally and make the right decision.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, June 23, 2017 1:03:06 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, June 23, 2017 1:03:59 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:52
IP Address:	192.30.158.131

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Victor Vainder
City of Residence:	Chelsea
State of Residence:	MI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping of wolves should NOT be allowed!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:03:13 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, June 25, 2017 7:05:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:51
IP Address: 72.174.129.238

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Bruce Stell
City of Residence: Missoula
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I would leave them as is!!!!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 26, 2017 6:03:45 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 26, 2017 6:08:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:18
IP Address: 184.166.54.252

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Kenneth F Cordoza Jr
City of Residence: Whitefish
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Commissioners: I fully support mandatory trapper education. It has been a long time in coming. I also support the trap modification program. However I believe that thru the education program it can be taught to use these superior traps.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 26, 2017 10:35:17 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 26, 2017 11:00:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:24:52
IP Address: 66.113.49.108

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: James Cox
City of Residence: Brady
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Support the mandatory trapper education portion of the proposal, and make the trap modification as a recommendation not as mandatory and leave the trap check time as it has been in the past, ie: recommended 48 hour check time.

The modifications and trap check times are more suitable to be dealt with in trapper education. I have also been supporting FWP for 37 years, thru license and application fees along with my family Thank you James

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:02:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:13:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:33
IP Address: 174.26.19.18

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Cheryl McAllister
City of Residence:	Gilbert
State of Residence:	AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

To Mt FWP Commissioners: short of a public ban on trapping wolves please consider these suggestions:

- 1)Mandatory 24 hr checks on traps. This is as close to humane as you can get. It also will help in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However, many will still die.
- 2) As requested by Montana Governor Bullock-radio -collared wolves be released. It is costly to continually radio-collar wolves.
- 3) No to Trapper Education Programs instructed by members past or present Montana Trappers Association.
- 4) No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Assoc & Mt FWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanans under the Public trust Doctrine.
- 5) Don't allow any methods of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
- 6) More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
- 7) Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

Trapping by its very nature is inhumane. I know . I lost one of my dogs to a poorly placed trap.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:51:46 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:53:57 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:11
IP Address:	216.14.250.154

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Edward Dosh
City of Residence:	Thompson Falls
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the mandatory trapper education portion of the proposal, and make the trap modification as a recommendation not as mandatory and leave the trap check time as it has been in the past, ie: recommended 48 hour check time.

The modifications and trap check times are more suitable to be dealt with in trapper education.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:32:23 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:36:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:30
IP Address: 72.174.165.34

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: jim darr
City of Residence: livingston
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I don't believe any of these regulations are necessary. It appears to be just another attempt at appeasing the unappeasable anti-trappers. Why give them anything at all when you know they won't stop until trapping and hunting are completely banned? There will always be a few bad apples in the hunting/fishing/trapping world, more laws will not change that. Just work on enforcing the regs we already have.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 8:24:13 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 8:27:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:11
IP Address: 209.137.240.20

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Steve Bell
City of Residence:	Anaconda
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please leave our trap check at the recommended 48 hours, no trap modifications, and yes to a mandatory trapper education. Thanx, Steve Bell, MTA member.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, June 28, 2017 10:04:43 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, June 28, 2017 10:07:59 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:15
IP Address:	162.244.233.234

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	robert needham
City of Residence:	glasgow
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

nothing came up so i will write

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 3:18:29 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 3:24:39 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:10
IP Address: 209.137.240.226

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: westonwyant
City of Residence: anaconda
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

one comment is on cat jaws to turn in it should be whole head , agencies work should not be put on public with game wardens deciding if it done properly .second comment is on boats having to stop or fined, legislatue makes fines not at fish and game wimms. wont hold up in court of law ,improper authiorty... I believe rules were fine last year...

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 8:50:10 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 8:51:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:43
IP Address: 69.145.226.63

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Tom Fieber
City of Residence:	Polson
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Director Martha Williams and FWP Commissioners

This is my comment on the proposed changes to trapping regulations.

I have attended a meeting in Helena on crafting these proposals and attended the Commissioners Meeting in Kalispell on June 7th. I have been in contact with other trappers and fWP employees this current year concerning this matter.

From my discussions I see almost full support for the Mandatory Trapper Education as proposed. I have taught trapper education in the past and feel good about how the students responded. The objections that I did receive were addressed in the final draft. I have also discussed setting up the program with Wayde Cooperider on several occasions and feel that he will do a good job of putting it together. This should be self funding through P R grants. I do wish to see this approved and implemented as soon as possible.

On the issue with Trap Modification I agree that all of the modifications are good and I personally have most of my traps already modified. However during the meeting in Helena I did express my concerns about how it would impact almost all trappers financially and time wise. It was being pushed to have it implemented too quickly for many trappers to comply. I was asking for a 2020 target date but 2019 was set. At the June 7th meeting in Kalispell I saw that there was little support from the speakers. My hope is that this issue will be dropped for the time being and brought up at a later time.

The 24 hour Trap Check time has had absolutely not support from trappers. Just from a safety issue our Montana Winter weather would not allow full compliance. I personally do not know of one trapper who has gotten rich trapping, just the added cost of fuel could eliminate quite a few trappers. Each species that is trapped has different reasons for check times it would be difficult to say the least, for one set time period. This one is one that should not be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration.
Tom Fieber

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 5:50:59 AM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 6:07:07 AM
Time Spent:	00:16:07
IP Address:	72.79.167.134

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	David Clemens
City of Residence:	Milton
State of Residence:	PA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

ANY trapping is inhumane,disgusting,disgraceful and sinful. All living creatures of God deserve respect. This practice is archaic,totally out of touch with today's reality. Respect Mother Nature and Mother Earth and leave a positive legacy. Any trapped animal suffers. This practice is unconscionable. This is 2017 !

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 7:49:16 AM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 7:52:52 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:35
IP Address:	169.145.3.52

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Leila Lappin
City of Residence:	ROSWELL
State of Residence:	GA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is cruel sadistic. If we Americans think of ourselves as better than billions of inhabitants in undeveloped parts of the world, then we should show that in our level of empathy and compassion.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 8:04:46 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 8:19:56 AM
Time Spent: 00:15:10
IP Address: 74.85.204.198

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: danielia kotler
City of Residence: hamilton
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment.

The taking of the public's wildlife is a privilege that requires ethics, sense and respect for the animal.

Unfortunately, some people are lax or unconcerned with the above. This is why I believe there needs to be clear laws and regulations to help reduce the many issues that can occur with unregulated trapping.

Regarding the upcoming proposals, I ask you as a Montana resident to implement the following: 24 hour trap checks to be mandatory. This is critical on many levels. Again, it is a privilege to trap and must be done with ethics and care. Too many unintended captures occur and this regulation would help to release wildlife that should not be trapped as well as to decrease the amount of suffering.

Please implement trap modifications also for the above reasons stated in the last paragraph. Make the traps as humane as possible for the animal trapped as well as those animals that are captured that need to be released due to restrictions or unintended capture.

Please do not increase the number of otter taken. Already they are rare to see. I am co-owner of a multiday river outfitting business and our family and guests delight when we see the rare otter. I see a decrease in the amount of otter families over the years. They are not critical for trappers to take in increasing numbers.

Again, unregulated trapping creates problems and the over-taking of animals. Beaver nearly became extinct once and as a critical species for the health of waterways and fisheries, there should be a limit on how many can be trapped in totality and per person.

As the loss of habitat for various reasons continues to decrease wildlife numbers, we don't need to add to further decrease and blunders due to the poor ethics of a few trappers nor due to unregulated and managed practices of trapping. Montana's wildlife is too critical and appreciated by many to not implement improved practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Danielia Kotler

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 7:49:24 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 8:20:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:31:11
IP Address: 108.174.127.177

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jan Carr
City of Residence: Huson
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

If someone were to take their pet dog or cat out into the woods and tie them up by the foot, so that they could not move, get any food or water and leave them there for four days, they would be arrested for animal cruelty. So if fwp insists on allowing people to do this to wild animals, the very least they can do is insist the traps are humane (whatever that is) and that they are checked daily. Trappers have no business setting traps if they are not able to check them frequently. And then how do you monitor, enforce daily trap checks?

Trappers' education classes sounds great, depending what the goal is and who is teaching the classes. the trappers that I have been exposed to would not be the best example of humane treatment of animals. Can you teach morality? We had dogs trapped in scented traps, left in below freezing temps overnight, with dog tags on, and the trapper reported that there was no ID, so he set them loose to find their way home (300 yards off our property). One took a week, and was put down after a week at the vet. The other has had four surgeries and after two plus years and four surgeries, is maimed and crippled. Both might have been saved had the trapper just picked them up, one was a pup, and called us or brought them home.

I realize fwp is going to support trapping but appreciate this public comment period. Does it really do any good? No one likes someone else putting restrictions on their favorite pastime, in this case it appears it is necessary. thank-you

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 10:09:08 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 10:14:07 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:58
IP Address: 174.233.7.73

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Pamela Lambert
City of Residence:	Amanda
State of Residence:	OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping should be a criminal offense in every single state in the USA. We supposedly have an intelligent population. All animals feel pain and suffering. There is no place in society to in flicked torture, and agony to another species! This is a barbaric activity that could never be labeled a sport! Humans have become the most evil resident on the planet.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 12:34:47 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 12:40:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:17
IP Address: 67.143.192.63

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Bob Detmers
City of Residence:	Victor
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I agree that Trapping & Hunting needs to be Highly Regulated right out of Existence. What has happened to Sense & Sensibility? Any questions ask Doug Chadwick or Joel Sartore.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 1:47:43 PM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 1:55:18 PM
Time Spent:	00:07:35
IP Address:	69.145.239.178

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Angela Schwab
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. Mandaroty trap modifications. I support any modifications that will minimize the pain and suffering an animal may feel when caught in a trap.
2. 24 hour trap check. Yes, please require that all traps are checked in a timely manner so as to relieve the suffering of an animal and so any life not intended to be trapped (such as a dog or cat) is caught sooner rather than later increasing their chances for survival.
3. Mandatory Trapper Education - I don't support this regulation.
4. Please don't increase the otter per trapper in regions 1 & 2. As it is otters are seldom seen in the wild and are an important part of our ecosystem.
5. Require tagging of Beaver and set a quota. I believe all trapping should require reporting and a limit should be set.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:06:17 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:24:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:17
IP Address: 69.145.118.198

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: ARNOLD SOWA
City of Residence: HELENA
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Enclosed are my comments regarding the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations.

1 - I agree with the mandatory trap modification, which hopefully will reduce pain and suffering of trapped animals.

2- I would like the furbearer and trapping regulations to require mandatory 24 hour checks for every trap set.. It is well known that many trappers leave their traps unattended and not checked for more than the 48 hour period now allowed.

3 - I would like mandatory trapper education for all current trappers under 24 years of age and for all new trappers applying for a trapping license in the future. .

4 - The limit for beaver trapping should be regulated for a specific period and unlimited trapping for problem beaver should be done humanely with no injuring of the animal and the animals transferred to more remote locations.

5 - I don't understand why otters need to be trapped unless there is an over-abundance of animals. If so, then a limited trapping season could be opened for otter in the fall.

In closing I find the trapping of Montana's wildlife for profit is not right and the collateral damage to pets and endangered or protected species must be reduced.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:26:38 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:32:25 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:46
IP Address: 69.145.239.178

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Ann Szalda-Petree
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: Of course we need trap modifications that decrease pain and suffering. It is unimaginable what these animals go through.
2. 24 HOUR TRAP CHECKS: I demand this. again, it's unthinkable that this isn't law already.
3. MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO - no one should trap unless it is humane and for release elsewhere.
4. INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO - there is no scientific justification for this. Beaver should be tagged and a quota set for these magnificent, social, family oriented animals.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 4:12:12 PM
Last Modified:	Thursday, June 29, 2017 4:13:05 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:52
IP Address:	99.230.144.23

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	mary sarumi
City of Residence:	great falls
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
2. 24 HOUR TRAP CHECKS: YES!!!!
Twice, Zack Strong, of NRDC, has submitted proposals for mandated 24 hour trap checks. Twice I have also asked for this. Why is no one listening to the majority.
3. MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO
This is just a ploy and only benefits trappers
4. INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO, There is not science behind this request. Only greed.
5. REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: Hard to believe the state does not record the number of beavers trapped. They are a keystone species

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 30, 2017 2:25:31 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 30, 2017 2:30:52 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:20
IP Address: 63.157.105.233

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Sandra O'Brien
City of Residence: Hamilton
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Exclude recreational trapping from public lands.
There should be 24-hour mandatory trap-check. Remove the indiscriminate nature of traps.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 30, 2017 7:53:47 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 30, 2017 8:00:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:18
IP Address: 67.44.111.79

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Carmen Sebastian
City of Residence: Lolo
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Traps should have at the very least mandatory 24hour checks with actual consequences for negligent trappers. Trapper education is useless. I am against increasing otter quotas. Beavers are a keystone species and help protect river ecosystems. Therefore we should limit the amount of beavers that can be trapped as well as the season. Montana should be investing in its wildlife to help increase its tourism industry and to ensure future Montanas will have some wildlife left to enjoy. Thank you!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, June 30, 2017 8:21:15 AM
Last Modified: Friday, June 30, 2017 8:22:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:27
IP Address: 70.209.137.28

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Catherine Sebastian
City of Residence:	Woodstock
State of Residence:	NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

It's 2017. Time to put away barbaric practices and implements.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, June 30, 2017 10:21:37 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 01, 2017 12:29:52 AM
Time Spent:	02:08:14
IP Address:	70.213.2.141

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Mrs. Louise Gray
City of Residence:	Lompoc
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Don't you care other species are trapped by accident and die? We know of a recent incident of an American Eagle trapped for days! He couldn't be saved! Hikers and pets, have been injured and some pets died. Do you care?

We understand profit but are you truly that desperate and uncaring?

If you want more income then Montana has to show compassion for Wildlife because Tourists, hikers, campers, etc. won't visit a place where Animals are dying especially by Trapping!

Millions of people derive great pleasure from seeing Wildlife so there's a lot of good money to be had! You must know of all the money people pay to see wild animals..it's in the BILLIONS!!! Check it out because it's true!!! People travel thousands of miles, spend a lot just to see Polar Bears, Lions, Elephants, Bears, Whales and so on.

The Writings On The Wall that trapping must stop!

We've heard real recordings of animals trapped, their screams are horrific! Dying slowly of starvation! Chewing off their limbs trying to get free!! So are you going to continue that or are you going to let millions of people know you care?

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 01, 2017 5:34:41 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 01, 2017 5:43:18 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:37
IP Address: 99.95.122.120

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Lynn R
City of Residence: Fort Smith
State of Residence: AR

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

All trapping is cruel and barbaric and should be banned worldwide. The animals suffer unimaginable pain and often die horrible deaths. The very least Montana could do is pass a law that traps be checked every 24 hours. It should be noted that domestic animals are victims of the cruel traps, too..

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 01, 2017 1:27:06 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 01, 2017 1:35:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:59
IP Address: 70.210.137.75

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Kathleen Engstrom
City of Residence: Gilchrist
State of Residence: OR

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Hi

As a now part-time MT resident and former (36 year) resident here are my opinions.
DO NOT increase quotas on any animal. I totally oppose trapping.
Yes on 24 hour trap checks; the less suffering and cruelty the better.
Screw Education: It's indoctrination

Additional unrequested opinion:

Quit letting a tiny percentage of MT's population kill Montanas wildlife for personal gain and "pleasure". It's beyond horrible.

And as I've told you on numerous occasions--get some women and minorities on your Board (a Native American woman perhaps?). All white males DO NOT represent all Montanans. Oh, I forgot: you want it this way so you can continue to rule the world--how silly of me!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:16:28 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:18:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 50.111.51.167

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Rowland GREGORY
City of Residence:	Glenville
State of Residence:	NC

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

" OUR WOLVES ARE ESSENTIAL " ?? " NO SENSELESS TRAPPING " ! ??????

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:18:21 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:18:33 PM
Time Spent:	00:00:12
IP Address:	50.111.51.167

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Rowland GREGORY
City of Residence:	Glenville
State of Residence:	NC

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

" OUR WOLVES ARE ESSENTIAL " ?? " NO SENSELESS TRAPPING " ! ??????

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:18:42 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 01, 2017 2:19:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 50.111.51.167

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: MARY SUE GREGORY
City of Residence: Pinellas Park
State of Residence: FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

" OUR WOLVES ARE ESSENTIAL " ?? " NO SENSELESS TRAPPING " ! ??????

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 01, 2017 5:43:44 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 01, 2017 5:52:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:03
IP Address: 100.40.201.91

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Christopher LoGiudice
City of Residence: Poughkeepsie
State of Residence: NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping of any kind is an act of cowardice. Trapping mammals is even worse...especially the way it is being done in your state. That being said I am in full support of any and all modifications that will ease the suffering and pain of the animals that are trapped. I know you people will not stop; I know that cowardice is infectious and spreads like wildfire among the ignorant. ALL TRAPS SHOULD BE CHECKED EVERY 24 HOURS. ANYTHING LESS THAN THAT IS UTTERLY INSANE. EDUCATING PEOPLE IN "THE ART OF TRAPPING" IS A WASTE OF MONEY. PERHAPS INSTEAD YOU SHOULD TRAIN THESE MEN ON HOW TO RAPE YOUR DAUGHTERS. I SAY NO TO THE OTTER INCREASE PER TRAPPER AS THERE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE A DECREASE. HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO SURVIVE ANYWAYS? LASTLY...THERE SHOULD NOT BE A FIELD DAY ON BEAVER. THERE A QUOTA SHOULD EXIST AND TAGGING SHOULD BE MANDATORY. I hereby speak up for the voiceless. You are all to me just a pack of assholes who kill what i would protect. Wake the f*** up.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 02, 2017 7:53:47 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 02, 2017 8:00:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:00
IP Address: 184.166.77.48

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Michelle L. Lute, PhD
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES

All possible modifications that reduce animal suffering must be implemented.

24 HOUR TRAP CHECKS: Absolutely YES

This is the most important regulation related to trapping and must be strictly enforced.

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO

This is a waste of funding. Trappers should be able to educate themselves on the matter.

INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO

Otter should not be exploited for personal gain.

REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: YES

Beaver are a critically important keystone species and should not be subject to unlimited trapping for recreational purposes or damage control.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 02, 2017 6:33:39 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 02, 2017 6:55:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:56
IP Address: 72.255.184.173

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Cynthia Speer
City of Residence: White Sulphur Springs
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am opposed to the mandatory trapping classes because I think the main result will be to deter people from trapping. Trappers are often a different type of people - more solitary, less likely to go to larger towns and less likely to have the means (reliable vehicle, gas money, food money, hotel money) to go to the very towns where you will hold these mandatory classes. Its all fun and games for you guys, just like it was at the wolf trapping classes. Trappers are often not indoor, classroom types of people and you know it. Make up a nice little booklet - not full of extraneous material - but emphasizing and re-emphasizing the very points you want to make in the classroom. Then either mail it to every trapper who buys a license or make the license sellers hand them out like they do the regs. Or better yet, include a perforated sheet asking them to sign off on individual points that you want to make sure every trapper understands and if they don't sign off and mail it in within a certain number of days after purchasing their trapping license, the license becomes invalid. I am against proposed changes to the traps because of all the cost and how little difference it will make in the end. Just bowing down to the animal rights' groups. Just go tell them that your efforts to reform trappers to more 'humane' methods have been unsuccessful and that your efforts to reform predators to use more 'humane' methods killing their prey have also been unsuccessful.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 1:57:47 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 2:05:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:19
IP Address: 69.145.88.33

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Sue Ann Stephenson-Love
City of Residence:	Great Falls
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

While I oppose trapping as one of the most horrific practices, I realize that it will not be abolished here in Montana for some time to come, if at all. Given that it will happen, I am writing to urge you to enact regulations that would at least make it more humane and that would prevent the Mt Trappers Association from using the licensing and education for trappers as a vehicle to promote its agenda and recruit new members. To that end, I urge you to promulgate regulations to effect the following:

*Ensure mandatory 24 hour trap checks, and commit more law enforcement to monitor and enforce this and punish wrongdoers.

*Release radio collared wolves, as recommended by Governor Bullock. Capturing, collaring and monitoring these wolves is costly and gives hunters and trappers an unfair advantage.

*Do not permit trapper education programs to be taught by members of the MT Trappers Association. (MTA). Allowing MTA teach these courses will result in a biased self-serving course and an unfair recruitment opportunity format.

*Do not use a curriculum designed with input exclusively from MTA. Any such curriculum should be prepared with input from those who are mindful of animal suffering and humane practices.

*Do not permit MTA to recruit students and promote their organization in trapper education classes

*Re-establish the Montana Trappers Advisory Committee and ensure it represents all interested Montana organizations.

Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 4:58:37 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 5:03:24 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:46
IP Address: 73.133.78.68

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Pat Novak
City of Residence:	Baltimore
State of Residence:	MD

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am appalled that trapping is permitted because wolves are essential to preserve the balance of nature. We are the guardians of the planet the whole planet and as such must model guardian behavior. The cruelty implicit in trapping is anathema to that role. Do unto others as you would have done unto you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 8:11:29 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 8:23:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:38
IP Address: 67.61.97.130

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Tracie Montgomery
City of Residence: Inkom
State of Residence: ID

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I'm asking you to reconsider allowing the trapping of fur bearing animals. It's cruel, inhumane and in this day and age beneath us as humans.

We should be above the torture of the creatures of the earth.

"What you do to the least of these my brethren, you do into me." Jesus

Please do not allow this to continue.

Thank you

Tracie Montgomery

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 8:57:02 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 8:58:35 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:33
IP Address: 172.56.20.217

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Sheila
City of Residence:	Foley
State of Residence:	AL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Why can't greed just leave nature and God's gifts and creation as they're meant to live. That's not our right to take everything from them

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, July 03, 2017 9:01:31 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, July 03, 2017 9:02:35 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:03
IP Address:	75.170.125.105

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Valerie Bear
City of Residence:	Meadow Grove
State of Residence:	NE

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to "humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
 2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
 3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
 4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
 5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
 6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
 7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
- ~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 8:53:23 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 9:11:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:43
IP Address: 69.145.133.67

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Cheryl Kindschy
City of Residence:	Helena
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

The 24 hour trap check is a necessity
To prevent excessive torture and pain to our wild animals.
The proposals you are tryin to pass is to try and convince the public that your antiquated behaviors are acceptable. They are not it speaks of lower education and the so called recreation is unethical torture to wildlife. Secondly you are trying to increase the number of trappers and inviting more disgusting behavior. It's my understanding Montana was rated with a D in trapping. That grade speaks for itself. Again lack of education.
Mandatory trapper education is no you are trying to increse people to trap in unethical backward behavior.
Increase Otter per trapping regions 1 and 2 and that is no. This is not science but the behavior of greed.
Beavers, please set a quota and require tagging. Beavers are a keystone and as of now you have it set at unlimited. I must say that is greedy also. You let them call it for recreational purposes.
Please, FWP as a citizen of Mobtana and Helena step up and make this program function at a higher level that you are allowing now. It's nothing to be proud of and actually it's a black eye for the state and you as a governing body. We can do better. The state receives very little money from trapping. A measly 96,000 a year and yet wildlife viewing is over \$400million and hunting and fishing much higher also. Step up FWP and do it better.

Thank you
Cheryl Kindschy
Helena, Mt 59601

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 03, 2017 10:12:19 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 03, 2017 10:23:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:48
IP Address: 107.77.224.63

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Nancy Ryan
City of Residence:	Wilbraham
State of Residence:	MA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is inhumane. If you can't imagine trapping your own dog in one of these cruel traps why would you do it to other canids? Unlike dogs and other domestic pets; wolves, coyotes and other canids are keystone species and play an essential part in keeping our ecosystem healthy. Please keep our Wilderness and Wildlife free of wildlife "management". Our Wildlife are meant to regulate their own populations and they will if left alone. Read the science and stop giving in to Hunters Trappers and other groups that put pressure on politicians. We want our wildlife to continue to be enjoyed by future Generations. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 7:58:53 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 9:21:04 AM
Time Spent: 01:22:10
IP Address: 72.175.85.213

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kim Latterell
City of Residence:	Billings
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I wish to inform the Commission that I've been a MT trapper for 3 decades & I own approx. 70 leg hold traps of which NONE are laminated & NONE have off-set jaws. Under your trapping regulation proposal, I would have to replace these approx. 70 leg hold traps at a cost of about \$14 each. That's about \$980 for replacement traps. Next I have to affix new trap tags at about \$20. Then I have to dye these at a cost of about \$100. Gas to go buy these would be about \$50. Then there's the labor to dye the new traps, to attach trap tags, to modify the pans & the dogs, to re-adjust the pan tension, to remove chain extensions from the old traps & install same on new traps. Estimated total labor (my time @ \$10/hour) for the above-mentioned things would be about 2 hours per trap times \$10 per hour times 70 traps i.e. about 140 hours & about \$1,400. I would have to spend about \$1,150 cash, about \$1,400 of my time, & about 140 hours of my time to become compliant under your new proposal.

I do have the choice, however, to modify my old traps to make them compliant with the new proposal. This is not really a practical & ethical option though & here's why not. First, the labor & costs to modify the old traps would be virtually the same by the time I pay for jaw spacers & jaw laminates, & then pay a machinist/welder/ grinder to install the new jaw spacers & jaw laminates. I would estimate that such labor alone would be about \$40-\$50 per hour & I can't begin to estimate the number of hours that these installations would take, but it's a very tedious & time-consuming project. On the ethical side, once welded on, these traps will be heat-tempered which does nothing more than substantially weaken not only the jaws of the trap but the body of the trap as well. That means that I will, undeniably, injury some animals that will break the jaws and go free with injured feet, or carry part of the trap away as a result of a fractured trap body. Also, the modified traps will close slower as they go off through ice and snow - resulting in "toe catches" & escapee animals leaving with less toes and injured feet. Also, a 24 hour mandatory trap-check, is ridiculous given our MT winter weather; it's time-consuming, it's costly in gas, and it puts down too much human scent.

I am in NOT in favor of your proposal.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
 Started: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 1:30:53 PM
 Last Modified: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 1:39:28 PM
 Time Spent: 00:08:34
 IP Address: 206.183.119.21

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Dan Thingelstad
 City of Residence: ronan
 State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

trap mods ok trap check time has to stay at 48 hours, any shorter will make a criminal out of most trappers. weather, distance, sickness ect will be impossible to check on traps if set to 24 hours. As far as class what would that accomplish is there an inherent danger to me or someone else while trapping? More government control?

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 4:06:28 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 04, 2017 4:58:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:52:09
IP Address: 63.153.94.162

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Paul Rossignol
City of Residence:	Lolo
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

7/4/17

To Whom It May Concern

As a representative to the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Department I would like to comment on the Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Seasons and Quotas that are proposed.

I have reviewed the results of the Montana Trappers Advisory Committee and agree with their stance on the proposal.

The fact that these proposals do not require the trapper by regulation is the correct way to deal with these proposals. Recommendations will reduce hardship imposed on the trapper and with the mandatory education process will instill the proper ethics and techniques to achieve a result that all sportsmen will be satisfied with.

As we saw with the ballot initiative that was soundly defeated in November the majority of Montanan's support trapping as a management tool, a tool that we must be upheld to keep Montana's wildlife healthy and abundant. The supporters of this initiative will keep chipping away at trapping with unnecessary regulations and additional restrictions that if they succeed will render trapping ineffective as a wildlife management tool.

I would also like to comment on the wolf seasons and regulations for most areas in region 1 and 2. After several wolf hunting and trapping seasons the deer and elk populations have not recovered. The wolf population has remained nearly the same although I have noticed pack sizes have decreased. If we are to base our wildlife regulations on science (which has been ignored in some instances around the parks) these factors point to more liberal seasons, additional tools and aggressive actions by the department to bring these areas back to a balance. I look to the west at Idaho's seasons and actions to see a better approach to wolf management.

Thank you for taking my comments under consideration.

Paul Rossignol

P.O.B. 23

Lolo Mt. 59847

544-0420

fshnwalli@msn.com

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 05, 2017 3:55:06 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 05, 2017 4:04:16 PM
Time Spent:	00:09:10
IP Address:	72.173.130.50

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Steven Barkley
City of Residence:	Bozeman
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear FWP,

I feel strongly that MT should have a 24 hour trap check limit. This is done in many other places and is the right thing to do for many reasons.

I do not think we need to have a mandatory trapper education program.

I don't think there should be trapping of otter at all, but certainly no increase in the quotas. I've heard the FWP claim that trapping in MT is sustainable, but after decades of spending time on Montana's public lands, it seems pretty clear to me that many of our species are in decline. There's been a very noticeable decrease in otter, beaver and many other species. I think there should be a limit put on beaver trapping as well.

Thank you,
Steven Barkley

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 5:00:37 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 5:04:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:44
IP Address: 199.38.106.70

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Tevin Chilton
City of Residence:	Galata
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

We don't need any more Trapping Regulations.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 5:09:30 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 5:25:02 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:31
IP Address: 69.146.146.14

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Scott Willumsen
City of Residence: Missoula, MT 59803
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I don't agree with the trap modification rule. I seems like it will be confusing and just another way to issue more tickets. Also the cost makes trapping even more of a losing proposition.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 8:40:45 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 8:44:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:19
IP Address: 63.153.74.169

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Amber Wilson
City of Residence: Missoula
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support mandatory trappers education.
I do not support mandatory trap modifications.
I am for modifications, but only on a recommended level.
The trap check should stay the same, as a recommended 48 hrs, as it is currently.
I also support the increase of the otter quotas.
I

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 9:59:12 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 05, 2017 10:00:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:48
IP Address: 66.41.58.131

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Connie Burris
City of Residence: Springfield
State of Residence: IL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Comments

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~
Thank you
Ms Connie Burris

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 06, 2017 1:33:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 06, 2017 1:57:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:05
IP Address: 64.25.140.59

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jerry Shively
City of Residence: Thompson Falls
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I fully support raising the trapper limit on Otter from 2 to 3.

I am opposed to a mandatory trap check and mandatory trap modification.

Montana weather is such that a MANDATORY trap check would be impossible to adhere to by the trapper & of enforcement by a warden.

at the age of 70 I do not have too many years left to trap. some of the traps I still use are over 100 years old & would be impossible to modify to the proposed standards & still function. I along with most trappers make every effort to check the traps set every day. Sprung or uncovered traps are not working, traps with critters in them are an open invitation for theft,

Keep both the trap check & trap modifications as a recommendation & not a regulation.

I fully support trappers education, but not under the same leadership as the bow & hunters ed. classes. trapping should be taught by TRAPPERS. just attending & passing a trappers ed class is NOT in any way shape or form, a qualification of becoming a trapping instructor.

Wade Cooperider has almsot destroyed the bow & hunters ed program a lot of us have spent a very good share of our lives building. He has alienated a lot of very good, dedicated instructors to the point of there not going to be there next year. I have 20 years invested in this program & I am one of them.

I also think it would be wise for the Commissioners to take one of the trapping classes if it does become mandatory. You should know something about what you are regulating. the somethings you should know need to be based on facts & not rumor or speculation. there is a lot of false information about trappers & trapping spread by the anti-everything crowd.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 06, 2017 5:06:12 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 06, 2017 5:07:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:44
IP Address: 72.160.12.141

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Mike Freeman
City of Residence: Whitefish
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the mandatory trapper education portion of the proposal. However, as trap modifications are so complex, in some circumstances costly, and as they are continually being changed and hopefully improved I would ask that they were made just a recommendation at this time. I would like the trap check time to remain as it has been for a long time at a recommended 48 hour check and address this issue through the education portion.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 06, 2017 7:31:30 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 06, 2017 8:22:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:50:30
IP Address: 63.153.5.201

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Andrew M Pasek
City of Residence:	Billings
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. I think mandatory trapper education could be a good idea being that new trappers coming into the sport would share a common baseline. I think having the Montana Trapper's Association involved in this class is very important if the class does become a requirement.
2. I am vehemently opposed to the trap modification requirement. Some trappers find the mentioned modifications to be beneficial and others, like myself, find that modifications like offsets are a waste of time. Considering the time it would take Montana trappers to modify all traps to fit the specifications, when we disagree with some of these modifications, would be quite the frustration. My opinion is to leave us to modify what we like on our traps but not have a blanket requirement. Every trapper has different preferences, and some of the modifications work better in different situations so requiring them for every trap takes away a trapper's ability to use the trap he/she finds appropriate for each unique situation.
3. I don't really have a dog in the fight for the Region 1/2 otter take limit seeing that I am in Region 5, but my opinion is that, seeing how unique an opportunity it is to harvest an otter in Montana increasing the per trapper limit would take away opportunities from other trappers. Therefore I would be opposed to this change.

On a side note, some of the anti-trapping organizations have instructed individuals to "insist" on a 24-hour trap check requirement. I realize this is not on the proposal, but I want to emphasize that a 24-hour trap check is completely unreasonable and not a feasible option. Life happens, and though I try to check my traps every day, on the rare occasion I have to push the check back a day. Generally making strict requirements, while usually coming from a good place, only hurt the law abiding trappers.

Thank you,
Andrew M. Pasek

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 07, 2017 8:43:19 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 07, 2017 9:04:01 AM
Time Spent:	00:20:41
IP Address:	70.192.75.192

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Leila Lappin
City of Residence:	Roswell
State of Residence:	GA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

To those who care, there is no such thing as humane trapping. If you have a concience (which you obviously trying to shie that you do) then you should disallow trapping altogether. If you don't care, then stop being a moron and drop the pretense that you care and push the asinine idea that there is such a thing as humane trapping and a trapper can be trained to be a human. Honestly you can't train someone who makes a living by trapping animals to be a human! You are not fooling anyone but yourselves. However if you are determined to continue this lie and 'train' trappers to be humans, I suggest put each and every one of them in their own humane traps and let them stay there until they either chew their own limbs to get out or die of hunger. That is the best way to teach someone how to be a humane trapper.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 07, 2017 5:34:24 PM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 07, 2017 5:39:43 PM
Time Spent:	00:05:18
IP Address:	72.174.10.128

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kip Knapstad
City of Residence:	Lolo
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support trapping education but please keep the trapping modifications as a recommendation and trap check as a 48 hour recommendation too. I work 24 hour shifts and i mostly use killer traps for marten/rats/beaver. This would make me a criminal and would limit my trapping. If I can't check my sets regularly,I do not trap. The anti trappers just want to make trapping so restrictive, that we will just give up.
Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 07, 2017 10:02:38 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 07, 2017 10:20:13 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:35
IP Address: 72.250.157.252

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Josh Barta
City of Residence: Lewistown
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

It seams you are trying to run off the folks that fund your jobs you will create an enormous expense modifying traps and run off trappers and therefore sell fewer licenses. Seams you are working for the people who don't buy licenses. Regardless it will be a huge financial impact and you posted very few details on the modifications. I think you should put more effort into reaching out to our youth to carry on the management of these species through trapping. Please keep in mind it takes a certain size trap (at least a number 3 or 4) to work in Montana winters and apply some common sense. My son is just getting into trapping please don't run him off.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 9:40:59 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 08, 2017 9:59:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:12
IP Address: 74.85.204.189

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: david repola
City of Residence: butte
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapper education is good but the trap modifications will require a great investment in time and money to change traps that are not in compliance with the new rules. Some trappers like myself have hundreds of traps. I am opposed to the trap modifications. They should be a suggestion only.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 2:54:49 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 08, 2017 3:38:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:43:54
IP Address: 67.143.192.98

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jim Helfrich
City of Residence: Vaughn
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Commissioners,

While I support most all of your proposals regarding trapping, there is one that I do NOT support. First let me introduce myself and my qualifications.

My name is Jim Helfrich, I was a private professional trapper for 20 years and have trapped for 55 years. I have trapped in 11 states for nearly every species of animal that can be trapped. I was the trapping Expert for the State of Ohio Fish and Game's First trapper education program and helped developed the first Trappers Educational Film for professional use.

In 1982 I invented a new line of traps called "Eliminators" so named because they eliminated damage to animals caught. This was important to me because at that time many of the animals I caught were taken alive. Traps available at the time for catching coyotes, bobcats and fox were not good for taking animals undamaged.

The main issue was the improper chain attachment at the end of the trap frame, no offsets and spring height too low to maintain a firm grip. I regularly modified traps up until I invented my own line. Now this is not a sales pitch I quit making them many years ago, this is a sharing of information as to why the modifications I made to my design were critical to stopping injury and loss.

All land traps should be bottom center swiveled because this puts the pull from anyplace within the trap jaws in direct alignment with the chain and STOPS the foot or toes from sliding across the jaws to align with the chain as happens in traps not bottom centered swiveled traps. This sliding action CUTS toes and feet.

Offset jaws help to increase holding power which is vital to stopping damage. Many trappers will brag how they caught an animal just by the toe! Chances are that they did not catch it by the toes but at first lunge the foot moved and pulled out of the trap until the jaws squeezed into the small part before the larger end of the toe and held. If a foot moves in a trap because of incorrect chain alignment or because the traps did not have proper holding power it can damage an animals foot.

On the "Eliminators" this is solved first by bottom center swiveled chain attachment, second with offset jaws and third and very importantly by having 4 coil springs with a wire instead of wide metal "ear", the part that holds the jaws together when the trap is sprung. On Eliminators, it is an intracule part of the 4 coil springs. This removes the wide metal ear that older traps push up or the circle on long spring traps that rises to hold traps closed. The Eliminator spring rises higher, expands and locks into place preventing the traps jaws from opening. It has more holding power than any other trap it's size.

If you would take many of the traps in use today and place a piece of wood in them snapping the trap shut and then you twisted the wood you would see the springs depress and the jaw space open. This is a problem because if the jaw space opens the foot moves and it gets damaged and that's NOT what we want.

The reason I am explaining this is that if thicker jaws are used improperly they add to the reduced holding power. Width must be relative to traps size. For example, Ideal size of a fox trap is 4.5" jaw spread while coyote and bobcat need a 5.5" wide jaw spread. Not that you can't catch any of them in any size trap, I am talking best size.

When you modify a trap jaw thickness you slow it down as it leaves its soil bedding. If the soil is partly frozen, which is normal in Montana in trapping season you slow it even more. You provide a basis for the trap to clog near the trap jaw hinges. (Eliminators are designed with a space near where the jaws pivot to help prevent that problem). All of these jaw thickness modification things make it more difficult to make a good catch and not contribute to less damage to the animal so I do NOT recommend them.

Please do require multiple swivels and offsets but please DO NOT require jaw thickness modifications. Many of the better traps have cast Jaws like the bigger size Eliminators, new house, sterling and others which cannot be welded to. The cast jaw has superior holding power to a steel jaw, rounder edges and more pours surface allowing better gripping power and creating less damage

Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Seasons and Quotas - Proposed

gripping power and creating less damage.

I was the first person the trapping world to promote correct size traps for catching land animals. I am a firm believer in humane trapping. I have probably caught and removed more live animals from traps than any other person. Yes, I know that's a tall claim but I am making it. From prairie dogs to Mt lions. To Antelope to Aoudad I have caught and taken alive a wide range and large number of wild animals.

Live animals have much more stringent requirements for lack of damage than those killed before removing. For instance, even though earlier traps did not show damage on fresh caught bobcats within a few days after being removed from the trap, that foot would swell up and under examination there were often separated toes bones in the cat's foot. Eliminators NEVER caused one cat foot to be damaged. That is the best testament I know of that backs up what I have told you here.

If I may be of further assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,
Jim Helfrich
jimhelfrich@hughes.net
406 403 3345

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 5:45:00 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 08, 2017 5:57:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:15
IP Address: 63.153.89.138

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Laurien Riehl
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping classes are a needed tool to insure that people are understanding the laws and proper methods for trapping. The modification rules are subject to opinion. I believe offset and center swivels have there place. But I have never seen an animal hurt by my traps having a chain come off the side.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 7:08:36 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 08, 2017 7:10:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:35
IP Address: 67.133.97.102

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: stephen stone
City of Residence: los angeles
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

this kind of activity,, trapping this way seems one of the most cruel and in human things to do to an animal.... we are supposed to protect all life and i would hope that you see it as your responsibility to do just that....

I wonder how you would feel if you stepped on one of these yourself...????

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 7:40:16 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 08, 2017 8:16:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:02
IP Address: 73.164.81.129

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Scott Slocum
City of Residence: White Bear Lake
State of Residence: MN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Montana furbearer and trapping regulations, seasons and quotas.

I support the proposal for mandatory trapper education, but would ask that it also be required for those trapping for livestock or property protection. Although the instructors will naturally tend to slant the curriculum toward their own personal belief systems, it would be valuable to have MT FWP oversight on at least the published versions of class sections such as "the trapper's role in wildlife conservation" in order to align the curriculum with verified scientific information, and to avoid the inclusion of unverified political opinions including preferences for big-game species over other species, prey species over predator species, etc.

I support the proposal for trap modifications, but would ask that the claims as to the benefits of the modifications be limited to those that are scientifically verifiable. For example, as I understand it, the statement that "offset jaws allow the trap levers to extend more fully upward, which keeps the animal's foot more stationary" is scientifically verified. As I understand it, the statement that "the offset allows greater blood flow to the captured foot" is not scientifically verified.

I support a daily trap check for non-drowning sets of snares and foothold traps, and a three-day check for drowning sets and body-gripping traps. I realize that this proposal is not one of those that are included in the MT FWP proposal documentation, but I support the call of Trap-Free Montana Public Lands for such trap-checking requirements.

Sincerely,
Scott Slocum

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 08, 2017 4:46:31 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 3:17:48 AM
Time Spent: 10:31:17
IP Address: 99.230.144.23

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Andy Fritschen
City of Residence: Great Falls
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

my comments for the 2017 trapping regulation changes are noted below:

1. MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
2. 24 HOUR TRAP CHECKS: YES!!!!
I and Trap Free Montana Public Lands have for the last two years asked for this and not one is listening.
3. MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO
This is just so they can say they are doing something
4. INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO, There is not science behind this request.
5. REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: Quota is desperately needed. How can one say there is sound science. Beavers are a keystone species. The forests are on fire. Use the beavers for fire breaks too.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 3:41:48 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 3:43:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:11
IP Address: 99.230.144.23

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Ruby Fritschen
City of Residence: Great Falls
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

My comments for the 2017 trapping regulation changes are noted below:

1. MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
2. 24 HOUR TRAP CHECKS: YES!!!!
I and Trap Free Montana Public Lands have for the last two years asked for this and not one is listening.
3. MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO
This is just so they can say they are doing something
4. INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO, There is not science behind this request.
5. REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: Quota is desperately needed. Beavers are a keystone species. Where is the "science" if we do not even know how many are killed each year?

Ruby Fritschen
Great Falls, Montana

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 5:55:19 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 6:08:04 AM
Time Spent: 00:12:45
IP Address: 181.14.116.28

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Mari
City of Residence:	Alexander Mills
State of Residence:	NC

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: We agree and urge to establish 24 Hour trap checks en insist on this point. 24 hs check may already expose trapped animals to pain and hypothermia. Please prepare to offer controls to exercise trap checkings

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO, we believe it may increase the number of hunters-trappers, bad news for wildlife and a cover mean of attracting new adepts to trap killing.

INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO. Wildlife is one of our fast declining treasures to preserve. Increasoiing quotas or regions turns wildlife even more vulnerable.

REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: Yes, a low quota, please, the lowest, to be loyal to Nature´s needs in an era of environmenal empoverishment and wild species depletion.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 9:41:28 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 9:59:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:15
IP Address: 174.208.9.0

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Tom Meine
City of Residence:	Dillon
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the mandatory trappers education. I disagree with the trap modifications as they are costly and time consuming and add extra weight to the trap in turn making it harder on the furbearer and its fur. As for the mandatory 48 hour trap check I feel it should be left the way it has been for a long time, recommended 48 hour check. Trapper education through ethics will help this. Making it a mandatory 48 hour check will put trappers at a safety risk due to weather conditions, vehicle issues or any other unforeseen issues. Thanks for your concern, Tom Meine

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 11:12:47 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 11:14:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:15
IP Address: 69.145.222.201

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Justin
City of Residence:	Great Falls
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

To the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
RE: Furbearer and Trapping Regulations

As a concerned citizen of the state of Montana I believe one of our greatest heritages is again at risk of being threatened. As a trapper myself I am personally concerned for myself and other fellow trappers through out Montana with some of the new proposed trapping regulations.

I am greatly concerned about the 2019 trapping regulation that would require trappers to modify ground foothold sets. This would cause great burden on some trappers as many of their traps may not have offset jaws. This would make many traps that current trappers own illegal to use on Montana's public lands where many trappers are carrying out a great tradition. In order to modify these traps to be legal some trappers would suffer a substantial financial set back. Many trappers do not trap to make a profit. May trappers are trapping because of their love for a tradition that has been passed down through the generations. These modifications may be such a burden that some trappers may not be able to trap anymore. These required modifications are not practical for the average trapper. Good trappers in Montana are smart about their trap locations in order to prevent incidental catches of pets and non target species. I would hope the few uneducated and careless trappers in the state would not ruin, and force new laws and regulations to be set that directly impact the large group of trappers who do everything right. In the proposal for the modifications it states that persons trapping for purposes of livestock or property protection would be exempt from these requirements. I would hope that the "persons" described would include "agents" or trappers on private lands trapping for the landowners of the private property. Would trapping for the purposes of private land or livestock pertain to DNRC, BLM, and US Forest Service lands that are adjacent to private lands or livestock? Many ranchers throughout the state lease public lands to graze their livestock on. Exemption from these modifications should be allowed on these public lands where livestock is present or in a close proximity in order for a trapper to be able to protect the livestock. As we all know the furbearers, predators, and non game species we trap in Montana do not stay within property boundaries. In order to properly protect livestock that are on private property trapping on public lands surrounding the livestock is necessary. Therefor these lands should fall as exempt from these modifications in order to protect the livestock.

I am in favor of starting a trapper education program much like the hunter's education programs we have for new hunters in the state currently. I believe this would lead to a great opportunity for education for young men and women who are interested in taking up such a great tradition that can be passed down for generations to come. However, I believe that any current trappers in the state would not be required to take this course to trap. Better yet, have the experienced and knowledgeable trappers we have in the state be the teachers for these classes and teach the younger generation basic safety measures to protect themselves as well as not target incidental catches, as well as etiquette trappers have for the public and one another.

Overall I have many concerns with the new proposed modifications that have been proposed to be put into effect by the 2019 trapping season. It would have negative impact on some of the fine trappers we have in this state. These trappers trap for their love of the tradition and have the upmost respect for the animals they target and trap. I hope these modifications are not put into place and negatively impact a great group of sportsmen. These sportsmen hope to keep Montana "the last great place".

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 09, 2017 11:13:57 AM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 09, 2017 11:18:13 AM
Time Spent:	00:04:16
IP Address:	63.153.114.144

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Natasha Osborn
City of Residence:	Stevensville
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I strongly support mandatory 24 hour trap check times and mandatory trapping modifications. I also do not support increasing Otter quotas. I would also like to see that beavers be required to be tagged and quotas set. I used to see beaver and otter a lot along the rivers and streams and now rarely do. So many of these species aren't adequately studied and population estimates made based on trapping numbers which can be really misleading. I would encourage you to tighten regulations to protect over harvest. Thank you for taking my thoughts and opinions into consideration.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 09, 2017 12:52:02 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 09, 2017 1:04:16 PM
Time Spent:	00:12:13
IP Address:	72.255.151.213

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	george chilton
City of Residence:	chinook
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I'm no welder. I can't find any traps to purchase that meet your requirements. We have enough laws on trapping now. We are Montana not California. I have talked to more people and they agree with me.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 2:25:15 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 2:33:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:03
IP Address: 173.170.113.22

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Paul Needles
City of Residence: Largo
State of Residence: FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear commisioners: Please take these comments and suggestions into consideration. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.

2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.

3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.

4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.

5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.

6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.

7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~

The preservation of wildlife is our responsibility and legacy we must respect. The persistent eradication of wild lands will eventually destroy the world we will pass to our children. Please allow your name and legacy to be that of one who protected our environment.

Thank You for your consideration. Paul R. Needles 7/9/2017

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 5:38:00 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 5:43:04 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:04
IP Address: 72.250.133.201

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Timothy Blevins
City of Residence: Ryegate
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I don't think it's a good idea to make us change our traps. The added expense would be too much for us trappers with older traps. And if this passes next thing you will do is take away our right to trap at all. Also I don't like or appreciate your way of trying to slip this thru to regulation.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 7:26:16 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 7:39:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:05
IP Address: 174.45.240.121

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Heidi Handsaker
City of Residence: Billings
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Hello.... I do believe there should be mandatory trap modifications --- but even if the FWP and trappers claim that some traps are 'humane,' that doesn't take into account the mental anguish a trapped animal is forced to go through --- and the longer an animal is left in a trap, the more physical and mental torment the animal will have to endure.... Also it seems strange that even IF a trap was actually physically humane, there is still the fact that the trapper may find the animal physically healthy, yet mentally terrified and in shock, only to kill it anyway.... Very few traps will instantly kill an animal....

And so I also do believe that 24-hour trap checks should be required.... I also feel that there should be no mandatory trapper education, because even if a trapper becomes skilled at trapping, and maybe even taught how to kill 'humanely,' there are still the above problems to face --- and the fact that the animal is being killed just for its fur, which in many ways is a form of poaching, not hunting.... And I don't believe there is any need to increase the otter quota, also for the above reasons....

Recreational trapping is not ethical in any way, and I'm sorry and saddened that our FWP still supports it....

Thank you for listening....

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 7:50:49 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 8:00:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:04
IP Address: 74.46.221.59

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Gary Grenfell
City of Residence:	Libby
State of Residence:	NH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapper education will be good for starting trappers. Need to have a Grandfathers clause for older trappers that have been trapping a long time like Idaho has. As for the modification to traps being mandatory, I am against it! There is a select group pushing their agenda and have not gone out of their way to present to all the trappers. A lot of trappers are not aware of proposals. Traps that are being used now cannot be modified and will end up in the scrape pile. The lamination traps that they want are wider and in snow are slower and reduce catches. These new regulations amount to more trapping regulations and control. Coyotes are under the Jurisdiction of Montana Livestock Board. Their new regulations could affect the control of predators and more loss of sheep and calves. If the Fish & Game want these changes they should just recommend switching as one can, not mandatory. At my age I will not replace 100 traps so I will be done trapping!!! Thank you, Gary Grenfell

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 09, 2017 10:40:04 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 09, 2017 10:43:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:32
IP Address: 209.58.139.4

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Julie Castillo
City of Residence:	Whitefish
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please institute a 24 hour check for all traps. It is incredibly cruel and inhumane to not require checks during that time period.

In addition, Montana should require mandatory trapper education and no increase in otter per trapper regions 1 and 2. Please also set a quota for beaver trapping.

I love kayaking and wildlife watching in Montana but see fewer otter and beaver each year.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:11:23 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:36:41 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:18
IP Address: 24.165.46.49

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Dave Pauli
City of Residence:	Billings
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I served on the 1999 Governors Trapping Advisory Council and have been promoting trappers to self regulate and the state to increase regulations especially with regards trapping and negative impacts to domestic animals and non target animals. Very little mandatory improvements have been implemented since 1999!

Trap check laws are not a total solution but not having a reasonable and enforced MANDATORY MUST check requirement serves no one. A twenty four hour trap check has worked in many states for decades. It is reasonable for trappers, landowners and pet owners and gives veterinarians options trauma treatment options other than amputations.

Body crushing / "Conibear" type traps have no business being on dry land... they should only be allowed totally submerged sets! The larger sizes kill dogs and cats and non target wildlife, and the smaller sizes kill even when set on pole sets kill no game mammals and federally protected songbirds.

MFWP needs to implement more trapping regulations that protect humans and their hunting dogs and companion animals that hike with them by establishing a proportionate amount of trap free zones! All boat launches, trail heads and high use public areas should have a wide buffer no trap zones. Large public tracts near major urban centers should be designated as trap free zones.

There needs to be one set of regulations that apply to all trapping , "recreational, commercial and predator control" one set of rules , one enforceable standard!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 10:30:25 AM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 10:32:35 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:10
IP Address: 184.166.178.31

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: CAROLE ROLPHE
City of Residence: KALISPELL
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

TWO OF MY DOGS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN TRAPS...IF I CANNOT ELIMINATE THEM ALL TOGETHER...I WANT THIS:
. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks.This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 2:58:50 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 3:11:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:12:41
IP Address: 50.188.89.72

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kristen Elliott
City of Residence:	St Paul
State of Residence:	MN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping needs to be permanently banned in all states. It's a a barbaric practise carried out by people that seem to feel little compassion toward the animal that has been cruelly trapped and lays suffering until the trapper eventually comes along and kills it. This is not to mention the many pets that are caught in traps just taking a walk in the woods with their owner. This needs to be permanently prohibited!

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, July 10, 2017 2:43:34 PM
Last Modified:	Monday, July 10, 2017 3:53:10 PM
Time Spent:	01:09:36
IP Address:	71.37.186.30

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Bromley Casbara
City of Residence:	Hamilton
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Commissioners:

I have some concerns regarding current trapping proposals.

First, traps really need to be modified and checked every 24 hours to help ease their injury, pain and suffering. My trapping friends agree that it is cruel to leave animals in traps for days, not to mention weeks. Montana is not too big of a state to have traps checked daily. In fact, most trappers I know trap close to home due to our large acreage of public lands. We should join the other 36 states that require daily checking. It is the humane thing to do.

Also there needs to be a quota and tagging system for beaver (a keystone species). They play a critical role in biodiversity by creating wetlands upon which 85% of our wild animals depend. Where their numbers are depleted, the ecosystem degrades. Unlimited and unreported trapping of beaver should not be allowed anymore. We should be keeping track of their numbers in order to protect the animals that directly and indirectly depend on them.

Thirdly, please do not increase otter per trapper in regions 1 and 2. Region 1 typically went over quota until the quotas were raised. Was that science based?

Lastly, regarding mandatory trapper education- not if it is run by the MT Trapper Assoc. Classes need to be run by a group that includes all stakeholders, not just the MTA.

It appears to many of us that trappers often are catered to over sound, science based management.

Thank you for your time.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 4:15:22 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 4:19:14 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:51
IP Address: 166.7.61.42

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Bobby Sutton
City of Residence:	Sheridan MT
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I do not support #2 requiring double swivel and offset jaws for foothold traps. If you have any questions please call 406-600-1695

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 5:22:42 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 5:23:47 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:04
IP Address: 68.231.103.73

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: dana newsom
City of Residence: phoenix
State of Residence: AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I think all trapping should be illegal. It's beyond cruel.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, July 10, 2017 6:46:43 PM
Last Modified: Monday, July 10, 2017 6:49:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:18
IP Address: 73.35.53.165

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Robin Peterson
City of Residence:	Jacksonville
State of Residence:	FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is so inhumane and fur looks better on animals not the ugly selfish human animal.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 1:21:03 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 1:23:09 AM
Time Spent:	00:02:06
IP Address:	107.77.226.113

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Gabriel Turzo
City of Residence:	New York
State of Residence:	NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Traps cannot be checked frequently enough for them to be considered humane. They must be banned unfortunately. There is no moral way to operate them.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:15:18 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:19:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:02
IP Address: 24.182.130.98

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Teresa Lipps
City of Residence:	Wentzville
State of Residence:	MO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

OUTDATED , NEEDS TO STOP, DOES NOT WORK ANYMORE, PROMOTES VIOLENCE AND NO EMPATHY FOR LIVING BEINGS WHO HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO LIVE AND BE FREE. NO! MORE! TRAPPING OR KILLING!! OVER DONE! IF WILDLIFE IS GONE, HUMANS ARE NEXT. WE HAVE VERY LITTLE LEFT. PRESERVE AND PROTECT. ...21ST CENTURY EVOLVE !

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:57:14 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 8:59:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:47
IP Address: 45.50.216.167

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Deborah Bortot
City of Residence:	Fontana
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Stop killing these beautiful animals. If you leave them alone they will self regulate.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:54:44 AM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:58:18 AM
Time Spent:	00:03:33
IP Address:	105.227.246.89

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Shelley Wyndham
City of Residence:	Chambersburg
State of Residence:	PA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
24 Hour trap checks: This a non negotiable point. I Insist on it!
MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO
INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO
REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA:

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 11:27:59 AM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:07:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:39:08
IP Address: 161.7.59.20

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Katie Svoboda
City of Residence: Bozeman
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I'm in full support of your proposed requirement to make modifications to foothold trap sets. As stated in your Interested Person's Letter, these are best management practices that decrease injury and are more ethical and humane trapping practices.

I would also like to request that you add a daily (or 24 hour) mandatory trap check for all traps. Any ethical and humane trapper should be doing this anyway, but by making it mandatory you are reducing stress on the animal and increasing the chance of survival of any non-targeted species that may get caught in a trap.

Thank you for your time.
Katie Svoboda

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:45:56 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 1:34:53 PM
Time Spent: 00:48:56
IP Address: 199.168.110.51

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	candis france
City of Residence:	glasgow
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please adopt the mandatory regulation for a 24 hour check on traps. It would seem the least that could be done for the poor unfortunate creatures. Why its allowed in this day and age is really sad. Please do the right thing.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 3:45:29 PM
Last Modified:	Tuesday, July 11, 2017 3:49:40 PM
Time Spent:	00:04:11
IP Address:	71.50.18.251

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Jill Heins
City of Residence:	Warsaw
State of Residence:	MO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please do not allow the trapping of any animals. If you do allow it, I hope you'll make 24-hour trap checks mandatory.

This assists in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. Naturally many will still die or be maimed.

Cancel the Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.

Cancel the curriculum designed by Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Americans under the Public Trust Doctrine.

Don't allow organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.

Implement additional law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.

Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 4:14:29 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 4:28:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:10
IP Address: 69.146.173.226

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	KC York
City of Residence:	Hamilton
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

On behalf of myself and as president of TFMPL, please support the mandatory trap modifications. The research substantiates the need. The costs and loss of protected species to trapping cannot be discounted. We, unfortunately, cannot support the mandatory trapper education given the caliber of the potential instructors as evidenced by how they conduct themselves, the exceptions to who has to take the class, no mention of cost to participants and the lack of involvement in planning and oversight by all interested parties. To grant trappers free reign to choose methodology without mandates is like giving a teen a driver's license without restrictions. We also need 24 hr mandated trap checks. For FWP to dismiss this 24 hr request again and go against their own pledge in 2016 to work with all is beyond concerning. We oppose increasing otter per trapper in regions 1 and 2. What it indicates is perhaps more incidental take and/or a way to respond again favoring the trapper in lieu of the otters. A want, a will and the means should not replace scientific justification. Lastly, for FWP to proclaim trapping is highly regulated then tagging, reporting and a quota on beaver are necessary. We have none of this. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:18:26 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 9:23:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:18
IP Address: 216.14.245.67

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Bob Rowland
City of Residence: Ovando
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

If trapping classes teach best management practices like center swivel and off set jaws, why would we then make it mandatory regulations. Trappers currently understand this but have many older traps that have not been modified. This sudden regulation change would be a severe hard ship to many older trappers who's traps were made in a earlier time.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 10:51:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 10:55:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:48
IP Address: 72.94.157.135

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jeannine Mendrola
City of Residence: Broomall
State of Residence: PA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Mass extinction is happening and we, as a society should ban trapping. Trapping is inhumane and a disgusting practice. It should be eliminated immediately.

Failing that we need to work to minimize unnecessary suffering. I propose:

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to "humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
 2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
 3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
 4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
 5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
 6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
 7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
- ~Trapping is by its very nature inhumane~

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:02:03 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:30:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:28:25
IP Address: 108.174.115.101

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Becky
City of Residence:	Stevensville
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I think the Trapper Education course is a good idea. I also think it's smart and convenient to combine the regular trapping education with the wolf trapping education. I think it will help educate people to trap ethically and to follow all of the regulations better. I think it will prepare people that have not trapped before to understand the law and give trappers a better reputation. I think the younger generation will be more likely to try trapping if there is a course available.

However, if I'm reading it correctly, it states that if I don't buy a trapping license in the next 5 consecutive years, that I will need to take the course on the 6th year. I think this part of the stipulation is unnecessary since people might have years of trapping experience and knowledge, but for some reason have taken a break from trapping. Some examples might be college, career, kids, moving away from their well known or traditional trapping areas, medical issues, or lack of vehicle. Personally I think that when I have my first child, I might be forced to take a break from trapping, but it doesn't mean I will forget how to humanely trap an animal or how to read the regs or how to set a trap. I think that part of the education class should be deleted.

I also think that the proposal to modify traps is unnecessary. It will be very expensive and time consuming for MT trappers to change all of their traps. It's unreasonable to expect people to change their methods of trapping when it has been their livelihood for decades. Also, if it is important enough to change the trap specs for the general public, why is it still humane to use those same traps to prevent livestock casualties? It seems that if the traps without mods were so inhumane, there wouldn't be special exemptions for some people. Also, how will the change even be measured? There will be an increase to trapper cost and time, but how will the state measure the resulting change? It appears to be an unmeasurable, unnecessary change to our way of life. For some people, it will equal hundreds of dollars (or more) worth of changes to already existing and functional traps.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:35:22 AM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 10:57:02 AM
Time Spent:	00:21:40
IP Address:	216.14.234.155

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	David Campbell
City of Residence:	Superior
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

1. I support trapping education for new trappers.
2. I DO NOT support the trap modifications as stated, thou a recommended ONLY on OFFSET on larger traps in the regulations.
3. FOR 3 otter limit in regions 1&2

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 12:31:54 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 12:33:38 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:43
IP Address:	216.14.244.38

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kari Gunderson
City of Residence:	Condon
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
24 Hour trap checks

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO

INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO

REQUIRE TAGGING OF BEAVER AND SET A QUOTA: YES

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:26:36 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 2:34:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: 216.166.169.10

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Michael S. Ross
City of Residence: Bozeman
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I highly support mandatory Trapper education.

I do not support any of the proposed mandatory trap modifications:

1. Center base swiveling with a minimum of 2 swivels
2. Minumun 3/16" jaw lamination
3. Minimum 3/16" jaw offset

I would urge you to make these recommendations not regulations and to cover these topics thru the education process.

Thanks

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 3:28:03 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 3:29:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:31
IP Address: 47.208.132.245

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Korinna Domingo
City of Residence:	Arcata
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

MANDATORY TRAP MODIFICATIONS: YES
24 Hour trap checks should be mandatory.

MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION: NO

INCREASE OTTER PER TRAPPER REGIONS 1 & 2: NO

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 4:21:11 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 4:23:34 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:22
IP Address:	45.50.216.167

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Deborah Bortot
City of Residence:	Fontana
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

As far as I am concerned, no one should be killing any of our apex predators. They are needed.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 5:05:13 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 5:07:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:45
IP Address: 50.115.71.194

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Stephanie
City of Residence: White Fish
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

No more trapping on public lands. 24 hour check. trapping modifications. I want to enjoy the outdoors without stepping on a trap and my dogs getting into a trap. please cater to the individuals who enjoy the outdoors without harming nature. it is very sad how wildlife is treated. Tourism bring more money into the state than trapping does!!! wildlife is the answer

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 5:59:31 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 6:02:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:03
IP Address: 172.56.29.240

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Natalie DeBoer
City of Residence:	Richmond
State of Residence:	VA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

BAN ALL TRAPS/TRAPPING !

Trapping is a barbaric and inhumane "practice".

Respectfully,
Natalie DeBoer
Richmond, VA
July 12, 2017

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:22:23 PM
Last Modified:	Wednesday, July 12, 2017 9:23:49 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:26
IP Address:	72.173.139.8

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Monte Schnur
City of Residence:	Townsend
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed trapping regulations.

I began trapping in Montana in the winter of 1962-63, under the eagle eye of retired government trapper “Beaky” Albrecht. He was a real professional, and he didn’t put up with anything slapdash. When I entered the Army, my listed civilian occupation was “fur trapper”. (While in Vietnam, I tried my hand at trapping a tiger.) When I got back to Montana, I returned to trapping: beaver, muskrat, otter, coyotes, fox, badger, raccoon, bobcat. Trapping supported my family through many winters. I enjoy pitting my skills against wily animals, and I enjoy putting up a good set of furs.

I support mandatory trapper education. I have seen many poor trapping practices--both dangerous and unproductive. Greater skill is acquired with experience, but the basics have to come first. I wish everyone could have the kind of teacher I had. I hope the Department will have well experienced and reputable trappers as teachers. Combining the wolf trapping class with the general trapping class is an efficient use of time and personnel.

I am opposed to the proposed regulation requiring offset jaw traps. Will there be different minimum offsets and thicknesses required for different sizes and styles of traps? Who will decide what they are, and how will trappers be notified? Will all traps have to be certified or inspected before being used? The proposal doesn’t say.

In the past 55 years I have safely released all kinds of animals, from owls to mountain lions and every thing in between, from traditional jaw traps without serious or disabling injuries. In my experience, an offset jaw can produce greater injury to an animal than a traditional jaw trap, which always grips firmly. If it can slide a leg or foot sideways or back and forth in an offset, an animal can injure itself in trying to fight such a trap. Opposing pressure above and below a joint can cause dislocation. Applying a good trapping education will help people a humane catch.

Traps connect to the chain with a swivel. A second swivel right there wouldn’t hurt. Swivels further along the chain are more likely to be frozen with snow and dirt, and not work. Will there be a penalty if that happens? Most traps have a foot or less of chain. Adding swivels adds length. The more length, the more chance for an animal to lunge aggressively and hurt itself. Properly educated trappers know how to stake a chain that won’t tangle.

The cost of buying all new traps, new chain, and adding extra swivels will be prohibitive for the ordinary trapper. Today’s fur prices don’t cover gas and vehicle wear, much less all new equipment. (New offset traps are listed for \$119-\$150.00/dozen. Swivels are \$5.50/dozen. No serious trapper can get by with just a dozen traps.) Is this proposal a sneaky way to discourage people from trapping, so it can be eliminated altogether?

Finally, as I have understood it, the trapping regulations apply to regulated furbearers and game animals (wolves). I didn’t know a person had to be licensed to trap classified predators or non game animals. There are no seasons or quotas on predators and non game animals. How does the Commission have authority adopt regulations on style or size of traps that are used for trapping animals not otherwise regulated?

Sincerely,

LaMonte J. Schnur (life member Montana Trappers Association)
16 North Fork Rd.
Townsend, MT 59644
406-266-3515
schnur.family7@gmail.com

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2017 11:37:49 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2017 11:38:00 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:11
IP Address: 73.92.176.26

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Veronica Yovovich
City of Residence: Berkeley
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am writing in support of a 24-hour trap inspection requirement for all restraining traps (including foothold traps, Conibear traps, and snares) set for all species in the state of Montana. This would help the state's wildlife as well as trappers in many ways. A 24-hour trap inspections would make trapping more ethical by helping reduce unnecessary suffering for the animals trapped, it would reduce lethal bycatch, and improve non-hunter opinion towards hunters and trappers.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:34:53 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, July 13, 2017 3:38:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:17
IP Address: 162.244.174.75

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Jess Floch
City of Residence:	Eureka
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please make mandatory 24 hour checks! What a cruel and miserable way to die for these animals. Pure torture. Also believe there should be required education for trapping. Thank you for your time.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Friday, July 14, 2017 12:13:16 AM
Last Modified:	Friday, July 14, 2017 12:38:39 AM
Time Spent:	00:25:23
IP Address:	216.47.50.9

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Maureen Edwards
City of Residence:	Dixon
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am in favor of mandatory trap modifications. I insist on 24 hour trap checks. Anything less is unethical. I am opposed to mandatory trapper education. I am opposed to increasing otter per trapper regions 1 & 2. I also favor that you require tagging of beaver and set a quota.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:28:25 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:35:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:57
IP Address: 184.166.64.211

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Gary Wolfe
City of Residence: Missoula
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I support the proposal to establish a Trapper Education Program and Mandatory Trapper Education Requirement; and the proposed required modifications to ground-set foothold traps.

I am disappointed the proposed furbearer regulations do not include a mandatory trap check time. I encourage the Commission to adopt a mandatory 48-hr trap check time as has already been implemented for wolf trapping and bobcat trapping in designated lynx habitat.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:25:46 PM
Last Modified: Friday, July 14, 2017 3:26:56 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:10
IP Address: 72.255.187.122

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Neal J. Green
City of Residence:	Melville
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

My name is Neal Green and I am a trapper from Melville, MT. I am writing you to express my opinion regarding the proposed changes regarding the trapping regulations beginning in 2019. I feel these changes are not needed and are crippling financially for trappers across Montana. While I do not make my sole living from trapping, I do however pay the bills at my house for a portion of the year with trapping. I take my trapping very seriously and go to great lengths as to not have a conflict with the public during the season. I use good equipment that I know works for the conditions at the time. Trapping conditions vary greatly and there is no “one size fits all” when it comes to traps.

I prefer to not use the laminated jaw traps due to extra spring strength needed in order for them to function in adverse conditions (i.e. mud, frozen ground). Sometimes adding more surface area to the jaw face can decrease the holding power as well as the speed of the trap. I do use offset jaws and believe them to be advantageous because they have a mechanical advantage for holding the foot. The space between the jaws allows the levers to ride higher thus providing a better lockup and more holding power. However other trappers have the opposite opinion and they know what works best for them. I use a center swivel on my traps but know others that would rather not as a center swivel can complicate the process of bedding the trap potentially leaving it tippy and causing an animal to discover the trap before it fires or causing a substandard catch. Most trappers develop their “system” from some trial and error as well as talking with others and comparing notes. These proposed trap regulations would make some really good equipment on the market potentially illegal. I also see this as being a real nightmare for enforcement. We trappers all make our sets a specific way usually for a reason and we can’t have wardens out there digging them up to take measurements and not returning them exactly as the set was made or leaving extra scent in the area. It’s just ridiculous.

That brings me to the subject of the mandatory education program. While I have no problem with the notion of educating our up and coming trappers, I do take issue with it being mandatory. Most trappers start out with the help of a mentor anyways. I fear this might stop some of them from ever setting their first trap if they miss the class when that interest is first there. What is really wrong with a kid or a new guy going out there and experimenting a bit to pique their interest? Then they will really want to seek out the education. Why not put out a printed pamphlet similar to the printed regulations with some helpful hints to get people started and how to avoid conflict with the general public.

I also have an issue with predators being included in the new regulations as I believe there are some unanswered questions about whether the department (FWP) has the authority to enforce regulations on predators. There has already been some discussion that this may be challenged in court should it become regulation. Just as an example, I have never heard of a person convicted of an offense involving wildlife and having their hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges revoked that still couldn’t go out and trap coyotes. As far as I know people that can’t legally own or possess firearms can still go out and trap coyotes.

One final thought is that it is my understanding that these regulation changes were proposed as a way to improve the way that the public perceives trapping. The public voted against I-177 last fall by nearly 2/3 margin in favor of trapping the way that it is. Those that oppose trapping will still oppose it no matter the restrictions. They will never give up anything and compromise is not an option for them. What we have works in this state and should be allowed to continue. It will save FWP money, and it will save the trappers money. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. (406) 537-4484.

Thank you for your consideration

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:59:24 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:08:03 AM
Time Spent: 00:08:39
IP Address: 216.14.245.189

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Michael Gullette
City of Residence: Superior
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I don't support #2 Modification....This just adds cost to the traps and the extra chain and swivels aren't needed....its just more rules and regulations that aren't needed.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:26:41 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:29:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:26
IP Address: 23.240.245.28

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Sonia Valdivia
City of Residence: Los Angeles
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I'm opposed to any trapping of wolves. Trapping is inhumane.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:43:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:49:38 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:40
IP Address: 70.199.153.142

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Tamara Thompson
City of Residence: Burbank
State of Residence: WA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Why are you allowing trapping to continue at all. It's a barbaric and inhumane allowance. No one absolutely no one needs to be allowed to trap for fur. We are not using for primary source of clothing or bedding. If we consider chaining humans cruel and inhumane why is it okay to do so to animals. They starve and are in pain. Plus trapping is indiscriminate. It doesn't care who it gets. We are allowing interest groups to decide what they want. If your constituents are opposed except for a small few how does that make it right.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:02:15 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:03:16 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:01
IP Address: 32.209.4.211

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	David E. Shellenberger
City of Residence:	Bethel
State of Residence:	CT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

All trapping is inhumane.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 3:52:41 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:15:06 PM
Time Spent:	00:22:24
IP Address:	184.63.87.62

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Jeanine McColgan
City of Residence:	Divide
State of Residence:	CO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is by its very nature inhumane. Because of its cruel and unethical nature, I do not support trapping. The humane treatment of wolves and other carnivores should be considered at every level. There is nothing "Humane " about trapping. Even Montana's own Dept. Of Fish, Wildlife & Parks acknowledges this fact. I support a full, public ban on trapping. If that cannot be accomplished, in the interest of an ethical and civilized society, please impose:

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock, radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves and years of scientific data and hard work are lost.
3. No to a curriculum designed only by Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine.
4. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
5. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.

Please widely consider the pain and suffering caused by trapping not only by the target animal but also by incidental and unintended victims. The majority of Montanan's don't want trapping. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:29:08 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:32:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:11
IP Address: 107.77.230.202

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Jessica Kemper
City of Residence: Midvale
State of Residence: UT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Absolutely no trapping of wolves should be legal. Wolves should be a protected species and we should respect their habitat and well being. We are constantly encroaching on their habitat, food source, etc. the wolves should not be trapped or killed.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:31:50 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:34:55 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:05
IP Address: 24.252.240.174

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Patricia Stock
City of Residence: Olmsted Falls
State of Residence: OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Do not allow trapping of our wolves. Not only is it brutal and inhumane, innocent pets get caught in these traps. This isn't necessary. It's time to stop pandering to special interests and do what the majority of Americans want.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:34:07 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:38:32 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:24
IP Address: 107.77.231.225

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Kyle Kemper
City of Residence: Salt Lake City
State of Residence: UT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I oppose the trapping of wolves in particular. I believe the practice is not humane.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:43:04 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:50:22 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:18
IP Address: 76.173.209.88

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Stephen Canham
City of Residence: Kaneohe
State of Residence: HI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I own rangeland in Carbon County. I am opposed to predator trapping. Live trapping should be used only as a last resort in specific cases when all other humane control efforts have been exhausted. Trapping for fur should be banned, period. Animals need their fur a helluva lot more than you or I do. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:54:02 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:56:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:39
IP Address: 71.198.143.11

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Joan
City of Residence:	Berkeley
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping by its nature is cruel, inhumane and unnecessary so education about it is only necessary to let people know of all the family pets and other wildlife that also wind up in traps.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:02:03 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:03:51 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:48
IP Address:	121.99.111.57

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Declan Harp
City of Residence:	Wilkins
State of Residence:	AL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is wrong, let's stop it all now.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 4:59:22 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:04:17 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:54
IP Address: 173.64.89.42

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Todd Werner
City of Residence: Reisterstown
State of Residence: MD

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Wolves have consistently been shown to be a benefit to the environment and support healthy populations of other animals in areas where they are known to exist. We do not need to take a step backward in wolf recovery efforts. They are also a major reason why I have chosen to visit the state in the past and will affect my decision on visiting in the future.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:16:12 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:19:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:06
IP Address: 174.124.159.196

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	David Aho
City of Residence:	Rudyard
State of Residence:	MI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

This should not be allowed at all. Trapping is not a sport, it's just a cruel means of tormenting other creatures. It's not acceptable anymore, times change...

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:40:36 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:43:07 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:31
IP Address:	134.228.92.247

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Lora Hamrock
City of Residence:	Huron
State of Residence:	OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I would like for you to consider how painful trapping is to the wolves. There is no way to humanely trap a wolf. Please do not allow this to happen. We travel to your beautiful state to see the wolves.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:47:02 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:50:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:09
IP Address: 139.218.210.32

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Meredith Corrigan
City of Residence: Summerland Point
State of Residence: AS

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Wolves are critical to the balance of nature. It is inhumane to trap these majestic beasts in such a heartless manner. They also are a tourist draw card, just to see a footprint in the snow is so exciting. Killing them will not bring in the tourist dollar, sustaining and protecting will.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:48:24 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:51:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:45
IP Address: 200.68.137.221

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Joanna Ciezkowski
City of Residence: Buffalo Grove
State of Residence: IL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please have compassion and stop trapping animals, only cruel heartless people wear dead animal skins. I beg you to stop this carnage

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 5:56:09 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:00:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 173.184.200.200

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Michael Kitchen
City of Residence: Argillite
State of Residence: KY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Stop this barbaric practice, it's exceedingly cruel and inhumane. Leave the wolves alone to live their lives in peace, just like you would like to do.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:04:26 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:14:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:10:21
IP Address: 63.153.66.175

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Kodi Pickett
City of Residence:	Dillon
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

The 24 hour trap check is something that will put undo risk and stress on many counties and the emergency services. As a wife of a trapper, I worry about him checking his traps in general and in Beaverhead county there are many areas that cell service is not an option. To force trappers to risk their lives and the lives of sheriff officers, search and rescue is not only reckless but dangerous. I know my trapper alone, if he knows there is a bad storm coming he will often times spring his traps and wait out the storm, we all know animals hunker down and do the same thing. Forcing a trapper to check his trap line regardless of the weather puts, them, emergency services and families at risk and just not necessity. As for the mandatory trapping class! Yes! most trappers I know are for it, they know the traps that are set illegally are often set by a kid out drumming in his grand dads barn. Having an ethics class, is not a way to drive up the numbers of trappers. Quotes are set by professionals who look at data and figures, they don't pull a number out of the air, I think we need to leave the number game up to them. All in all, the trappers that I know are some of the best, hard working most ethical men out there and would risk there lives to check traps that everyone knows will be empty.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:33:25 PM
Last Modified:	Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:35:53 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:27
IP Address:	67.215.45.53

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Karen Bailey
City of Residence:	JOhn Day
State of Residence:	OR

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping should totally not be allowed in this day and age. We have so few wolves, and other wildlife. We need to protect them NOT HUNT OR TRAP THEM.. It is a VERY CRUEL Practice. DO NOT ALLOW THIS TRAPPING PLEASE!!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:59:52 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:05:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:15
IP Address: 98.215.119.202

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Brianna
City of Residence: Bloomington
State of Residence: IL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is cruel, inhumane, and out dated. In my opinion, it's also wildlife harrassment and abuse. Anyone with a level head on their shoulders can see why this practice needs to end. It's 2017.. it's time to evolve as kinder and more compassionate human beings.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 6:54:59 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:09:08 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:09
IP Address: 68.173.125.189

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Carol Butler
City of Residence: New York
State of Residence: NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please no trapping of WOLVES..MONTANA borders YNP..the park WOLVES may end up in those traps..I also feel that trapping or baiting of any kind is inhumane...I have family that live in MONTANA..it's a beautiful STATE.. When I come to YNP..I come to see live WOLVES & healthy Wildlife..please show all the other states that MONTANA has a heart & is concerned about the wildlife in & around your state..please no trapping..THANK you

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:26:48 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:28:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:21
IP Address: 172.58.23.105

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Regina Argentin
City of Residence: Los Angeles
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please stop trapping and killing precious wildlife. I am against this, it is wrong, cruel, sadistic and harmful to the environment.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:32:07 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:37:15 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:08
IP Address: 71.32.63.126

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: timzeiser
City of Residence: msla
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

trappers or anyone else should have the right to choose the tools they want to do the job.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 7:59:35 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:05:12 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:36
IP Address: 100.38.250.122

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Elizabeth Watts
City of Residence: Lynbrook
State of Residence: NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I encourage you to follow science and the humane treatment of wolves and other carnivores. There is nothing "Humane " about trapping. Even Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks acknowledges it. Short of a public ban on trapping wolves I ask the following:

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. This is as close to" humane" as you can get. It also helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die.
 2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
 3. No to Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
 4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
 5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
 6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
 7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana.
- Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:16:09 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 8:19:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:12
IP Address: 98.125.87.159

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Donnie Meek
City of Residence: Bigfork
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping of all kind including snares, etc. are just cruel torture to any animal... They are outdated and should all be banned, as these evil devices cause tremendous pain and agony that no creature should endure... They are barbaric! Please stop this horror....

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:17:18 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:18:43 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:25
IP Address: 99.203.1.239

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: RR Mier
City of Residence: Muskegon
State of Residence: MI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:17:57 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:29:27 PM
Time Spent: 00:11:30
IP Address: 174.208.0.117

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Natalie Kruse
City of Residence: Swam Valley
State of Residence: ID

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping should be completely banned. It is extremely cruel, inhumane and barbaric..We, as humans, should understand that we need to set limits on killing wildlife in a cruel and inhumane way. I don't care if animals kill their prey inhumanely. What matters is that humans do not kill inhumanely. Also, predators are sorely needed in states such as Idaho and Montana. They keep populations of rats, mice and coyotes down. Without wolves, elk and deer also become overpopulated. Also, diseases, such as chronic wasting disease, in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming elk herd spreads. Without wolves Nature as well as people suffer and die.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:18:07 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 9:39:21 PM
Time Spent: 00:21:14
IP Address: 108.69.98.156

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Susan Simone
City of Residence: Ft.Lauderdale
State of Residence: FL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is not supported by the majority of everyday Montanan's.Trapping & snares are I humane & cause great suffering to the animal. They really should be a crime to use. To leave an animal trapped is inexcusable.
Mandatory 24 he. trap checks.
More law enforcement commitment to check & monitor trappings.
Do not allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trapper education courses.
No to curriculum designed by only Montana Trapper Association.
Reestablished a balance to a new Montana Trapper Advisory Committee that represents All interested organizations in Montana.
Wildlife belongs to the taxpaying citizens. Not exclusively to trophy hunters & trappers. It is unacceptable.
We do have a Public Trust Doctrine.
Thank you. Susan Simone.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, July 15, 2017 10:41:11 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:15:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:33:54
IP Address: 69.63.79.66

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Margareta Marro
City of Residence: Pasadena
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife officials,

It is sad in general that the public has to submit comments to a barbaric and outdated activity that your department still allows, that should have been stopped years ago. To allow people that perform trapping as a hobby to do so with no supervision or control shows that the majority of the public is not taken seriously. I would appreciate if you would acknowledge that trapping is not humane, is absolutely not necessary and the majority of people, within Montana and outside of Montana want to see wildlife alive. You are paid for by the public's tax dollars but yet, I have not seen you in action to show the people that you take them seriously. To allow trappers to do whatever they want, especially not to set a 24 hour trap check requirement, shows how much you value your own wildlife. I will not repeat all the statistics that show how many protected species, pets and humans are injured or killed by trapping, you have them readily available and hopefully start to read the documents and use these numbers instead of ignoring.

Why does the public have to comment on a potential regulation that should be standard? Oh I forgot, the trappers think it is not necessary to check their traps as trapping is not cruel and humane. It is time to stop you hobby trappers from acting like they owe the wildlife and get a grip on reality. Being against a 24 hour trapping check means they want to continue their weekend activity whenever they want and don't think about the animals at all. It should be illegal to trap collared wolves in general and they should be released. Your department is not enforcing any rules and therefore the illegal takes of protected animals are increasing and worse the department is aware. I would like to see the department being more serious about their job duties and the responsibility towards ALL taxpayers, not only towards your buddies and donors that enjoy trapping and such. Keep in mind that the public that loves animals may be needed if your department experiences tax dollar cuts. Listen to the public and especially the biologists and scientists. Welcome to the 21st century!

Best,
Margareta Marro

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Saturday, July 15, 2017 11:51:40 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:01
IP Address: 172.58.83.10

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Denise keeney
City of Residence: Coon rapids
State of Residence: MN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Your killing tourism. Lets get humane about trapping. No trapping of wolves, bears. Ban snairs

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:04:21 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:15:20 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:59
IP Address: 73.110.34.191

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Kristin Harder
City of Residence: Evanston
State of Residence: IL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

This is Wrong! Trapping Wolves or any other animals is totally disgusting. Everyone who is doing this PLEASE stop!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:26:38 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:28:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:30
IP Address: 76.103.198.231

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Carile Kramer
City of Residence: Sonoma
State of Residence: CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please, no trapping of wolves. It's unbearable animal cruelty and unnecessary.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:44:00 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:46:51 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:50
IP Address: 97.120.104.237

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Jude Riley
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

trapping wolves is NOT humane! Do your jobs and protect the wild wolves & other creatures we have left!

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:10:58 AM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:18:06 AM
Time Spent:	00:07:08
IP Address:	72.49.222.213

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Janet Saylor
City of Residence:	Cincinnati
State of Residence:	OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I respectfully urge that trappers be required to check traps at least every 24 hrs. I am not a fan of trapping as I am a huge animal lover and know that they feel & suffer like we do. It is important to at least not have them suffer. The traps need to be modified as well to not be so inhumane and trap other species. Please! I have looked into many an eye of an animal and wish we could all peacefully exist and that they were revered. Also please put limits on how many can be trapped. We need to find balances so that we don't annihilate any one species. Thank you & please let's move towards change.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:25:32 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:32:06 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:34
IP Address: 24.196.136.17

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Barbara Spyra
City of Residence: Genoa City
State of Residence: WI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping an animal is inhumane because it often involves a slow & painful death. Anyone with a conscience can see that. Just imagine yourself in that situation. It is not right. Humans are supposed to be intelligent. Please use that intelligence to come up with more humane methods.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:35:40 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:40:57 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:16
IP Address: 68.185.118.106

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Chris Mahoney
City of Residence: Leicester
State of Residence: MA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I do not support the inhumane practice of trapping. Not only does it put family pets, endangered animals and humans at risk it is a cruel practice. Wolves play an important part in keeping a balance in our delicate ecosystem. We as a species need top predators such as wolves and bears. There are too many irresponsible trappers and weak rules. Traps are not always monitored and the animals suffer.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:06:20 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:09:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:10
IP Address: 108.22.74.188

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Paula Ozmun
City of Residence: Westfield
State of Residence: PA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

STOP the trapping of any kind, inhuman, or humane of the beautiful wolves. Let them be!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:56:38 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 8:58:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:32
IP Address: 107.77.223.158

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Diana Salyer
City of Residence: Randolph
State of Residence: VT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

No trapping

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:02:07 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:05:08 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:01
IP Address: 104.228.156.107

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Robert sciolino
City of Residence: Amherst
State of Residence: NY

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

We are invading their land not the other way around . Please leave the wild alive and free and safe and protected and let nature take its own course. It has done great before as long as we let them live their lives like we want to live ours.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:09:41 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:14:48 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:07
IP Address: 99.107.104.65

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Melinda Gleaton
City of Residence: Graniteville
State of Residence: SC

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

There is nothing that can be done to make trapping humane. In this day and age it shouldn't even be up for debate. It is beyond cruel and no animal should have to suffer this way. Please consider ending trapping forever. Thank you, Melinda

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:29:19 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:33:22 AM
Time Spent: 00:04:03
IP Address: 65.121.114.232

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Mary Wilson
City of Residence: Billings
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please, as human beings we are better than this. There is no excuse for letting an animals suffer like this. Some trappers don't check traps frequently enough, and there are those who actually torture the trapped animal. I'd like to see trapping over and done, illegal. But, that's not likely so any regulations would be a good start. Maybe fining or taking privileges from those like the man in the photo. Trapping is inhumane, barbaric, outdated and should be stopped. We are better than this.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:24:08 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 9:42:11 AM
Time Spent: 00:18:03
IP Address: 73.29.237.159

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Loretta Stadler
City of Residence: Franklin Lakes
State of Residence: NJ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am a frequent visitor to Montana and feel compelled to comment on the proposed trapping regulations, season and quotas. I am one of the millions of visitors to your state that enrich your economy by with our non- impactful wildlife watching activities. I am planning my 5th visit to Montana this August; proof that these animals are worth more to your local economy alive than dead.

First and foremost, I must state that trapping has no place in a civilized society. There is absolutely no way to "humanely" trap an animal. That being said, if this archaic practice is to continue, very strict regulations must be enforced to limit the amount of fear and extreme pain that is inflicted on the victims. There needs to be a 24 hour trap check requirement. Collared wolves must be released. The research information these wolves provide is invaluable to researchers. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.

There should be a commission comprised of diverse parties to makes and oversee trapping regulations. The Public Trust Doctrine ensures that wildlife belongs to all Americans. We should all have an equal say in how our wildlife in managed. A very small number of trappers have a disproportionate say in the management of our wildlife.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:53:18 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:53:34 AM
Time Spent: 00:00:16
IP Address: 71.223.172.66

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Michael
City of Residence: Scottsdale
State of Residence: AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Brooke

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:20:22 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:02:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:42:08
IP Address: 63.153.118.247

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Mike Laird
City of Residence: Dillon
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Required education is an excellent idea and would end a lot of conflicts. Required modifications could cause more problems than they solve and stifle future innovations. Trap modifications and methods originated from trappers without them being required. Modifications and when, where and how to use them should be part of a required education class. Mandatory trap check intervals are a dangerous idea. Forcing a trap check in drifting snow, blizzard or subzero conditions in areas with no cell service will put the lives of people who trap, FWP personnel and inevitably Search and Rescue personnel at an unnecessary risk.

Respectfully,
Mike Laird

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:45:34 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:48:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:15
IP Address: 76.181.25.200

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Mary Rapp
City of Residence:	Reynoldsburg
State of Residence:	OH

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping of any animal is beyond cruel and abusive. Man needs to take a step back and realize it is not there god given right to kill any animal that gets in there way. We need to live as one with nature and protect it at all costs. After all we are supposed to be the smarter species.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 10:41:39 AM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:58:18 AM
Time Spent: 01:16:38
IP Address: 63.153.119.75

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Connie Poten for Footloose Montana
City of Residence:	Missoula
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners and Personnel,

Below please find comments on the proposals for trapping regulations and for otter quota increase. Will you be posting all comments on the website for people to see? How can we read comments by other parties? Many thanks for letting me know, and for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Connie Poten for Footloose Montana

TO: Fish, Wildlife and Parks
RE: Quota Change Supporting Information, 2017
Date: July 16, 2017
FROM: FOOTLOOSE MONTANA

Footloose Montana, representing anglers, hunters, recreationalists, wildlife watchers and concerned citizens, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed change in regulations. Our comments refer strictly to recreational and commercial trapping, not trapping for health and safety, or for the protection of property and livestock, or for science and conservation.

Footloose Montana welcomes any effort to make the practice of trapping more humane. However, candidly, we submit that the effort to make an antiquated and brutal practice “more humane” is a difficult undertaking at best.

Addressing FWP’s Introductory Material

1. Page 2: The trap modification will impact trappers “on the order of \$350,000 - \$2.3 million” and “approximately 57,000 hours of time modifying or replacing traps.”

This statement is repeated many times, but there seems to be no reliable basis for these numbers. The total number of trappers is unknown because there is no license requirement for trapping predators and non-game animals. Wolf trappers were not included in cost/time estimates either.

According to national statistics (<http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/AFWA-FINAL-TRAPPING-Report.pdf>), the average

trapper owns approximately 200 traps, of which 112 are footholds. That adds up to 560,000 licensed foothold traps. If you add half as many traps to include wolf trappers and a guesstimate of non-licensed trappers, it adds up to 840,000 traps. This changes time spent modifying traps to about 4 minutes per trap--hardly a big impact. Also, it is stated that many trappers already have these modifications, throwing the numbers off again. As for the cost—spanning \$350,000 to \$2.3 million—there is no data to support this “impact.” The number of trappers is unknown and many trappers already have made modifications. FWP would better simply acknowledge that the information necessary to accurately estimate impacts does not exist.

2. Page 2: ... “trapping is integral to managing many Montana wildlife populations.”

This statement is simply not true of recreational and commercial trapping, the main focus of these proposed regulations. In fact, trapping is managed solely as recreation, not wildlife management, according to retired FWP furbearer coordinator Brian Giddings. Trapping is indiscriminate and unreliable as a management tool. It has been found ineffective for disease control because only healthy animals are lured to bait. The collateral damage—the death by starvation of offspring of trapped lactating females—is a significant yet immeasurable consequence of recreational and commercial trapping, undermining any possible management benefit. For controlling coyotes, trapping actually causes increased populations. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/08/coyote-america-dan-flores-history-science/>

3. Page 2: “It is also a valued economic and recreational activity...”

Actually, in direct contrast to this assertion, trapping does not contribute significantly to Montana’s economy. Instead, it is a drain. Trappers say they lose money or are lucky to cover their gas costs; they do it out of ‘passion.’ Recent numbers prove this true. The 2016-17 Montana Fur Auction results brought in less than \$75,000 gross profit to the trappers. Costs of vehicles, gas, MTA Auction fees, traps and gear make trapping an expensive hobby; trap lines can be hundreds of miles long, covering many drainages. Trapping brings the state about \$61,000 in license fees, far less than the cost of one employee. Wildlife watching, by contrast, is a significant part of Montana’s economy. But recreational trapping vastly reduces the chances of seeing and hearing wildlife. Instead, people head for the national parks. Four major timber projects have been shut down in three Montana National Forests because these forests contain habitat for the endangered lynx. Trapping is one of the main reasons lynx are on the endangered species list. This impact on the timber industry is a big loss to Montana’s economy in jobs and revenue. <http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2015/06/17/13-35624.pdf> Trapping is a “valued recreational activity” for the mere 0.005% of Montanans who are licensed trappers, but for the vast majority of people who labor and recreate on Montana’s landscape, traps cast a dangerous pall, turning outings into nightmares when pets or livestock including horses are trapped. People have been severely injured due to traps as well.

4. Page 2: “...Public support is ... rooted...in the belief that regulations are science-based with broad compliance.”

There is no proof that these regulations are science-based. In fact, to illustrate the state’s non-scientific decision-making regarding trapping, Chief Federal District Judge Dana Christensen read a statement for the record that Montana withdrew its support for listing the wolverine as endangered “so that trapping could continue.” The rate of compliance with FWP’s regulations is unknowable. It is logistically impossible to monitor the tens of thousands of hidden traps on Montana’s landscape. Only one-third of licensed trappers return surveys to FWP. The indiscriminate, data-thin nature of trapping undermines any claims of a scientific basis. It’s impossible to know how many animals are trapped, but government trapper Dick Randall has submitted testimony to Congress that for every target animal kept, two non-targets are discarded:

“The leg-hold trap ... is probably the most cruel device ever invented by man and is a direct cause of inexcusable destruction and waste of our wildlife,” wrote Dick Randall, a former federal trapper, in a statement to Congress in 1975.

“Even though I was an experienced, professional trapper, my trap victims often included non-target species such as bald and golden eagles, a variety of hawks and other birds, rabbits, sage grouse, pet dogs, deer and antelope, badger, porcupine, sheep and calves....”

“My trapping records show that for each target animal I trapped, about two unwanted individuals were caught,” Randall wrote. “Because of trap injuries, these non-target species usually had to be destroyed.”

--Excerpted from “Long struggles in leg-hold device make for gruesome deaths,” by Tom Knudson, McClatchy Newspapers, May 16, 2012.

Regarding recreational and commercial trapping, ethical and humane trapping is nothing more than an oxymoron. In past wolf trapping classes, “ethics” consisted in part of teaching people how to treat the pelts so as not to damage them. In reality, we and hundreds of thousands of Montanans fail to see anything humane or ethical about trapping today, especially with no mandatory trap-check time limit. Animals in traps struggle in pain and panic; they are subjected to predators, dehydration, freezing temperatures with no escape but to chew off their feet or wring off entire limbs, resulting in a miserable, slow death. Those who are found alive are stomped to crush their lungs or beaten to death with clubs so as not to damage their fur. Trappers who photograph or take potshots at terrified trapped animals are advised against that practice because of its negative impact on trapping’s image, not because it is wrong or unethical.

Pope and Young’s first rule is: “The term ‘Fair Chase’ shall not include the taking of animals under the follow conditions: Helpless in a trap, deep snow or water, or on ice.” <https://pope-young.org/fairchase/>
Fair chase means knowing one’s target, having respect for wildlife, not using technology that would give unfair advantage, not causing waste, and quick dispatch of the animal. <https://legendarchery.com/blogs/archery-bowhunting-blog/15596096-is-bowhunting-ethical>.

Trapping adheres to none of these essential ethics. There are no words or illusions that can change this truth. It is stated that field experience is the most valuable part of teaching. Allowing children older than the age of 13 to be instructors after taking an online course negates this claim, adding to the cynical appearance of this education effort.

Addressing Trap Modifications

These modifications do not reduce non-target captures, nor do they stop animals from suffering to the point of chewing off their feet or wringing off entire limbs. The swivels may reduce the number of animals who drag the trap away with them, but this helps the trapper, not the trapped. The laminated, offset jaws help reduce damage to the fur and may reduce impacts on blood flow. But the animal will still be beaten or crushed to death when the trapper arrives, at his or her convenience. This does not stop self-mutilation and/or a slow, terrifying death in any case. “The leg-hold trap ... is probably the most cruel device ever invented by man and is a direct cause of inexcusable destruction and waste of our wildlife.”

--Dick Randall, former federal trapper, statement to Congress, 1975.

None of these modifications change the facts of Randall’s experience and statement.

Addressing Quota Increase for Trapping Otter

“The proposal to increase the Regions 1 and 2 otter per-person take and possession limit from 2 to 3 is a better match opportunity with the distribution of trapping.”

River otters were trapped to extirpation and were reintroduced in Montana and 20 other states. The Montana population is further hindered by habitat destruction. Darin Newton leads his University of Montana 2012 PhD thesis, Northern River Otter Population Assessment and Connectivity in Western Montana, with this first sentence: “Northern river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) are elusive and difficult to monitor, and little is known about their movement patterns or how populations are structured on the landscape.”

<http://scholarworks.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1728&context=etd>

In Ana E. Dronket-Egnew’s University of Montana 1991 Masters Thesis, River otter population status and habitat use in Northwestern Montana, she notes the rare occurrence of otters in Region 1. Her recommendations include:

1. Mandatory carcass collection within 48 hours of capture;
2. The requirement that trappers carry a shield board to release otters captured over the 1 otter limit;
3. No trapping on sloughs and ponds in the Flathead River Valley;
4. All furbearer trapping seasons closed after 1 March or live-trapping only for beaver to avoid trapping lactating female otters;
5. Implementing a measure initiated in Britain where “owners of riparian areas have voluntarily agreed to manage their lands as “havens” for river otters interspersed with legally protected nature reserves.

<http://scholarworks.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5697&context=etd>

These research papers make it clear that little is know about otters except for the fact that they have not reached a minimum population level that justifies raising the quota. Rather, these theses make a case for severely restricting or ending recreational trapping of otters.

FWP’s quota increase proposal focuses on opportunities for the trapper without sufficient knowledge of the species. The lack of scientific data coupled with the reduction of suitable habitat for otters makes a quota increase an injurious step backwards in otter recovery. We urge you to consider Ms. Dronket-Egnew’s recommendations and to

not increase the quota.

Conclusion

While we appreciate all efforts to reduce the cruelty of trapping and make our landscape safe from these devices for people, stock, pets and wildlife, we find that these proposals have deleterious effects on these issues. Footloose Montana encourages a more intensive review of Montana's trapping regulations with input from a wide variety of interest groups. Leaving trapping reform to trappers ignores the vast segments of Montana's population who view trapping as an outdated, barbarous and cruel vestige of our past. It also leaves out independent wildlife biologists and others who study and experience Montana's wildlife and landscape. Without a broad base, trapping reform efforts are destined to produce superficial results.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Poten
Footloose Montana
P.O. Box 8884
Missoula, MT 59807
406-282-1482
info@footloosemontana.org

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 11:35:39 AM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:12:19 PM
Time Spent:	00:36:39
IP Address:	67.180.237.105

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Glenn Graham
City of Residence:	Redwood City
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

- 1) Yes to additional swivels, and jaws with minimum offset and thickness. Anything that relieves animal suffering is good.
- 2) No to Trapper Education Program and Mandatory Trapper Education requirement, if it's to be taught by the Montana Trapping Association.
- 3) No to increased otter killings. There is no need for this.
- 4) Yes to mandatory 24 hour checks. You seem to have forgotten this important regulation.
- 5) Yes to regulations to limit beaver killing, and setting of quota's. You seem to have forgotten this issue.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:35:24 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:40:09 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:45
IP Address: 174.208.5.42

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Matt campbell
City of Residence: Superior
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I agree with the purposes of #1 and #3, but I strongly disagree with #2.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 12:42:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:24:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:42:00
IP Address: 72.36.11.49

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Dave McNaney
City of Residence:	Hysham
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

As the regulation for having trapper education is written, I cannot support it as it says people born before a certain date are exempt, but then it says anyone who hasn't bought a trapper license in the last 5 years must take the course. Animal damage trapping is supposed to be exempt, but is it if you sell the pelts or catch a raccoon while trying to catch a sheep eating coyote? The way it is written all of the ranchers that trap predators and don't buy a trapper license will have to take the course. To trap coyotes, fox, badgers, ermine or raccoon one does not need a trapper license. If the course was set up for youth under 18 years of age so they could learn the basics of trapping would be enough but leave the rest of the trappers and ranchers be. As for the trap modification proposals, they may be a good idea and most trappers likely will use them but don't make them mandatory. That would be like in the auto industry to make a new pollution control or safety device mandatory to be retrofitted on all autos back to the Model T. Some traps have cast iron jaws which make it almost impossible to modify and other traps are too valuable in their existing condition to modify.

COMPLETE

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Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:51:12 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 1:52:45 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:32
IP Address:	70.187.171.242

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	lana scott
City of Residence:	Irvine
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

trapping by itself is cruel and inhumane. wolves have been tortured and killed for so long that it is almost a miracle we have any left. I am totally opposed to trapping of all animals.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:31:55 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:40:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:41
IP Address: 70.195.86.153

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Linda Hinch
City of Residence: Maryland Heights
State of Residence: MO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

It is our inherit duty a humans to protect every living creature on this earth. We should not interfere in any way that causes harm or death to any animal predator or not. Nature will balance itself without human intervention. Humans have caused enough harm as it is. It is time to reverse the harm we as humans have caused that had brought the wolves to the brink of extinction. Stop the baiting, tapping, aerial killings and restore the population of all wolves and all endangered species.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:46:11 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:26
IP Address: 66.87.73.223

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Sondra Camie
City of Residence:	St Louis
State of Residence:	MO

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Cruel and outrageous...Please ?? and the evil will not persist.....

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 2:58:12 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 3:01:16 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:03
IP Address:	98.240.216.47

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Steven Patrick Pope
City of Residence:	Saint Paul
State of Residence:	MN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I believe that trapping should be banned. There is no sport in trapping, and trapping indiscriminately kills animals using slow, inhumane methods. At a minimum, there should be legislation that requires trappers to check their traps at least every 12 hours and heavy penalties for trapping animals out of season. Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 3:13:59 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:06
IP Address: 71.15.197.182

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Janice Munzke-Deal
City of Residence: Bozeman
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am writing to insist that 2017 trapping regulations include a mandatory 24 hour trap check. While I do not agree with trapping in Montana, it continues to be legal. At the very least, we should require trappers to limit the animals' suffering prior to their death.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 3:49:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:45
IP Address: 67.212.234.141

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Teresa Henderson
City of Residence: Billings
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

If trapping by members of the public is not going to be prohibited, then AT LEAST make sure trapping can be as humane as possible.

This means MANDATORY trap checks of 24 hours or less. This means using traps that are as humane and pain free as possible.

I consider trapping to be cruel and barbaric as it is currently practiced. It should be abolished except as needed and done by employed persons of state and federal wildlife management officials.

Thank you,
Teresa Henderson

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:05:30 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:08:07 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:37
IP Address: 72.84.245.13

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Chris Glover
City of Residence:	Chesterfield
State of Residence:	VA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Ban trapping it is cruel and inhumane. Protect our predators and keep the balance of nature

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:01:25 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:11:06 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:40
IP Address: 174.255.193.130

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Debbie king
City of Residence: Indianapolis
State of Residence: IN

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is a very crude and very cruel way of hunting. If you want to hunt go out and do so. Do not hide steel traps full of teeth to cut into an animals flesh and bone imagine you leg or foot in one of these things. The only reason a person would trap an animal like that is because they are sadistic and cruel to all living things smaller or weaker than themselves. Any person who would trap would also harm your children and your pets.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:38:10 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:40:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:02:23
IP Address: 174.198.1.189

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Laura Menefee
City of Residence:	Sturgeon Bay
State of Residence:	WI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please do not legalize trapping. Once you initiate trapping, it is extended difficult to remove it. If you do have legalized trapping of fur bearers, please mandate 24 hr trap checks and unintended catch reports. No trapping should be legal unless these mandates can be enforced.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:37:11 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:40:42 PM
Time Spent:	00:03:30
IP Address:	80.1.156.59

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Nicola
City of Residence:	SF
State of Residence:	CA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Please stop the cruelty towards wolves and other wild animals. It is inhumane to trap, poison, shoot and otherwise harm them. They have families too, and deserve a chance to live a normal life, just like any of us. Please protect them - there are so few left because of humans. Please stop this cruelty.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:55:35 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 4:59:20 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:45
IP Address: 174.208.5.142

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Coleen O'Rourke
City of Residence: Bozeman
State of Residence: MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. I am one of the majority of Montanans that voted to support trapping in the future. I support trapper education and believe it would be a valuable tool for FWP. I do not support the highly regulated modifications and hope that the commission would consider them as recommendations and not regulations. There are many factors that trappers must weigh when trapping and the modifications would limit trapping opportunity and deter new recruits into the art of trapping. My hope for the future is that trappers go thru mandatory trapper education rather than over regulation. Thanks for the opportunity to comment! Coleen ORourke

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:24:04 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:30:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:54
IP Address: 184.20.133.108

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	theresa mitchum
City of Residence:	wadley
State of Residence:	AL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

PLEASE KEEP THE ANIMALS IN MIND FOR HUNTING AND TRAPPING GUIDELINES. PLEASE HAVE A HEART AND LIMIT THE NUMBERS!!! PLEASE DON'T TRAP AND KILL THE YOUNG ONES!!! WE NEED THESE ANIMALS IN OUR ECHO SYSTEM TO BALANCE IT OUT!!! THEY ARE SO BEAUTIFUL!!! THANK YOU!!!!

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:30:25 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:32:37 PM
Time Spent:	00:02:11
IP Address:	64.18.235.178

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Marilyn Williams
City of Residence:	Spring Grove
State of Residence:	IL

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

There should never be an excuse to trap... Inhumane.. Shameful...

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:28:56 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:33:42 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:46
IP Address: 107.210.110.189

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Janice Sampo
City of Residence: Green Bay
State of Residence: WI

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

This is so Inhumane and wrong! Wolves are a important part of our Ecosystem and needed! Stop this now!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:29:09 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 16, 2017 5:35:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:06:27
IP Address: 72.222.149.165

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name: Darlene Handley
City of Residence: Glendale
State of Residence: AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Good evening,

As a frequent visitor of Yellowstone and and adoration for viewing wolves in their natural habitat I present the following comment against trapping of any wild animals for the upcoming 2017 season.

Essentially, short of a full out public ban on trapping wolves (which would be my top suggestion, at a minimum the following recommendations should be implemented:

1. Mandatory 24-hour trap checks. If traps must be used, this will limit needless suffering and helps in releasing family pets and incidental capture more successfully. However many will still die a cruel and painful death.
2. As requested by Montana Governor Bullock radio-collared wolves be released. It's very costly to continually radio collar wolves.
3. No Trapper Education Program instructed by members past or present of Montana Trappers Association.
4. No to a curriculum designed by only Montana Trappers Association & MtFWP. Wildlife belongs to all Montanas under the Public Trust Doctrine.
5. Don't allow any method of organizational recruitment in Trappers Education Courses.
6. More law enforcement commitment to check and monitor trapping.
7. Reestablish a balanced new Montana Trappers Advisory Committee that represents all interested organizations in Montana including environmentalist and conservationist that do not actively trap.

In the end, trapping is by its very nature is inhuman and in my view, unsportsmanlike. It gives an unfair advantage to anyone looking to cause harm to a specific animal - and also catches up non-specific animals as the method (trapping) is indiscriminate. It works period - without knowing which animal is being targeted.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Darlene Handley

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:15:22 PM
Last Modified:	Sunday, July 16, 2017 7:16:28 PM
Time Spent:	00:01:06
IP Address:	68.226.29.16

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Scott Jensen
City of Residence:	Mesa
State of Residence:	AZ

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Stop all hunting and trapping of Wolves.

COMPLETE

Collector:	Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:	Monday, July 17, 2017 4:05:17 AM
Last Modified:	Monday, July 17, 2017 4:18:33 AM
Time Spent:	00:13:16
IP Address:	69.146.2.102

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Ed Hebbe IV
City of Residence:	Deer Lodge
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapper Education

I support trapper education. However, I do believe this education needs to be done by people who actually trap and have experience in this area. The Montana Trappers Association is a great resource for this as it has several members who are trained both in the field and classroom to handle such a task. The MTA is years ahead of the FWP in this area and it would be a shame to not use those folks.

Trap Modification

I would recommend this to not be mandatory. There are too many variables here in Montana and personal preferences for those who trap. Modifications change from year to year and they should not be set in any manner.

Trap Check Time

I recommend this to not be a mandatory requirement. Again, too many variables in regards to weather, trapping conditions, trapping areas, etc. This would be impossible to enforce and too many unnecessary resources would be required. Recommend a suggested time frame of 48 hours.

Trap modification and trap check time can be better addressed through proper and continued education than arbitrary and enforced mandatory regulations.

Thank you.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 7:49:10 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 7:50:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:42
IP Address: 174.208.24.162

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Melissa Odom
City of Residence:	Darby
State of Residence:	MT

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

Trapping is so barbaric. I have come across animals not quite dead and it just really bothered me. So bad that now every chance I get I speak out against it. Please...this has to stop.

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:40:39 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:46:54 AM
Time Spent: 00:06:14
IP Address: 24.92.113.55

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Juan hernandez
City of Residence:	351 Lafayette Dr
State of Residence:	TX

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

HUNTING AND TRAPPING ARE CRIMES AGAINST WILD ANIMALS!! HUNTING IS NOT A SPORT, IT IS A CRIME AGAINST WILD ANIMALS!! THE ONLY OVERPOPULATION THAT WE HAVE RIGHT NOW IS HUMANS,HUNTERS,POACHERS,ILLEGAL WILD LIFE TRAFFICKING!! THERE ARE SAFER IDEAS TO RELOCATE WILD ANIMALS!! WE NEED TO BAN ,STOP ALL THESE HUNTING,GUN BUSINESS!! WILD ANIMALS ARE FACING EXTINCTION, WE NEED TO ACT NOW!! ANY WILD ANIMAL IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM!!

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:33:56 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:35:09 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:13
IP Address: 76.107.3.150

Page 1: Default Section

Q1

Please complete the following information:

Name:	Karen Guerin
City of Residence:	Shreveport
State of Residence:	LA

Q2

Please comment on the 2017 Furbearer and Trapping Regulations, Season and Quotas - Proposed

I am opposed to the horrifying practice of trapping. It should be completely banned.
