

## COMMENT ON 2018 FURBEARERS AND TRAPPING (340 Comments)

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### COMMENTS VIA SURVEY MONKEY – all topics

1 Wolves all over the world are becoming endangered species. we do not want them trapped or trophy Hunted or killed. stop all of these killings we do not change the law for the government. We are sending our voices out and saying stop this now Chris VsnPay Green Bay WI

2 As a veterinarian, and frequent tourist to Montana, I am disgusted that indiscriminate trapping is legal. Trapping kills and tortures wildlife that belong to all of us. Trapping kills many nontarget species, including endangered species. This barbaric “pastime” must stop. In the past 40 years, there has been a reduction in wildlife numbers across the globe by over 50%. Trapping is unnecessary and causes immense pain and suffering to animals. It is impossible to enforce trapping regulations such as timing to check traps and methods of killing. Please end trapping now. Christine Capaldo  
Telluride CO

3 We would like to see the department implement mandatory 24 hour trap checks. 2. 24 hour trap pulls when area closed to trapping. 3. Dissolve the Trappers Advisory Committee till it represents all Montanan's and not just trappers. 4. Stop the chronic over quota when a trapping region or area is closed. If the department goes over quota then that number over quota should come off next years trapping quota for that area. Marc Cooke Stevensville MT

4 Please!!! Do NOT allow any more wolves to be murdered...they are so critical to a healthy ecosystem, and deserve their place in this world like anyone else. Becky Roach Elkhart IN

5 I thought wolves were recently on the Endangered Species list. How is it that they are suddenly numerous enough to be killed off again to the point of extinction? And trapping is an especially inhumane means of deliberately attempting to permanently eliminate a predator species. If I had the wherewithall to live in Montana I would welcome wolves. Instead Montana Wildlife has apparently bowed to pressure from those who seek to destroy them. Kyle Ullman  
Gosport IN

6 Please stop Lolita thomas San Antonio TX

7 Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee, As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and would like to express my opinion on the 2018-2019 trapping season regulations. First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The Public Trust Doctrine unambiguously says wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores this simple fact and fails to represent all Montanan's. Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped and all remaining traps should be removed within 24 hours when the quota is achieved. I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana. Sincerely, Oksana Tumko Oksana Tumko Los Gatos CA

8 These animals have families and souls.... do not kill them... they are part of earths treasure we are earths enemy if we destroy lifes delicate web stop!!!!!!!! Hunting !!!!!!!!! Christine Kohlmeier Webster NY

9 There is something terribly wrong and terribly scary about YOU and all poeple like you that think it is OK to abuse,exploit,enslave,brutalize,torture and slaughter innocent,beautiful animals..leave them all the hell alone..what gives you the right to do this? Animals are here with us,they are NOT here for us...and everybody knows that REAL MEN DON'T HURT ANIMALS...STOP THIS MADNESS and STOP THIS INSANITY...The entire world is watching and shame on you !!! Monty Foley Warren PA

10 As a working behavioral ecologist / conservation biologist I am writing to strongly encourage you to put severe limits on future fur-bearer trapping in Montana. This is particularly critical for large predators. As keystone species within their environments, large predators play a crucial role in the maintenance and health of wild ecosystems, which are a cornerstone of Montana's heritage. As a regular visitor to the state, I can promise that the state's revenues will fall if the health of its wild areas declines as a consequence of uninformed and deleterious wildlife policies. There are several reasons to limit any future trapping. It is difficult to regulate such trapping in a large area such as Montana, leading to regular take of large predators that exceed anticipated quotas. And traps are often not removed in a timely manner. Montana wildlife belongs to all Montana's residents, along with visitors to the state (as visitors supply a considerable resource to the state, and many come for the wildlife). The Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should understand that it represents all those people, and not simply the small trapping community within the state. The majority of Montana residents don't support trapping, as it is a cruel and relatively poorly regulated activity (it is long past time for a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife). As a biologist and visitor I strongly encourage the limitation of future trapping in Montana. Bernard Lohr Monkton MD

11 I am contacting you with my comments about the trapping of Montana's Wolves and other Wildlife it appears that it is now the time for starting 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. We need to be sure to STOP the constant over quota trapping of Wolves and other Wildlife prior to closing of the region , The trapper must have only 24 hours to remove the traps in which they set and when quota achieved. Leaving animals longer is cruel animals suffer we as citizens should agree no animal should suffer rather domestic pet or wildlife! Wildlife belongs to all Citizens under the Public Trust Doctrine, Montana Fish Wildlife Trapper & Advisory Committee Must represent All Citizens not just the trapping community! Thank you Signed...CBurris Connie Burris Springfield IL

12 Those animals have spirits they feel they have a right to life they are not trophies Kelly Oklahoma OK

13 No more harm to our important apex predators. We must protect them and other wildlife. Nina Grand forks ND

14 No trapping for wolves or coyotes. It isn't humane. Paul A Briddell Des Moines IA

15 Trapping over quota must be eliminated. Wolves are protected in Montana under the public trust doctrine. Traps must be checked every 24 hours to stop the suffering of any animals caught. A majority of people want wolves preserved due to the economics of eco -tourism. Don't allow a minority overrule the majority: that is your job. Kathryn Gruenthal Eureka CA

16 Please, stop trapping in Montana! No animal should be subjected to trapping. It is a barbaric and cruel practice. We are living in 21 century, it is time to stop it! Elena SvetikovaGreenbrae CA

17 Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee, As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and would like to express my opinion on the 2018-2019 trapping season regulations. First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The Public Trust Doctrine unambiguously says wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores this simple fact and fails to represent all Montanan's. Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped and all remaining traps should be removed within

24 hours when the quota is achieved. I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana.  
Sincerely, Larissa Chiriaeva, PhD Larissa Chiriaeva Campbell CA

18 All living creatures deserve better than this. Nothing should suffer so horribly. We are better than this! Stacey  
Scriven Calgary CO

19 Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee! As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and would like to express my opinion on the 2018-2019 trapping season regulations. First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The Public Trust Doctrine unambiguously says wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores this simple fact and fails to represent all Montanan's. Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped and all remaining traps should be removed within 24 hours when the quota is achieved. I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana. Sincerely,  
Sergey Prokushkin, PhD Sergey Prokushkin Campbell CA

20 This is obscene. Stripping America of it's beautiful creatures just so some nut can shoot his gun at something.  
Sharon Dodd Ione CA

21 Why is yet another slaughter of wolves necessary? This is the behavior of savage barbarians. Please stop this.  
Rachel Raleigh NC

22 No animals ever need to be murdered for the fur trade or anything else. Fur and animal skins should be outlawed as possessions in all forms. This genocide must be permanently stopped NOW! Mary Tyrone Twin Falls ID

23 you do not need to kill any animal,they have a right to be here too.trapping and hunting has to stop!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
susan allen Auburn ME

24 Why do you allow trapping at all? I'm fully support hunting, especially bow hunting. But trapping? Why? Matt  
widirstky Broomfield CO

25 As a twice annually visitor to Montana, I would urge you to stop trapping of predators in your beautiful state. To wit: 1. Trapping in Montana is not as highly regulated as you suggest. 2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. 3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. 4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. 5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. 6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanans (and all Americans!) under the Public Trust Doctrine. 7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent the views of all Montanans and not just thosr of the trapping community. Than you for your your consideration. Toni L Rubin Portland OR

26 The wolfs are beautiful and should be left alone unharmed!! Cheryl L Cusmano Massapequa NY

27 Trapping is wrong and it endangers not only wildlife but domestic animals and humans who are in the area. Humane trips that don't hurt or injured the animal is best. My personal view is that trapping and hunting should be eliminated because the animals are necessary to keep keep the balance in biodiversity of animals Denise Waterford  
MI

28 Or animals or reintroduce to help the ecosystem and you heartless bastards are killing them off and preventing the Earth from becoming what it needs to become leave them alone. poor little wolf in the Trap didn't even have a chance.☹️  
Rick Nukaya Menan ID

29 Trapping is barbaric and murder for Wolves. We need our Wolves Alive to balance Nature and protect forests. Katherine Gipple Massena IA

30 Please ban trapping of all animals. This is cruel and most of the American public is against it. We need to protect our wildlife. It is not here for humans to do with as it pleases Doraine Shipley Jonesborough TN

31 Stop it!!! Flora Aloharetta GA

32 A large group of family spend a month in Bozeman in December and August so this is even more important to us as we don't want to spend money if this egregious treatment of wildlife continues. This is important, and now Wolves of the Rockies needs your help! wildlife! 1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. We have seen many articles and photos of animals suffering. 2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. Trapping is incredibly inhumane. It's banned in every country in the European Union and beyond. This is the very least that can be done. 3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. This is largely ignored and there's are no methods in place to stop going over the quota and heavily enforce this with jail time and fines. 4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. 5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. This is FOR SURE!! This small community of trophy hunters are bowed down to while the majority of voters and taxpayers ( and tourists who spend money ) are ignored. 6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. 7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. Thank you for your consideration. Eileen Sutz  
Chicago IL

33 1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. This is a diseased outdated barbaric way of inhumane hunting. 2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. 24-hour is still inhumane as it should be a 12-hour mandatory check. Think about this... 3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. Our wolves have suffered enough through the hands of inhumane human hunters. Lets give them a chance to live out their lives in their world without the constant threat of their lives being taken away from them inhumanely and torturously. 4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. Again, this is so inhumane as another animal could lose their innocent life in one of these barbaric hold traps. 5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. As a matter of fact, less than 2% of humans overall support this type of trapping. Most people want to view these animals in the wild in their own natural environment. Not viewing the sadistic photos that appear all over social media that have a large following of disgust in humanity. 6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. It also belongs to the long list of people who call Montana their second home, such as I. Our voices should stand for something. And we want our voices, and the voices of the ones who cannot speak (such as the wolves) to be heard. 7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. The trapping community humans are stuck in a world of past due inhumane influences that have ravished their minds from the beginning. If they want to hunt, hunt humanely. Trapping is as barbaric as eating people. Gloria Straube Gardiner MT

34 As an avid hiker, backpacker that regularly visits Montana I wanted to express my comments about the furbearer trapping season. From what I've seen and also talked to locals, as well as read, trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. There are instances where traps are not checked for days, sometimes weeks and during that time animals suffer horribly. If you are going to take a life by trapping then you need to be checking your traps every 24 hours. There should be a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. I would also like to see the quota situation become a lot stricter. You should stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. I think the traps should have GPS on them and they should be monitored at all times and trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. As someone that loves our wild lands and wildlife, I do not support trapping and feel it has no place in our world now. There is no need for the skins of these animals and if the job market is as good as is touted by the government then these folks can make a living with a job that doesn't inflict massive amounts of pain and suffering and death on thousands of animals, including their offspring that also die of starvation or predation when the mother is trapped. From what I've seen the majority of Montana residents as well as tourists don't support trapping. The wilderness and wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. I think the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should take into consideration the views of all residents of Montana as well as tourists that come to Montana yearly, as well as they should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community.

Ashli Carter Franklin KY

- 35 No animal deserves to be tortured and killed. Wild animals on public lands are part of of public trust and are under the stewardship of all citizen for our future and for their own sake—not to be brutally trapped and killed for profit or hatred. It's high time to end trapping in Montana, New Mexico, and other states that still allow this barbaric practice. I urge you to end this practice in Montana. Thank you. Angela Werneke Santa Fe NM
- 36 This is not right. Nature can manage it's own populations. To kill an animal just for fur is wrong, humans don't need animal fur anymore. Kelly v El cajon CA
- 37 Don't kill wolves. They are NOT trophies! Rebecca BannerCanton OH
- 38 No. Just no. Traci Carpenter Riddle OR
- 39 As far as furbearers I feel the quotas set are efficient excluding region 1 bobcat quota. Its quite obvious that if the season fills in less than 30 days there are more bobcats than are once believed to inhabit the region. Secondly I feel that the wolf trapping season is to short. A lot of people are catching wolves in their coyote sets in november and having to turn them loose also wolf trapping should end at the same time as wolf hunting not two weeks prior. And with the wolf quota, being there are few people actually trapping or hunting wolves I feel an increase in the quota to 7 wolves per person would be beneficial. Thank you for your time and cooperation. Eian Thomas Missoula MT
- 40 please do something to help the wildlife! these beautiful animals deserve better thank to be tortured to death by heartless witless trappers. the ecosystem NEEDS these animals! it's a proven fact that the wolf is vital to a healthy environment. please save them from this cruelty Elizabeth Denver CO
- 41 Trapping should not be allowed anymore, fur has fallen out of fashion with excellent imitation materials and trapping is too indiscriminate, sometimes claiming even pets. It is also inhumane, anyone who tells you that having your foot caught and being frightened and yanking to get free, being without food or water up to 24 hours because you can't get free then encountering someone who kills you for your fur is not right in the head - there is nothing remotely humane about any of it. Laura G Allen Mason NH
- 42 Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. 2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. 3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. 4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. 5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. 6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. 7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. Patrick Woods Wentzville MO
- 43 Each state should be the only one to control its wildlife population within its borders. No outside interference! Richard Deuel Piedmont SC
- 44 I am in favor of a wolf hunting and trapping season and for the state to be able to manage wolves. Skye Goode Neillsville WI
- 45 Trapping/killing wolves & bears is harmful to our planet. It's necessary for them to be here. Please don't trap them. Shari M Kilgore WINNEMUCCA NV
- 46 why can't you idiot let the animals alone.are they hurting you.They have the right to live on this earth. Bonnie Billman Hagerstown MD
- 47 We need our wildlife to be left alone.. Mother Nature will do what's best for them.. There is no excuse to kill these beautiful animals just because "we think" we need to intercede.. Unless it's needed for food, we have no right to kill anything DONNA STABULIS FARMINGTON ME

- 48 PLEASE STOP SLAUGHTERING OUR WILDLIFE AND LET NATURE NURTURE. LEAVE THE WOLVES TO THEIR NATURAL WORLD AND KEEP THE CATTLE OUT OF IT. PLEASE STOP KILLING OUR WOLVES.  
DEANNA KESER CRESCENT CITY CA
- 49 No I don't live Montana, but I still hope what I say matters. Wildlife deserves to be left alone. They are an important part of the system and by killing them you are messing this up. Stop the killing !!!!! Kelly Nunley Austin TX
- 50 Trapping , hunting snaring, poisoning or any other barbaric cruel act is not needed in today's so called civilized society. These practiced evil things went out 100 years ago. With all the wasting disease around in deer, we need wolves to thin out the sick and keep things in balance, so I say NO to any of these practices. William Crosby New Britain CT
- 51 I think it should be illegal to hunt or trap wolves. Matthew Darr Brighton IL
- 52 Going against the wishes of many for few will not pay off in the end. We are opposed to your proposed wolf slaughter! I was prepared to spend some of my vacation money in your state but cannot, in good conscience, knowing how you have so little care for your wildlife. Until that changes, my money goes elsewhere. Kim Claiborne Independence KY
- 53 Trapping is an outdated and barbaric way of killing animals that are all essential to the ecosystems they live in. Every American citizen has a right to get a chance to enjoy seeing and hearing a wolf, and any other wild animal. Most Americans do not want animals trapped and killed, I certainly do not. Rhonda Best Joliet MT
- 54 Wolves do not have to be hunted or trapped as they play an important role in the balance of nature Marcy Merrill WI
- 55 Our Country is being Destroyed at a alarming Rate With Greed and Oil that destroys Land and Animals . For People who cant grow on it ect . And these Wolves have no Voice but i Do . Stop thus Senseless Killing of these Animals All in the Name of Greed . Come ON FISH & WILDLIFE . LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME AND PROTECT THEM . ITS THE RIGHT THING TO DO . HELP SAVE OUR WILD LIFE AND HELP PROTECT OUR WORLD. I dont know how you people can sleep at night knowing you that your apart of the Killing . Be the Change and Say STOP . NO MORE KILLINGS . BECAUSE ONE DAY THEY WILL BE GONE NO MORE TO BE SEEN ON EARTH ON YOUR DEATH BED . YOU WOUNT BE SO PROUD . ❤️ Jeanette Fairbanks Oregon City OR
- 56 Stop killing these beautiful creatures! Let things happen naturally in the wild. Stop expansion into their territories! We need to learn our boundaries with wildlife and co-exist, not exterminate! Cathy Westport MA
- 57 Why did we spend so much time and money to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone only to do this? Antonia Salt Lake City UT
- 58 Leave these majestic animals alone!! They are not trophies, they are meant to live free and wild!! T'Keyah W. Provo UT
- 59 Why ask for City and State? Wildlife belongs to all of us and trapping is opposed in every state because it's indiscriminate and it's inhumane. Only the lowest of the low are trappers and the general public is learning more about at this abhorrent practice every day. Trappers and houndsmen will be the downfall of hunting altogether - they are your worst enemy if you wish to keep your heritage from the bad reputation they give ethical hunting. Tina Meredith Phoenix AZ
- 60 It's unbelievable that people are still using traps which don't discriminate between animals and is one of the most inhuman ways to kill. Not only that but there is no good reason to kill these animals. Will you only be satisfied when they are totally gone? And then it will be "Oh, I guess we made a mistake." Do you even know what a keystone species is? This needs to be stopped. Now. Catherine Clissold Port Orchard WA

- 61 Leave wolves alone. They have just returned. Leave all wildlife and trees alone! Patricia Townsend Kansas  
City MO
- 62 The wolves are essential. STOP KILLING THE WOLVES. Let Nature balance. This is barbaric, inhumane and unnecessary. STOP STOP STOP Pattie Little Kula HI
- 63 DO NOT KILL THESE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS.IT IS NEEDLESS.NEVER HAPPENED IN THE FAR PAST,JUST SOME FUN YOU SICKOS DREMED UP TO MAKE MONEY WITH,AND THATS SICK.SO JUST STOP,NATURE DOES NOT NEED THE HAND OF MAN.WE HAVE DONE ENOUGH HARM. SANDY L SOUTH DELHI TOWNSHIP OH
- 64 I do not support these quotas and trapping needs to be banned. Lisa Bessasparis BillingsMT
- 65 Please how zero quotas for wolves. Their population is still to small and their presence in the enviornment helps ecosystems. Do the right thing. Thank you Cara Ferguson Fenton MO
- 66 Leave these beautiful animals alone. They are vital to the ecosytem. Once they're extinct they're gone forever. Do you want children to only know what a wolf is through a book or a video. Do you only want children to never know what a wolf really is or see one in the wild. Do you want children or the future generations to never interact with something as majestic as a wolf. Wolves should be something experienced not just history taught. Senda Martins ferry OH
- 67 The idea that a group of elected officials are the only people who get to determine what happens to our wildlife, yes the nation's wildlife, is preposterous. This is not set up as a government for the people. This is set up as a government for special interest groups. And we must be better than this. We can not continue to move regulations backwards with the hope that it's going to propel our country forward. Trying to go back in time, recapture the past by using archaic and outdated trapping and hunting is never part of the recipe for becoming a leader amongst nations. We are dealing with an animal that has a social network not unlike ours. It is narcissistic to believe that these animals need regulated when they have been around longer than us. They regulate themselves. We are not that important in the grand scheme of things. We need to call this what it is, it is allowing sport hunting and trapping to lead our country. That is not what our country is about. Just ask the majority of people- which is not being done. You are taking out brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles. This has been proven. Allowing the massacre of wolf families because it's felt they need controlled, managed and that they are vermin is no different than what Hitler did to the Jews or what Christians suffered during the Roman games. It is instilling a set of beliefs and prejudice on another being all while using a brutal albeit simple way to exist rather than looking for a complex way to coexist with a complex animal. I implore you to reconsider. Be better than this. Move our country forward. Be leaders. And listen to the people. We all should have a voice. Protect our wildlife. Protect wolves and stop the old west thinking. It's time to move forward. They are not trophies. We have no right to do this. Michele Lake Milton OH
- 68 Save the wolves Nick Chang Fairview NJ
- 69 Please outlaw trapping an in humane, wicked and unfair practice MONA ROBISON FORT COLLINS CO
- 70 Stop Melissa Avar Ranchocucaminga CA
- 71 Wolves are important to the Eco system and are becoming extinct . We need wolves and you should not be killing them - have a heart and stop Ann Tedeschi Middle Island NY
- 72 Do not allow the killing of wolves! This country needs to evolve and learn that there are lives, sensitive beings, that live among us and they are our siblings in a way, they live in earth. We all strive for the same desires, to survive and take care of our families. There is also scientific stidies showing the contribution of wolves to the health of earth. Our apoetite for meat is destroying everything. We need to refresh our perspective on what realky matters. Stop exploring other pkabets wishing to find life wheb here aming us we have the most beautiful lives and creatures among us. If you love an animal

you dont kill it. Olus, what does it teach society? Our children? They lose empathy what is a society without empathy?

Dania Conte      Pittsburgh      PA

73    Please stop the killing. It is so wrong. And why? To destroy the beautiful creation of God just because you can?

Jan Young      Calhoun      GA

74    I know that the quota is down form 250 to 150 but we all know that when you already think a population is in decline then it is already on the brink of rapid decline. I would hope that you would consider dropping it even less that 150 to allow the bobcats to maintain population. I don't know all the numbers but I do know that it doesn't take much to unbalance them. You know that you account for some taken illegally as well so really you are going to get more than the 150 culled. I frequent Montana and hope that one day I can live there because of its diverse wildlife and pristine environment. Please consider keeping it wild and free. Sincerely, Shirley Scott    Shirley Scott    Harvest      AL

75    I am against the slaughter of these animals in any way, shape , or form.      Carolyn Henry    Waterloo      IL

76    Please do not allow the killing of wolves just for trophies. We NEED them for balance in our world!      Connie Hutson    Montrose      IL

77    Do not allowing senselessly killing wolves! They are not trophies! Let them and all wildlife be-you should all be ashamed of yourselves. Maggie McCarthy      Austin    TX

78    They are not trophies      Ashley Selvig    Patterson    Ellsworth      WI

79    Trapping is cruel and inhumane! We need to protect our wildlife. Stop the senseless killing! Brinda Tolley    Colorado Springs    CO

80    To whom it may concern, Please end all forms of wildlife trapping. I believe it violates the public trust and is a form of cruelty to animals. Trapping has no place in our management of wildlife. Thank you.      Michael Cummins    Kingsport      TN

81    I find this completely disgusting that Our Federal tax Dollars and Fish, Wildlife and Parks would support any form of Barbaric Trapping! It should be Outlawed in The entire US! An those who advocate it and do it should be Maimed and their foot chopped off, dropped in the the middle of the woods with no weapons except a knife and if they make it out of the Woods then and only Then should they be pardoned! Any one who has seen any animal caught in any of those traps should have to suffer the same way!      Douglas W. Dunn      Alexandria      LA

82    Trapping is cruel and abusive. Trapping should not be continued as it puts wildlife in pain and agony for days. It's evil and cruel! Monica Kremkus      Grand Rapids    MI

83    Just hold off and let the population be healthy and stay healthy for a few years then make a decision please Michelle    St paul    MN

84    Trapping is indiscriminate and cruel. It goes against what the majority of people value. We want our wildlife to live. Wildlife belongs to all if us not just a handful of bloodthirsty trappers.      Mary Shabbott    Punta Gorda      FL

85    I respectfully request that wolves be removed from hunting - there is much documentation on the benefits these animals have had on the ecosystems where they live. Trapping or hunting should not be allowed. bonnie pence    Cincinnati      OH

86    American parks and wildlife belong to everyone and must be protected for future generations. Hunting and trapping should be outlawed and severely punished. Studies show that the presence of wolf populations in particular have a very positive impact on the ecosystem. ALL wildlife should be protected. Please act in the interest of all Americans, including future generations, and the environment as a whole and stop conceding to the desires and demands of farmers and hunters. Hope Johnson      Fort Worth      TX



- 87 please do not allow trapping of animals of any kind. it's cruel and inhumane and a horrible way to die      Beverly Stark      Germantown      MD
- 88 Trapping is horrible, unethical, and bad for the ecosystem. Rana Kelly      Tucson AZ
- 89 Please protect wildlife ....and the senseless killing ....      Donna Slaughter      Suquamish      WA
- 90 leave the wolf's alone      Kevin cantrell      Malakoff      TX
- 91 I am a concerned citizen and deeply alarmed by your 2018/19 trapping season. Trapping is an indiscriminate, cruel and antiquated. We know that anything from a child to a beloved pet dog to an endangered species can succumb to a trap. I am among the majority of Americans who oppose trapping of wolves and native predators. Our wildlife belongs to all of us, and wolves are essential to a healthy balanced ecosystem. In the 21st century we need to be protect and value our native predators, living and thriving in their native habitat.      Mary Ting      New York      NY
- 92 LEAVE ALL THOSE ANIMALS ALONE! THE ORANGE BUFFOON DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE HELP IN DESTROYING OUR PLANET!      Roger Nelson      Moline IL
- 93 Your quotas mean nothing to the people who actually CARE about wildlife. You value profit from permits more than the voices of the majority of tax paying American citizens. But trapping is inhumane and barbaric. No animal deserves to be trapped, terrified, and vulnerable for hours to be shot, strangled, or clubbed to death by stupid rednecks to make a quick buck. Fuck your damn quota. Do what's right. For once.      Candice      Gainesville      TX
- 94 Stop trapping endangered species. Public lands are for all, not just the few who enjoy blood sports. Kell Took Williamsburg      NM
- 95 We need less humans and more wolves it has been proven they improve the eco system where they live leave them alone please      Alicia Warner      Miami FL
- 96 Stop killing wolves. It makes all of us other meat hunters look bad. I'm looking at doing a some benefit concerts to raise awareness and boycott states that promote carnivore hunting.      David Hand      Nashville      TN
- 97 The fact that MT wants to approve trapping is very concerning as traps are brutal to the animal caught in one. Plus, any being can get caught in one as well. It is bad enough that your State allows the hunting it does but to allow trapping goes beyond cruelty. I hope this affects your tourism dollars      Liz Devlin      Pierson FL
- 98 Wildlife belongs to all of us. What gives a handful of people the right to make these choices for all of us and decimate the species?? Trapping is barbaric, cruel beyond words and completely unnecessary!! It's just a sick way for a bunch of rednecks to get their jollies. Ban trapping!!      Sheila Peterson      Red Wing      MN
- 99 Please stop tge srnseless murder of wolves Rhonda Smith      Holly Hill      FL
- 100 I oppose the trapping/hunting of wolves.      Anthony Chiffolo      Bethany Beach DE
- 101 Stop killing animals that are necessary for the environment to survive      Linda Kaiser      Santa Clarita      CA
- 102 Please stop hunting these beautiful animals. They have every right to live without the threat of being hunted for fur.      Jill Michael      Dorchester      MA
- 103 Was planning a trip to your beautiful state this fall.. if this passes I will most definitely pass on your state and spend my money elsewhere.      Thomas Hubbard      Royal Oak      MI

104 Wolves are not trophies. They are crucial to the ecosystem. They are not here for your sick enjoyment. Beyond the fact that hunting them is cruel and unnecessary, trapping is absolutely wrong. There is no quick death in trapping. The animal suffers for hours, and is then typically "finished" by dogs. This is inhumane and a grotesque practice. I urge not to allow this "hunt". Ryan Singleton Milwaukee WI

105 Trapping is indiscriminate and inhumane and should be banned. Also, hasn't the US already hunted all its wolves to extinction already and then learned how valuable they are to the ecosystem that they had to import them in from Canada to try again. Why are people not learning from history and past mistakes. Wolves, and other animals who may get caught by traps are sentient beings and deserve better than the pain and suffering they inflict. Give them a chance to grow and flourish and let tourists enjoy them with cameras, not hunters and trappers with traps and guns. Paula Keisler St Charles IL

106 I am against any increase in quotas; I am for decrease in quotas - better yet, elimination of hunting and trapping furbearers. I am for the elimination of predator hunting. Kimberly Pearson Medford OR

107 Stop killing wolves. Just stop. You have no right to push any of God's creatures to extinction. Stop the killing. Period. Rose Marie Lampo Covington LA

108 I oppose the killing, trapping, and hunting of wolves. I believe this hurts our environment and desensitizes violence against the environment Maria PQueens NY

109 Please stop this barbaric practice, There are so many materials to be used fur is not needed. Please stop Shelly Brockwell Paducah KY

110 Please stop trapping and hunting our precious wolves. They are a natural and necessary member our your beautiful ecosystem. They can contribute to the greater good, by helping reduce the numbers of sick members in the deer herds. That in turn would put less strain on existing fields and habitats. They are highly intelligent and social creatures that also need our help or they too may become extinct. Please stop the brutal practice of trapping and killing them in their dens while they are asleep. Please I beg of you think it threw. They are necessary and they are needed. They need your support please help them by stopping the trapping and hunting practices of wolves. Jennifer Cook Cherry Creek NY

111 Please do NOT raise the quotas on this yr.s trapping season. The frequent fires have already adversely affected wildlife populations; why not help your furbearers recover; by NOT allowing still MORE of them to be killed-adversely affecting their populations even more. Julie Hansen Freeman SD

112 I will never visit the lovely State of Montana as long as animals are being cruelly tortured. That level of sadistic evil is a mind set I do not wish to spend my earned \$\$ on Valerie Sisson Kentwood MI

113 I frequently have anything from raccoons to coyotes and bobcats in my back yard...they don't hurt anything or bother anyone and I live in a village. Leave them alone and they will leave you alone. Susan Powers Henderson NY

114 Please stop this barbaric practice. These animals deserve to live and to be left alone Sarah Bartz Williamsburg VA

115 Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. Diane Gubrud byron IL

116 " Trapping is an indiscriminate recreation which drains money from Montana businesses including ranching, tourism, logging and mining. The problem for businesses is that trapping is too efficient. After the invention of metal traps in 1600 in Europe a wave of extinction of fur bearing animals spread out, jumped the Atlantic, then crossed the North American continent. Mink, otter, beaver, fox and other furbearer populations were destroyed quickly on both continents. For Montana the near extinction took place just a few decades after the Lewis and Clark expedition. Montana was trapped out before it became a state. In 1841 the famous trapper Osborne Russell re-corded in his journal: ""The trappers

often remarked to each other as they rode over these lonely plains that it was time for the white man to leave the mountains as beaver and game had nearly disappeared"". Montana was trapped out before it became a state. Without beaver ponds, creeks cut down, draining aquifers, drying Montana's landscape. Montana's legislature, along with sportsman's and conservation groups, have worked hard to repair the damage. They established our Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks which re-introduced endangered species and nurtured depleted game and furbearer populations by controlling hunting and trapping. Montana's Territorial Legislature passed laws outlawing beaver trapping on public land to restore ground water tables. Today we have much to thank them for. Over the decades, however, the combination of depleted furbearer populations with weakened trapping regulations keep some species close to extinction. Trapping hurts Montana businesses. Animal populations on the brink of extinction from over-trapping (like wolverine, fisher and lynx) allow the federal government to limit Montana job producing projects, including mining and logging, through the Endangered Species Act. This makes investment in Montana businesses uncertain. Ranching, big game hunting, and fishing businesses are hurt too. Spring runoff, once diverted into the ground water by an estimated 250,000 beaver dams, now mostly flows out of Montana causing: loss of riparian habitat and wildlife. lost browse for cattle and big game. lost late season creek flow loss of uncountable springs statewide. Tourism may be hurt the most. Each year wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing brings a billion dollars to Montana. How many more dollars would come if tourists had a real chance to see a wolverine, bobcat, or the vibrant wildlife around a beaver pond? Or how many fewer dollars will come when the headlines announce a child caught in a trap in Montana? It may happen soon. Dogs are frequently caught near trailheads and along trails. Even trappers report that their dogs (and they, themselves) are caught in traps. Montanans should again take responsibility. Tom Gignoux, Geologist, Missoula" Tom Gignoux Missoula MT

117 I support 24 hour trap checks! Thank you. Peg Brownlee Florence MT

118 Please adopt a daily or 24 hour trap check requirement in Montana. There is really no reason we shouldn't have one. 36 states in the US have adopted this and it makes trappers more responsible and allows animals they don't intend to trap a chance to live. Some animals are left to suffer for weeks in traps and it's not ok. I found a dog trapped in one before and it was awful. Thanks for your time. Amanda cooper Belgrade MT

19 Please adopt a mandatory 24 check by trappers on foot hold and snare traps like 36 other states do. This is to minimize the injury or death of non target animals. Vicki S Bruner Billings MT

120 Please support the 24 hr check on traps! We need to help protect more animals from these cruel devices!! Peggy Brewer Bigfork MT

121 It is my position being one who actively supports and participates year after year in such outdoor traditions as hunting and trapping in the beautiful state of Montana that the Furbearer Regs require no changes and are good as they are for the 2018-2019 season. Zac Radandt CLEARWATER FL

122 Yes, I'm in complete support of the proposed reduction of the bobcat quota for region 3. However, bobcat and any of the furbearers and wolves that go over quota should be counted towards the next year's quota. Another fisher was killed after a region closed this season. He should come off the 2018 quota. In doing this, the result may be a more efficient, expedient and responsible response to the excess killings. Regions 1-3 went over a minimum of 187 bobcats in just a few years. That should not be ignored. Those cats should not be dismissed. Beaver also need quotas, tagging, a reduced season and more areas closed off to trapping. FWP cannot say on the one hand that trapping is highly regulated but they do not know how many beaver are being trapped and killed let alone how many remain. Given the significant decrease in the estimated swift fox population, their quota needs to be 0. Lastly, Montana needs to institute 24 hr mandated trap checks. If a trapper cannot check his/her trap within that time frame then they need not be trapping. Thank you. KC York Hamilton MT

123 I support the proposed changes, as is, to the 2018/2019 seasons and quotas. I agree that no other changes are necessary at this time. Tom Radandt Libby MT

124 Trapped animals die agonizing deaths. Are you asking how many animals should be allowed to be tortured to death by humans? Is that your measure of being civilized? Leila Lappin Roswell GA

125 I am opposed to trapping animals for any reason. It is a cruel death for any animal regardless of the reason. Too many innocent other animals are caught in traps as well as domestic pets. Stop this cruel, inhumane practice! Ann machek Stevensville MT

126 Dear Sirs: I'm writing in regard to the 2018-2019 trapping season. There are a number of comments I have to make about this. Trapping in Montana is not regulated as it's been suggested. The time has come when trappers should have a 24 hour mandatory curfew for traps set. Stopping the constant over quota trapping of our wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. This does not include people's pets which is another subject. Trappers should have only 24 hours to remove their traps once the quota in the regions has been met. The majority of Montanans and tourist along with Americans don't support trapping. All Wildlife belongs to Montanans under The Public Trust Doctrine. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanans and not just the trappers. I hope you understand that Americans across the country are fed up it's trapping and hunting of our wildlife. In time, we'll see just what this board is made of. Sincerely Patricia Stock Patricia Stock Olmsted Falls OH

127 Most Montanans and the American people are against trapping as a whole. You have trappers that don't check their traps, trap beyond the quotas for a given area. They should be made to check their traps every 24 hours. What I want to know is why are trappers given precedence over non trappers. They're a small group and we are the majority. Patricia Stock Olmsted Falls OH

128 As a wildlife viewer, photographer, and tourist, I am writing to urge you to consider the following in determining quotas for the 2019 season: 1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. 2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. 3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. 4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. 5. The majority of Montanans and tourist don't support trapping. 6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanans under the Public Trust Doctrine. 7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanans and not just the trapping community. Patricia Vineski So Colton NY

129 I do not support trapping at all. It is cruel & barbaric & outdated. There are more humane ways to control wildlife. Wildlife watching & photography is growing enormously. I am a wildlife photographer & I would not think of going to Montana to photograph wildlife. Diane Lang Seattle WA

130 Please ban trapping. It is the most inhumane way to kill anything. I live in the Adirondacks, a man put out traps to protect his chickens, his neighbors dog got out. Guess who got caught and died. Trapping should be baned. Paula Zawadzky Chestertown NY

131 Wildlife is a major attraction when I visit Montana. Specially wolves. Why continue to support trapping? It is cruel, depletes wildlife populations and is a decreasing economic activity. Promote more wildlife tourism instead and increase viewing and photographic opportunities. Thanks you, Dalcio Dalcio Dacol Gainesville FL

132 "As science now shows us, the brains of the mammals commonly trapped have all the structures for pain, distress, fear as our own brains. As a veterinarian I can personally attest to suffering felt in particular by trapped animals. It would be responsible and appropriate for Montana to make some changes in trapping policy that would reflect the views of most of the people. • The Montana FWP trapper advisory committee should include photographers, outfitters and others whose business is dependent on viewing intact healthy animals. • Trap check time should be 24 hours for ALL species. • If quotas are routinely exceeded, there should be some reduction in quota the next season. Thank you for your time and attention. " Chris Albert Lebanon Junction KY

133 I want my grandkids to be able to see wild wolves and bears in the wild!! I travel to Montana and Wyoming a lot but I am going to Alberta this year and will never visit your state until y'all come to your senses and stop the killing of our precious wild wolves and bears!!! Judy Crowe Amite LA

- 134 Trapping is extremely horrible, cruel and sadistic, and needs to be outlawed. People who trap and can sleep at night should have a mental health check, because it's not right to torment another creature like that. David Aho  
Rudyard MI
- 135 Protect the innocent animals that are suffering from the hands of humans. SAD to say that we are the invaders of their lives and land. STOP THE KILLING OF INNOCENT ANIMALS. I don't know what you think of the innocent animals that are killed in traps go through. But I've heard and read about the insane cruelty and I am disgusted at the human race. We are sacrificing endangered species for what? Money is not enough reason to kill these innocent animals. They deserve better than this. Society today is so screwed up. I don't want to be a part of the problem. I have to do what I can to help so please consider this. STOP THE KILLING OF INNOCENT ANIMALS. We must change the laws of animal rights. Change the way we do things like this. Robin Yoakum Wichita Falls TX
- 136 Trapping is barbaric to say the least and makes hunters look bad as we are thrown into the same group. It's not regulated well either in MT., just like the poaching. I see hunters and poacher constantly openly bragging on social media about their lawlessness. It makes me sick to see and wildlife clearly needs to be under Federal control there David  
)/'d Whites creek TN
- 137 Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. The time has come for a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. It is also time to stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. Trappers should have 24 hours or less to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping and wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community, which is the minority. Judy McMullen Winchester VA
- 138 Trapping is cruel it's barbaric and it unacceptable! We are trying to stop this inhumane treatment in NM as well! Virginia Mccoy Mimbres NM
- 139 Cancel all possibilities of having quotas. Leave the animals in peace. No need for killing them. One day the future generations will have to look at pictures to see what the animals if the earth looked like. !!!' Be compassionate and kind.... LEAVE THE ANIMALS (every kind) ALONE— keep them alive!! Jean Jacobson Naperville IL
- 140 Commissioners: In regards to trapping: Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated; It is time for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife;end the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region; Trappers should have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved: the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping; Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine; and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. Theresa Cosmano Chucago IL
- 141 Please try to imagine yourself in the place of an animal caught in a leg-hold trap. Imagine the pain, the terror, the thirst... How can you allow this horror to be inflicted on helpless animals? Please put an end to the horrific practice of setting traps for innocent animals. Thank you. Joe Ward Farmington NM
- 142 I do not support the trapping district 3 proposal to reduce the bobcat quota from 250 to 150. I believe this is a drastic reduction nearly half the quota relying on very little information data centered on concern from few individuals. If reduce to 150 we will be back to a 3-4 week season and a big race, no cats will be released. I would support reducing to 200 until more and better data is completed by fwp. Trapping district 3 is the largest district in the west and can support more than 150 cats harvested. Chad Murphy WHITEHALL MT
- 143 Stop trapping! It is cruel and inhumane! Susan Beckstrom Helena MT
- 144 If in fact they are going to lower the quota in region 3 by 100 cats why don't we also start the season on January 1? The season will be shut down within 2 weeks by lowering the number by 100 and u can bet no one will take the chance on letting a kitten or female live when they know they don't have the time to catch anything else. Get ready to be checking in

some small kitties n also 75% female I bet. Start the season later n leave quotas alone is my thought      Kyle Olson  
Butte      MT

145 We need to totally stop beaver trapping. They are so necessary to help drought situations, provide ponds for fish and wildlife, recharge ground water. Please stop or greatly eliminate beaver trapping. Thank you for your consideration.  
Suzanna Mcdougal      Hamilton      MT

146 I agree with the bobcat quota set above for region 3. The trap swivel language for the center of the trap is not always conducive to how the trap is designed. As long as the chain is swiveled immediately from the trap and as close as designed to the center, I feel that is sufficient as a swivel needs to also be added in the chain and before the anchoring. Within 5 chain links is rather restricting as many traps come with a set length of chain usually 1 ft or so.      Garrett Bacon  
East Helena      MT

147 There should be 24 hour checks      Kay Fulton      Victor      MT

148 I believe trapping district 3 should be divided into smaller units. Some areas receive much more trapping pressure than others. For instance the vicinity around Butte gets hammered pretty hard by a lot of guys while Paradise Valley receives little pressure. Most trappers just won't travel that far. To lump the cats in such a huge area together doesn't make sense to me.      james darr      livingston      MT

149 In my opinion and observations while trapping I did not notice a decline in bobcats but I have noticed a major decline in rabbits. If the science backs limiting the quota to 150, I will agree with it but have you looked at other options? Maybe figure out why the rabbit population is in decline or other potential courses of action. It would also be nice if hound hunters had their own quota and trappers have their own as well. Thank you, Jackson      Jackson Spooner  
Dillon      MT

150 I agree with and support the proposed trapping seasons and quotas as adopted by the FWP Commission and encourage their adoption at the August 9th Commission meeting. Edward M Hebbe IV      Deer Lodge      MT

151 Every trapper should be responsible for caring for their trap and should be required to check the trap daily. No animal should suffer for days when sadly being killed for their fur.      Vicky Kasala      kalispell      MT

152 The requirement for 24 hour checking of set traps is reasonable and necessary. If someone wants to trap animals then they should take responsibility for their hobby/work and be willing to do at the minimum 24 hours to check their traps. This is not the 19th century.      deborah berglund      Bozeman      MT

153 I want to see trapping stopped. I believe it is inhumane and a form of torture. The change of 250 to 150 Bobcats is still too many and no animals should be leg-hold trapped. We live in the 21st century, not the 18th century!      Debbie Lyman Heron      MT

154 Stop the war on wildlife! I go back 4 generations in Montana on both sides of my family and none had the lust to kill and kill. I'm a retired Montana rancher. I do not believe in killing predators and trophy hunting. We had several living on our ranch and they never hurt a thing. This agency should be protecting all wildlife not creating a killing field and helping the blood lust of serial killers.      Sheryl Hester      Oro Valley      AZ

## COMMENTS VIA EMAILS AND LETTERS

### 24-hour Trap Check Comments

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1 From: Hilary Stahl <mailto:hilarymstahl@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 12:22 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: 24 Hour Trap Check...

Dear FWP,

Please, PLEASE instill 24 hour trapping checks if we must have trapping in Montana. PLEASE, PLEASE alleviate the animals from such barbaric torture by NOT instilling 24 hour trap checking. If the trappers went to great lengths to trap these poor and endangered species, then they can also go to great lengths to hike, camp, or spend the 24 hours to check their traps the following day!

Sincerely,  
Hilary M. Stahl  
Corvallis, MT

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2 **From:** L. R. [[mailto:miss\\_bmw2007@hotmail.com](mailto:miss_bmw2007@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 10:53 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

I support the 24 hour trap check, I would love to have traps completely banned.

We need to protect animals not harm and kill them. We are taking more and more of their habitat. They have as much right to be here as we humans do.

Sincerely, Line Ringgaard

## **Beaver Trapping Comments**

1 After reading up on the situation regarding beaver trapping in Montana, I can come to only one conclusion: the beavers ought not to be trapped but used as a natural weapon against climate change-induced depletion of water sources.

I found the writings of the Gallatin Wildlife Association very compelling, and my own research leads me to the same, stated eloquently here:

"In an arid drying climate it makes no environmental or economic sense to allow the commercial exploitation of beaver for fashion or tradition. It is time that we embrace the science of the 21st century and manage beavers for their far more valued economic and ecosystem services

The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) builds dams that pond water on streams, which provide crucial ecological services to aquatic and riparian ecosystems and enhance biodiversity. Consequently, there is increasing interest in restoring beavers to locations where they historically occurred, particularly in the arid western United States. However, despite often intensive efforts to reintroduce beavers into areas where they were severely reduced in numbers or eliminated due to overharvesting in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, beavers remain sparse or missing from many stream reaches

The goal should be for land and wildlife agencies to manage for beaver restoration projects that will have a high probability of success for water and environmental services."

The following should also be considered, as throughout the West and Mid West lands are growing steadily more parched, water sources shrinking, and water tables falling:

"The capacity of beaver to modify habitat has remained inarguable; putting them on a short list of species (along with humans) recognized as "ecosystem engineers". In recent decades, the capacity of beaver to change their environments for the better has led many to view the species in a new light. A growing body of research indicates that the habitat modifications induced by beaver create a boon for a broad spectrum of fish and wildlife beyond the beavers themselves. Furthermore, the list of beneficiaries clearly includes people and our domestic stock in some settings. The crucial role of the beaver as an ecosystem engineer is particularly apparent in landscapes where water is a limiting factor and climates are becoming more arid and warm.

Previously occupied patches of suitable beaver habitat in these settings are optimal places to consider beaver restoration projects.

More and more, restoration practitioners are using beaver to accomplish stream, wetland, and floodplain restoration. This is happening because, by constructing dams that impound water and retain sediment, beaver substantially alter the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the surrounding stream ecosystems, providing benefits to plants, fish, and wildlife. The possible results are many, inclusive of : higher water tables; reconnected and expanded floodplains; higher summer base flows; expanded wetlands; improved water quality; greater habitat complexity; more diversity and richness in the populations of plants, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals; and overall increased complexity of the river ecosystem

In many cases these effects produce the same outcomes that have been identified for river restoration projects. Thus, by creating new and more complex habitat in degraded systems, beaver dams have the potential to help restoration practitioners achieve their objectives. Beaver can be our new partner in water conservation and habitat restoration.

When beaver recolonize stream systems, their impoundments increase base flows, as well as recharge and elevate the water table (Pollock et al. 2003). Furthermore, given that climate change is expected to increase drought and reduce snow pack, water storage from beaver impoundments will be an effective tool to help mitigate the associated reductions in water resources (see Rosemond and Anderson 2003, Lawler 2009). Climate change is of particular concern in areas that currently depend on glacial and snow-melt runoff. As water storage in the form of glaciers and snow decreases, surface and groundwater storage behind beaver dams high in watersheds provides a buffer to maintain base flows



Beaver increase the amount of groundwater storage and aquifer recharge (Pollock et al. 2003, Westbrook et al. 2006). This ultimately may be the most important beaver-related factor. In addition, groundwater is released more gradually than surface water and has no evaporative losses. In areas where groundwater is being depleted faster than it is being recharged naturally, beaver ponds may help to offset the aquifer depletion, especially when beaver activity is on a watershed scale. Furthermore, increased groundwater storage will help to offset rising stream temperatures associated with the increase in open-water surface area. Cold pockets of water have been found downstream of beaver dams due to the upwelling of groundwater (Pollock et al. 2007). This is particularly important for aquatic species that require cold water."

We humans NEED to find solutions, and the more natural the better, to our declining water supply problem. Beavers can help.

"The restoration of beavers is a natural solution. We now recognize the beaver as a keystone species — an animal that plays a vital role in how an ecosystem works. Beaver dams create wetlands and meadows that improve water quality and increase biodiversity and their dam building stores water for summer irrigation and recreation including fishing. As the climate gets warmer, letting beavers be beavers is a simple solution to water conservation."

I agree with the GWA. Beavers should be valued for their positive effects on water systems, and allowed to exist freely in their habitats...habitats that will be much healthier for them and all lifeforms for their efforts.

Sincerely, Kelly R Sweeney

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2 Gentlemen:

We oppose trapping of beaver for the following reasons:

Beaver are a watershed-scale restoration tool.

Montana should adopt beaver management plans to increase water management opportunities in the face of declining winter snowpack. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) can no longer view such a valued species as merely a furbearer for recreational harvesting. Beaver should be lethally removed only if severely damaging valuable private or public property. The FWP along with DNRC should determine how economically valuable beavers are as a low-cost component for providing considerable drought management and water quality improvement services. Live trapping and transplanting beavers is an established practice. The USFS, BLM, and State of Washington developed plans, procedures, and manuals for capturing problem or surplus beavers and establishing thriving populations in historic and degraded locations. Transplanting beavers is not expensive and averages about 50% success. The following references/resources examine beaver restoration by many public agencies. These plans, resources, and contacts provide a complete view of beaver management and restoration.

USFS Beaver Restoration Guide Book

Beaver Restoration Tool Box

### Beavers and Their Dams

In an arid drying climate, it makes no environmental or economic sense to allow the commercial exploitation of beaver for fashion or tradition. It is time that we embrace the science of the 21st century and manage beavers for their far more valued economic and ecosystem services. The North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) builds dams that pond water on streams, which provide crucial ecological services to aquatic and riparian ecosystems and enhance biodiversity. Consequently, there is increasing interest in restoring beavers to locations where they historically occurred, particularly in the arid western United States. However, despite often intensive efforts to reintroduce beavers into areas where they were severely reduced in numbers or eliminated due to

overharvesting in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, beavers remain sparse or missing from many stream reaches

The goal should be for land and wildlife agencies to manage for beaver restoration projects that will have a high probability of success for water and environmental services.

The capacity of beaver to modify habitat has remained inarguable; putting them on a short list of species (along with humans) recognized as “ecosystem engineers”. In recent decades, the capacity of beaver to change their environments for the better has led many to view the species in a new light. A growing body of research indicates that the habitat modifications induced by beaver create a boon for a broad spectrum of fish and wildlife beyond the beavers themselves. Furthermore, the list of beneficiaries clearly includes people and our domestic stock in some settings. The crucial role of the beaver as an ecosystem engineer is particularly apparent in landscapes where water is a limiting factor and climates are becoming more arid and warm.

Previously occupied patches of suitable beaver habitat in these settings are optimal places to consider beaver restoration projects.

More and more, restoration practitioners are using beaver to accomplish stream, wetland, and floodplain restoration. This is happening because, by constructing dams that impound water and retain sediment, beaver substantially alter the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the surrounding stream ecosystems, providing benefits to plants, fish, and wildlife. The possible results are many, inclusive of: higher water tables; reconnected and expanded floodplains; higher summer base flows; expanded wetlands; improved water quality; greater habitat complexity; more diversity and richness in the populations of plants, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals; and overall increased complexity of the river ecosystem

In many cases, these effects produce the same outcomes that have been identified for river restoration projects. Thus, by creating new and more complex habitat in degraded systems, beaver dams have the potential to help restoration practitioners achieve their objectives. Beaver can be our new partner in water conservation and habitat restoration.

When beaver recolonize stream systems, their impoundments increase base flows, as well as recharge and elevate the water table (Pollock et al. 2003). Furthermore, given that climate change is expected to increase drought and reduce snowpack, water storage from beaver impoundments will be an effective tool to help mitigate the associated reductions in water resources (see Rosemond and Anderson 2003, Lawler 2009). Climate change is of particular concern in areas that currently depend on glacial and snow-melt runoff. As water storage in the form of glaciers and snow decreases, surface and groundwater storage behind beaver dams high in watersheds provides a buffer to maintain base flows

Beaver increase the amount of groundwater storage and aquifer recharge (Pollock et al. 2003, Westbrook et al. 2006). This ultimately may be the most important beaver-related factor. In addition, groundwater is released more gradually than surface water and has no evaporative losses. In areas where groundwater is being depleted faster than it is being recharged naturally, beaver ponds may help to offset the aquifer depletion, especially when beaver activity is on a watershed scale. Furthermore, increased groundwater storage will help to offset rising stream temperatures associated with the increase in open-water surface area. Cold pockets of water have been found downstream of beaver dams due to the upwelling of groundwater (Pollock et al. 2007). This is particularly important for aquatic species that require cold water

Butler and Manlanson (2005) estimate the total amount of sediment stored behind beaver dams in pre-European settlement of North America from 9.81 billion cubic yards to an astounding 163.5 billion cubic yards of sediment. Factors that influence sedimentation rates include the growth rates of the emergent vegetation found in the ponds, upstream sediment loads, the number of beaver dams upstream

#### Anticipatory Habitat Improvement.

The habitat requirements to support beaver are fairly intuitive and basic, including adequate water flows, vegetation for food and building, a modest gradient (or lack thereof), less porous soils, and protection from various threats (trapping, overgrazing, major flooding, depredation, etc.).

There are management actions that can be taken to improve habitat quality, thereby promoting occupation by beaver. These measures can encourage incoming dispersal and can help support current or future reintroductions. Beavers directly impact the hydrology of the watersheds they occupy by:

Storing water for more consistent and later season delivery (Gurnell 1998)\*

Altering water temperature regimes (Collen and Gibson, 2001)

Introducing complexity and dynamism to streams (Naiman et al., 1988)

Increasing nutrient availability in streams (Naiman et al., 1986)  
Improving stream function by reconnecting floodplains (Rosell et al., 2005)  
Decreasing sediment delivery to the stream system (McDowell and Naiman, 1986)

Some farmers and ranchers have historically viewed beavers negatively for their role in flooding agricultural lands. An improved understanding of and appreciation for the capacity of beavers to increase range health through water retention has prompted some to take an active role in fostering beaver activity on the lands they manage. Managers considering beaver restoration should be familiar with the potential benefits beaver can yield for domestic and wild grazers as well as the sensitivity of beaver to riparian habitat degradation stemming from foraging and tramping by domestic and wild ungulates. Highlighting increased water availability for water-limited grasses can be an effective approach for engaging ranchers who might otherwise oppose beaver restoration programs. Gaining support for excluding livestock from riparian areas might be facilitated by clarifying the subsequent benefits anticipated for grazing elsewhere in the watershed.

Throughout the American West, especially on public lands, restoring beavers—and their ecosystem-engineering role—to headwater streams will enhance the resilience of these vital habitats. Beavers engineer ecosystems making stream and wetland communities much more diverse, resilient and widespread in their presence. Beaver dams not only reduce peak runoff during floods they also store water that can sustain flows during drought. Likewise, beaver dams create ecosystem services that support more diverse populations of native fish, plants, and birds.

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Thank you.

Regards,  
Jacqueline Schmidt and Margaret Schmidt

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3 Beaver are a watershed-scale restoration tool.

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Beaver increase the amount of groundwater storage and aquifer recharge (Pollock et al. 2003, Westbrook et al. 2006). This ultimately may be the most important beaver-related factor. In addition, groundwater is released more gradually than surface water and has no evaporative losses. In areas where groundwater is being depleted faster than it is being recharged naturally, beaver ponds may help to offset the aquifer depletion, especially when beaver activity is on a watershed scale. Furthermore, increased groundwater storage will help to offset rising stream temperatures associated with the increase in open-water surface area. Cold pockets of water have been found downstream of beaver dams due to the upwelling of groundwater (Pollock et al. 2007). This is particularly important for aquatic species that require cold water

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govnmtgirl <govnmtgirl@aol.com>

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4 From: Suzanna McDougal [<mailto:sumac99@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 9:58 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: beavers

We must severely limit the trapping of Beaver. They help to replenish the ground water, provide ponds for fish and other wildlife.

Suzanna McDougal  
PO Box 13335  
Hamilton, MT 59840

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5 From: MaryJane Barrett [[mailto:outlook\\_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com](mailto:outlook_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com)]  
Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 2:32 PM



**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Trapping Beaver

Beaver are nature's hydro-engineers. They are a critically necessary keystone species designed to create wetlands, water reservoirs, fire breaks, slow snow melt runoff and improve our water quality.

Our family in year 2018 with dwindling world animals including the Beaver do not support the trapping of Beaver whatsoever.

Please end this worthless endeavor. Like Chief Seattle said, When all the animals are gone, man will die of a great loneliness of Spirit.

Thank you.

Mary Jane and Steve Barrett July 5, 2018

Voting address: 995 Ranch Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901

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6 Beaver are a watershed-scale restoration tool.

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The goal should be for land and wildlife agencies to manage for beaver restoration projects that will have a high probability of success for water and environmental services.

The capacity of beaver to modify habitat has remained inarguable; putting them on a short list of species (along with humans) recognized as "ecosystem engineers". In recent decades, the capacity of beaver to change their environments for the better has led many to view the species in a new light. A growing body of research indicates that the habitat modifications induced by beaver create a boon for a broad spectrum of fish and wildlife beyond the beavers themselves. Furthermore, the list of beneficiaries clearly includes people and our domestic stock in some settings. The crucial role of the beaver as an ecosystem engineer is particularly apparent in landscapes where water is a limiting factor and climates are becoming more arid and warm.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica Black  
Denver, Colorado

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7 We live in 2018

Not 1820

We were once an uncivilised nation but surely now we know better ?

It is about time this onslaught on wildlife stopped There is no place for this activity in our society

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Yours sincerely Barbara Walklate  
UK Sent from my iPhone

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8 TO: Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
RE: Public Comment on Trapping Regulations  
SUBMITTED BY: Constance J. Poter  
DATE: June 25, 2018

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

On Sunday morning, June 24, National Public Radio featured a story on efforts to bring back beavers to cleanse and store much-needed water in several western states. Montana was regrettably missing. In spite of our record droughts and fires, and the well-known ability of beavers to create wetlands and firebreaks, the Commission upheld unlimited recreational trapping of beavers for nine months of the year.

FWP has a responsibility to all Montanans to “[contribute] to the quality of life for present and future generations,” according to its mission statement. Further, “FWP programs will be consistent with ecologically sound and sustainable practices and managed within funding capabilities.”

Putting a moratorium on recreational beaver trapping on public lands costs nothing, and the water engineering that beavers can achieve quickly in this era of accelerated global warming is ecologically sound and sustainable. How much money would have been saved last summer had beavers been on the landscape in numbers that could have made a difference? We're paying a heavy price to continue a recreational opportunity for a few thousand trappers that adversely affects the health and welfare of our wildlife and ourselves.

A retired USFS employee reported that after a lengthy, difficult and expensive reintroduction of beavers into the Helena National Forest, most of the beavers were trapped and killed within a few weeks. This has happened on other public lands. It's irresponsible.

Now it's more urgent than ever to suspend beaver trapping and disallow underwater traps and ground sets in beaver habitat. This action has the potential to save many millions annually, and sustain us in a future predicted to get hotter and drier. Please consider making this positive change.

"The Bountiful Benefits of Bringing Back the Beavers"

<https://www.npr.org/2018/06/24/620402681/the-bountiful-benefits-of-bringing-back-the-beavers>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Poten

4175 Rattlesnake Drive, Missoula, MT 59802

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9 I write to submit public comments opposing the trapping of beavers in Montana.

First, I am a regular tourist to your beautiful state. My sister owns property in Montana and we all come almost yearly. Our extended family devotes much of our visits there to looking for wildlife. One of the most popular animals that we look for is a beaver - which happens to be my nephew's favorite animal.

We have spent a great deal of time learning about beavers as a result. These animals occupy an incredibly important ecological niche. We have learned that they can help fight drought, which we are experiencing more and more of due to a changing climate, and help create areas of greater biodiversity. Beavers alter the land by constructing their dams which then creates better habitat for plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife. This also helps create higher water tables, reconnect and expand floodplains, expand wetlands, improve water quality and more.

Given the importance of beavers to the ecosystem - both in terms of helping keep water in the ecosystem and in terms of boosting biodiversity - we were shocked and saddened to learn how liberally they are trapped in Montana. Please reconsider trapping laws for these critically important animals and please consider live trapping and relocation instead of death for them when they are in a location that is considered undesirable. Science has shown us that Mother Nature knows best and as we face a changing climate which is drier, we need all the help we can get. Beavers are offering free help to fight drought! Let's take it.

Sincerely

Michelle MacKenzie

California

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10 Bringing back beavers is the natural solution. The beaver is a keystone species and plays a vital role in how an ecosystem works. Beaver dams create wetlands and meadows that improve water quality and increase biodiversity and their dam building stores water for summer irrigation and recreation including fishing. As the climate gets warmer, letting beavers be beavers is a simple solution to water conservation.

Help the beaver and it will help you.

Mary Shabbott

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### **Bobcat Trapping Comments**

1 **From:** MaryJane Barrett [[mailto:outlook\\_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com](mailto:outlook_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 5, 2018 2:41 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** BobCats

Over 1500 bobcat were reported killed legally throughout Montana this past trapping season. Region 3, located in SW Montana, had a pattern, along with Regions 1 and 2 in western Montana of going over quota from 2010-2015. An additional 187 bobcats were reported killed! Your usual response has been for FWP to increase the quota. It looks like notice is being taken in Region 3.

Please put a moratorium on killing bobcats. They are a part of the natural ecosystem. Again, just as Chief Seattle said, When all the animals are gone, man will die from a great loneliness of Spirit.

Killing these beautiful wild animals is an example of worst human behavior and is shameful.

Thank you.  
Mary Jane Barrett  
Stephen W. Barrett  
Voting address: 995 Ranch Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901

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2 **From:** tomas wilde [<mailto:tomaswilde2020@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 4:31 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Bobcats

I support Drastically Reduce trapping of bobcats in region 3; this antiquated extinction needs to stop.

---

### **Swift Fox Trapping Comments**

1 **From:** Susan [<mailto:susansimone52@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 06, 2018 9:36 AM  
**To:** FWP Wildlife <[fwpwld@mt.gov](mailto:fwpwld@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** \*\* Email from fwp.mt.gov \*\*

Name: Susan  
Phone Number: 234-303-9%06  
Email: [susansimone52@gmail.com](mailto:susansimone52@gmail.com)

To MF&WS,  
My comment to the 2018-2019 trapping proposal.  
Swift Fox  
The proposal for the Conservation Strategy for the Swift Fox is:  
To help them recover You Must Stop Trapping Them!!!  
Thankyou. Susan Simone

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2 **From:** Jim Goss & Cathy Reich [<mailto:jgossorcreich@blackfoot.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 4:37 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** "Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals"

Trapping is one form of mortality to swift fox we can and should easily eliminate! So, please eliminate

trapping of the swift fox this year. Their numbers are decreasing as is the value of their pelts. What's the point of killing them?

Cathy Reich  
1060 River Bend  
Superior, MT 59872

---

3 **From:** [info@OasisMontana.com](mailto:info@OasisMontana.com) [<mailto:info@OasisMontana.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 9:57 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** "Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals"

Hello:

I'm writing to ask that you consider not allowing any trapping of swift foxes. They are all too rare to have them squandered to near extinction in Montana. We have a few foxes around here (hence our street name) and they are fascinating to watch.

Sincerely,

Chris Daum  
436 Red Fox Lane, Stevensville, MT 59870  
406-777-4309  
406-777-4309 fax

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4 **From:** María Elvira Sagarzazu [<mailto:sagarzazu@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 9:56 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** A conservation strategu, please

Good morning

After reading on swift foxes, I urge you to revise the previous results that that show how swift foxes have died in numbers not even precisely recorded. Please protect swift foxes from cruel trapping, a most infamous form of killing swift fox that we can and should easily eliminate!

Sincerely,  
marina sagardua  
Brighton- MA

---

5 **From:** ginachron [<mailto:ginachron@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 1:11 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** COMMENT FOR 2018-2019 TRAPPING PROPOSALS

Dear Sir

Montana cannot afford to continue trapping and killing the swift fox! It is scientifically and ethically irresponsible and is one form of mortality that can be addressed easily.

Please have a moratorium on trapping.

Thank you

Gina Chronowicz  
3 Cromwell Mews

Leeds  
LS9 7JA  
UK

---

6 From: [cpryan@wi.rr.com](mailto:cpryan@wi.rr.com) [<mailto:cpryan@wi.rr.com>]  
Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 10:03 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-19 Trapping Proposals - Protect the Swift Fox

The Swift Fox population is down 67% in Montana despite previous efforts to reintroduce them. The ease of trapping them, in part, due to their curious nature, and other mortal threats, have had devastating effects on these endearing little creatures. Montana should follow the example of Canada where Swift Foxes are protected in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Perhaps then they will be able to sufficiently recover. Montana cannot have a legitimate conservation strategy for the declining Swift Fox encompassing the stated goals for population monitoring, dispersal, and habitat acquisition, and yet continue to allow trapping. Stop all trapping and implement a "zero quota" so they can recover. Trappers earn about \$7. per pelt. A paltry sum for these lovely creatures.

Patrick J. Ryan  
Milwaukee, Wi 53225  
414-716-5194

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7 From: Bobbi Hill [<mailto:bobbian05@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 8:57 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposal

PLEASE STOP trapping SWIFT FOX, there are only 175 of them left in existence.

How could you be so CRUEL???? NO ONE SHOULD WEAR FUR EXCEPT THE ANIMAL ITS ON...

Bobbi Hill 941-451-8049

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8 From: Michelle Meyer [<mailto:mmmeyer@peoplepc.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 9:28 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals  
Importance: High

INSIST ON A MORATORIUM ON THE TRAPPING OF SWIFT FOX!!!

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is proposing a Swift Fox Conservation Strategy. **What they have failed to mention is swift fox have plummeted to only 175 according to the 2015 census.**

Yet FWP is not proposing to stop the legal trapping of them!

Montana cannot afford to continue trapping and killing the swift fox! It is scientifically and ethically irresponsible. Trapping is one form of mortality to swift fox we can and should easily eliminate!

---

Michelle M. Meyer  
9 From: Steve Barkley [<mailto:sbarkley18@msn.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 1:45 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

FW Commission,

I urge you to impose a moratorium on Swift Fox trapping due to the fact that there is no justifiable reason not to. The numbers of Swift Fox are incredibly low to the point of possibly needing other protective interventions. The only reasonable management decision is to stop all trapping of these animals at least for now.

Thank you,  
Steve Barkley  
Bozeman, Montana

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10 From: [dave@daveshellenberger.com](mailto:dave@daveshellenberger.com) [<mailto:dave@daveshellenberger.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 8:25 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

My work includes advocating for international animal welfare.

I oppose the trapping of any species as inhumane. Swift foxes in Montana should be protected, not killed. Predators are intrinsically, economically, and ecologically valuable.

Thank you very much.

David E. Shellenberger  
Bethel, Connecticut

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11 From: Richard Firth [<mailto:wrfirth@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:06 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Dear Sirs:

Supplementing my previous comments and getting additional information on your trapping proposals, particularly concerning the Swift Fox, I now must insist more than ever that a moratorium be placed on the trapping of the Swift Fox.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Firth  
10111 Holly Rd.  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

---

12 From: a2ndpower [<mailto:a2ndpower@aol.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:23 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

----- 18 swift fox reported legally trapped and killed in Montana for 2016 and 2017 furbearer season.  
----- Of the estimated 2015 swift fox population, 10% trapped and killed in 2016 and 2017 furbearer season.  
----- 87 minimum swift fox trapped and killed in Montana 8 permissible trapping years.  
----- Value of their fur? \$7.00

**Did you know that only 175 swift fox are left in Montana?**

Trapping is one form of mortality to swift fox we can and should easily eliminate.

Please do your part to make this right...

--- A concerned citizen

---

13 **From:** mary shabbott [<mailto:mshabbott@sbcglobal.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 10:46 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

I insist on a moratorium on the trapping of Swift fox!!

Trapping is one form of mortality to swift fox we can and should easily eliminate!

Mary Shabbott

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14 **From:** L. R. [[mailto:miss\\_bmw2007@hotmail.com](mailto:miss_bmw2007@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 10:57 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

### **I'M INSISTING ON A MORATORIUM ON THE TRAPPING OF SWIFT FOX**

Trapping is one form of mortality to swift fox we can and should easily eliminate!

I wish trapping would just be banned completely.

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15 **From:** Angela James [<mailto:trolln406@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 12:45 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Please stop all trapping of the few remaining swift foxes and begin conservation efforts. Thank you.

Angela James  
Great Falls

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16 **From:** Jennifer Brown [<mailto:jdoviakbrown@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 3:28 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Dear Fish Wildlife and Parks,

I am writing to request that a moratorium be placed on trapping the Swift Fox. The numbers of these creatures are dwindling fast and the trappings have been extremely high. It has cost so much already to recover their numbers and without intervention we will end up with no Swift foxes at all! What a waste!

How can we be an example of conservation and have a strategy but still allow trapping?

Montana cannot afford to continue trapping and killing the swift fox! It is scientifically and ethically irresponsible!

I am **INSISTING ON A MORATORIUM ON THE TRAPPING OF SWIFT FOX.**

Thank you,



**17 From:** Lynn Roebuck [<mailto:lynnfroebuck@att.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 3:06 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

The Swift Fox is close to extinction in Montana, therefore I am requesting a ZERO quota. Without a 0 quota, conservation and recovery will not work.

Montana has attempted to reintroduce the little cat sized Swift Fox three times now. Approximately 1,000 captive bred swift fox were released into Montana along the Canadian border between 1983-1997. Another roughly 200 were released on to two Native American Reservations in 1998-2002 and 2006-2010. The war on Wolves and Coyotes had formerly decimated the Swift Fox in Montana. In the last census, the Swift Fox in Montana had declined by 2/3!

Swift Foxes are essential for a healthy ecosystem in Montana. Please protect them and don't let them become extinct here in our beautiful and diverse state. Thank you,

Lynn Roebuck

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**18 From:** Terence Gill [<mailto:bfmontana08@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 12:44 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals"

I think the Swift fox, just like some would argue trapping is a large part of our heritage. We should protect them and error on their side. they are and should be a large part of our eco system and need protecting, The only argument against protection them is that someone wants their fur. Not a good reason to endanger their dwindling numbers

Respectfully Terence Gill

760 Grave Cr. Rd.  
Eureka, Mt 59917

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**19 From:** Suzanna McDougal [<mailto:sumac99@icloud.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 9:35 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Please stop trapping for the swift fox. There must be a moratorium . There are too few remaining to have any trapping at all.

Suzanna McDougal  
PO Box 1335  
Hamilton, MT 59840

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**20 From:** Marie Anne Hasenkrug [<mailto:mhasenkrug@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 9:00 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for the 2018-2019 Trapping Proposal

To whom it may concern;

Please stop the trapping of Swift fox. There are too few left, and there is no economic benefit in trapping them.

Marie Anne Hasenkrug

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**21 From:** mary shabbott [<mailto:mshabbott@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 7, 2018 6:20 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for the 2018-2019 trapping proposals

The swift fox in Montana had declined by 2/3!  
Swift fox are protected in Alberta and Saskatchewan. It is illegal to trap them! Not so in Montana.  
An honest conservation strategy for the declining swift fox can NOT include trapping them!  
I INSIST ON A 0 QUOTA FOR SWIFT FOX  
Otherwise CONSERVATION & RECOVERY is a lie.  
Mary Shabbott

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22 From: Michael Becker [<mailto:beckfarm94@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 4:36 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Insisting on a moratorium on the trapping of Swift Fox

We urge you to stop ALL trapping of Swift Fox in Montana! With so few of these wonderful creatures still surviving in our state, there is no environmental or scientific argument that might justify trapping one of the 175 surviving Swift Fox in the State of Montana.

Sincerely,  
Steph and Mike Becker  
Harrison MT 59735

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23 From: Peg Brownlee [<mailto:pegster153@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 2:35 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Moratorium on Trapping of Swift Fox

To the FWP:

I ask that you please place a moratorium on the trapping of swift fox, as they are rapidly declining and in danger. Trapping of them is scientifically and morally irresponsible. I call on you to take the right action and stop the trapping of them.

Thank you.

Peg Brownlee  
Florence, MT

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24 From: Tanya Kasper [<mailto:tkasper@newvistasolutions.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 1:31 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: OPPOSING THE TRAPPING of SWIFT FOX  
Importance: High

Hello,

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is proposing a Swift Fox Conservation Strategy. What they have failed to mention is **swift fox have plummeted to only 175 according to the 2015 census.**

**Yet FWP is not proposing to stop the legal trapping of them!**

---

25 From: Patty Bowers [<mailto:pbowers7777@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 11:01 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Please have compassion!

Pls put a Moratorium on swift fox trapping, Trapping is an evil, heinous form of cruelty that animals slowly suffer n often get eaten alive before they r taken out of the trap. We cannot allow this kind of hideous suffering in this day and age. And especially bc non target and endangered animals and pets are horribly suffering n dying in these barbaric evil devices!!!

We also cannot lose ANY more endangered animals! All are part of the WHOLE!

Pls have COMPASSION.

Pat Bowers

Polson, Montana.

---

26 **From:** Belanger, Virginia [<mailto:VBelanger@manatt.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 11:01 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Please place a Moratorium on the killing of the Swift Fox when only 175 left.

Virginia Belanger  
120 East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10028

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27 **From:** Steve and Amy Greer [<mailto:sbalgreer@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 7:24 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** QUIT ALLOWING TRAPPING OF THE SWIFT FOX

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please please please do not allow ANY quota of trapping the Swift Fox. There are so few left and with the act of trapping being indiscriminate/unethical the Swift Fox may be inadvertently killed anyway.

And please keep me apprised of the proposed mandated 48 hour trap checks. This law is long overdue to at least shorten the time of suffering a trapped animal must endure.

Regards,

Amy Greer

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28 **From:** MaryJane Barrett [[mailto:outlook\\_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com](mailto:outlook_96A04E0853A0CC23@outlook.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 12:11 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Swift Fox Stop the Trapping Please!!

**swift fox have plummeted to only 175 according to the 2015 census.**

7/9/18 FWP, Please stop the trapping of Swift Fox. Please! Why do you allow this to continue? The majority of people in this state want it stopped. Why do a very few minority get to dictate the loss of yet another animal species? Unbelievable!

Thank you.

Mary Jane Barrett

Stephen W. Barrett

Voting address:

995 Ranch Lane

Kalispell, MT 59901

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29 **From:** Hilary Stahl [<mailto:hilarymstahl@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 12:16 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Swift Fox Endangerment

Dear FWP:

Please, please stop the trapping of Swift Fox as their numbers are critically low in Montana! Please, please pay attention!

Sincerely,

Hilary M. Stahl  
Corvallis, MT

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30 From: Matt Francis [<mailto:matt2@cableone.net>]

Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 9:42 AM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Swift Fox Moratorium

Hello,

I want to add my comments and name to the others who are in favor of moratorium on trapping Swift Fox in Montana. I believe in the preservation of wildlife, not the exploitation of animals for human sport or profit. Please end trapping of Swift Fox in Montana.

Thank you,  
Matt Francis

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31 From: MJ [<mailto:elgianne@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 2:58 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Swift Fox Trapping

Dear Sirs

I am asking that you immediately cease all trapping of Swift Fox on public lands.

As a taxpayer I do not want to contribute to this cruel practice and it is my understanding that there are only 175 Swift Fox left in your area.

I'm not quite sure what is going on but I'm VERY upset that animal protections are being discarded.

Stop spending my money on animal cruelty!

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Marjorie Caruso  
330 East 63 Street, Apt 6M  
New York, NY 10065

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32 From: M. Eggum [<mailto:mjeggum@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 6:32 AM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Swift Fox Trapping

The numbers of swift fox reminding n Montana require that they should not be legally trapped. Please take this as a formal request for their protection.

Mike Eggum  
Red Lodge

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33 **From:** Dolores Varga [<mailto:doloresvarga@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 6:12 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Swift Fox

How you could even be thinking of not including a ban on trapping the swift fox as part of your so called conservation strategy when there were only 175 left in 2015??? At a mere \$7.00 per pelt, this is not an economic issue it is cruelty and small minded thinking at it's worst.

Think about actual *conversation* in your conservation plan instead of bending over backwards for the trappers.

Do what's right for once.

Dolores J Varga

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34 **From:** Megan Gardner [<mailto:megan.gardner@outlook.com.au>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 8:35 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Swift Foxes

Dear People

Please commit to a ZERO quota on the adorable cute Swift Fox. Trapping is an extremely barbaric outdated cruel apparatus to inflict on the native wildlife. What a cruel and sad way to treat an animal.

Why in this day and age is trapping still allowed. I thought the United States was a CIVILISED country and President Donald Trump wanted to 'Make America Great Again'

Well I don't find America great while it continues their relentless war on the defenceless Wildlife

Please do not allow Swift Fox to be subjected to such cruelty.

We all have one life and no one wants there's taken away cruelly and without justification.

Thank you

Regards

Megan Gardner

---

35 **From:** Chip Pough [<mailto:yachtbigsmile@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 11, 2018 5:05 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Trapping

Pls put a Moratorium on swift fox trapping, Trapping is an evil, heinous form of cruelty that animals slowly suffer n often get eaten alive before they r taken out of the trap. We cannot allow this kind of hideous suffering in this day and age. And especially bc non target and endangered animals and pets are horribly suffering n dying in these barbaric evil devices!!!

We also cannot lose ANY more endangered animals! All are part of the WHOLE!  
Pls have COMPASSION.

Chip Pough

[Yachtbigsmile@gmail.com](mailto:Yachtbigsmile@gmail.com)

Thai (66) 812 735 242

USA 484 948 9709

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36 From: Virginia Arensberg [<mailto:varensberg@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 9:10 AM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

I am writing in opposition to Swift Fox trapping, as the low numbers do not support a sustainable population. Can we afford to loose any? I question the accuracy of the current population numbers and am concerned that not all that are killed in traps are reported. I know there was a considerable effort and cost for their reintroduction and if they need to be recovered again that is additional cost I propose immediate cessation of the trapping of Swift Fox.

I would appreciate a reply.

Thank you,  
Virginia Arensberg  
414 Eddy Ave  
Missoula, Mt.

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37 From: Melanie Weberg [<mailto:shearessencealpacas@me.com>]  
Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 3:51 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Moratorium on the trapping of Swift Fox

Hello

I am writing in response to your new Swift Fox Conservation Strategy and ask that a moratorium be instituted for this new conservation strategy as the number of these species has dropped perilously low over the last decades even with reintroductions. They cannot sustain the trapping pressure.

Melanie Weberg  
Star Prairie, WI  
952-854-4718

---

38 **From:** Maureen Edwards [<mailto:foranimalsalways@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 Trapping Proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that FWP is proposing a Swift Fox Conservation Strategy, and that despite the fact that the swift fox population has plummeted to 175, according to a 2015 census, FWP is not proposing to stop the legal trapping of them. I am vehemently opposed to the trapping of swift fox in Montana.

Of the estimated 2015 swift fox population, 10% were trapped and killed in the 2016 and 2017 furbearer season. How many more can we afford to lose? 1000 swift fox were reintroduced into Montana along the Canadian border between 1983 and 1997. What did it cost to reintroduce them? And now FWP wants to allow trapping once again???

Montana cannot afford to continue trapping and killing the swift fox, as it is scientifically and ethically irresponsible.

Thank you.  
Maureen Edwards  
Polson, Montana

---

39 From: Bromley Casbara [<mailto:bpcasbara@earthlink.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 9:41 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Swift fox trapping

I just learned that as of the 2015 census, there were 175 swift fox left in Montana.

Trapping what is left of their population does not seem reasonable. About 20 years ago they needed to be reintroduced here, and it seems foolish to trap them to numbers where they will need to be again.

If 18 were trapped in the last two years, that is 10% of their population. If 1,000 were reintroduced in the 90's and we are down to under 200 now, it seems their numbers are low enough to stop trapping. I don't see an argument for trapping with their numbers so low and their fur worth less than \$10.

Please place a moratorium on their trapping to ensure their survival in Montana.

Thank you,  
BP Casbara

---

40 From: Michelle MacKenzie [<mailto:michellehmackenzie@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 9:59 AM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

I write to oppose trapping of the Swift Fox, which has declined in Montana by 2/3.

The state has tried to re-introduce this animal three times yet not banned trapping of them. This makes no sense. These animals are protected in Canada and should be likewise protected in Montana. There must be a 0 quota on trapping of swift fox so that this species can recover. In 2015, the census found only 175 in the entire state! If the number drops lower, we risk genetic inbreeding and other problems.

Please ensure that there is a 0 quota for these animals.

Sincerely

Michelle MacKenzie

---

41 From: [jd@bresnan.net](mailto:jd@bresnan.net) [<mailto:jd@bresnan.net>]

Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2018 10:31 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: MORATORIUM ON THE TRAPPING OF SWIFT FOX

**Please save this dwindling species!**

**MORATORIUM ON THE TRAPPING OF SWIFT FOX**

**Please stop the injury and death of wildlife!!**

### Multiple Species Trapping Comments

1 From: Bromley Casbara [<mailto:bpcasbara@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 10:25 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Bobcat, beaver trapping

Thank you for your interest in reducing the bobcat quota for trapping in region 3. Since they have been going over quota the past years, along with regions 1 and 2, it is a good idea to take the additional 187 killed off quota for next year. I wonder how sustainable killing 1500 a year is.

Secondly, with all the current science on the importance of beavers in the ecosystem, and without knowing their numbers, now is a good time to start requiring quotas and mandatory reporting of their trapping numbers. Allowing unlimited and unreported trapping for 5-9 months a year without knowing how many of these keystone species we have, does not sound like a good plan. Beavers are the key species for arid areas as they help build wetlands and sustain reservoirs in their habitats. Their dams help prevent flooding downstream, filter toxins from the water, and new research shows they keep streams cooler.

Because about 85% of North American fauna rely on wetlands, beavers are necessary for biodiversity.

Thank you,  
BP Casbara

---

**2 From:** Bob Brister [<mailto:bbrister@q.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 12:11 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,  
Sport trapping is an activity that is inherently cruel and indiscriminant. Many if not most Americans consider trapping unethical and an abuse of the public's wildlife.  
Please end sport trapping in Montana.

Sincerely,  
Bob Brister  
220 S Elizabeth St #12  
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

---

**3 From:** Ellen [<mailto:eltjupiter@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** comments for 2018-19 Trapping Proposals

To the Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

I am not a scientist, but I live in the countryside, and try to learn a lot about the land around me. I also moved here fully aware that Montana traditions are different from my own, and have seen over the last thirty years many changes in Montana. This is also part of Montana's history. Native cultures had their traditions. Explorers and mountain men, and then settlers, all brought their own traditions and changed the plant and animal populations, and ultimately, even ecosystems.

I have been a vegetarian for over fifty years, yet here I live with friends and family who eat meat, hunt and fish. They try to support family farms. This is an economic necessity for Montana, to maintain family farms. They try to support organic farms as much as possible, as this minimizes stress on the landscape and in our health. We all understand there are farmers who responsibly use chemicals, and who also protect themselves and their workers with protective gear, who work hard and are conscientious about farming started in the 40's.

No one I know, supports cruelty. And except under careful supervision of trained animal specialists for public health reasons,

none of us can understand how trapping makes any sense in Montana.

The animals presently trapped are important in the ecosystems. I observe right out my window fox catching mice. I have chickens and they are well protected and never bothered. The fox have plenty to eat.



Mountain lions around me help control the deer population. Most of the balance of the ecosystem is unseen, but it is millions of years old, and healthy. As an allowed, public activity, trapping is cruel and unnecessary.

When silk hats came into being in the 19th century, beaver trapping, already having successfully depleted nearly all the beaver out of our country, came to a screeching halt. But prior to that, people didn't think about the hugely critical role beavers played in the ecosystem, and specifically to our river systems, wetlands, plains and mountains. They knew only money could be had from hunting beavers.

We know now that all animals have roles in the ecosystem. How those roles play out in subtle but very important ways is still only somewhat understood.

It is time to step back from this cruel practice of making money off of wild animals, and consider the broader picture again. We don't need domestic animals getting caught in traps. We don't need "non-target" animals getting caught in traps. We don't need to allow the suffering of any animal by being trapped, the stress of being caught as well as crushed limbs and so forth.

We need to let these wild animals do their jobs in their ecosystems. Some current research I have recently learned of, is supporting the observation that "minimum quotas" for species' survival have typically been way under what would sustain a population under disease stress, for example, or other climatic changes such as increases, or new, insect populations, rising air temperatures, reduced forage due weather fluctuations of decades or centuries.

This speaks to the Swift Fox as another example of a very small population that is still being hunted/trapped. This doesn't make any sense. Disease introduced into a population, for instance, can wipe out most animals. Populations need to be well dispersed and of large enough sizes to handle environmental changes and stresses so its population can grow.

Thus, it makes sense to take the Swift Fox off of any lists permitting its being hunted/trapped.

It also makes sense to transition away from trapping. It is not in local traditions to support cruelty and suffering. I have no doubt that a thorough survey of Montana residents would support this.

At the very least, there should be 24 hour routine checks of traps. But, honestly, trapping is just plain cruel, as well as dangerous for non-target animals as well. I hope it doesn't take another situation like the near disappearance of the beaver to demonstrate just how important wild species are in the complexity of ecosystems and our landscape. Or, more statistics of domestic animals and non-target animals caught horribly in traps. So much suffering for pelts and profits.

Thank you for reading this email, and giving it consideration. Farmers and ranchers have continued some practices, and change some practices, and in Montana, I have seen much evidence of commitment to nuanced consideration toward respecting the environment. I think this is a strong characteristic of Montanans, and it is inconsistent with trapping.

Ellen Trygstad

SUMMARY: 1) take the Swift Fox off of hunting/trapping lists

2) 24 hour daily trap checks required

3) Transition away from trapping as a public activity and allow trapping as a last resort only by wildlife officials or designates for public health reasons.

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4 From: oscar123137 [<mailto:kindschyca@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 4, 2018 6:15 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for 2018-19 Trapping Season

As a resident of Montana I would like to see the following changes in trapping rules:

1) 24 hour trap check. There is no reason to allow animals to suffer any longer. Trappers are the ones that set the trap and if it gets inconvenient for them they whine and wail.

2) The Montana FWP trapper advisory committee should include representatives from other professions that are impacted by trapping: e.g. photographers, guides. It is unacceptable that trapping activity that impacts all of us should only be for the benefit of a few.

3) If trappers go over quota one season that quota should be reduced by that amount the next season. It has not been that way.

4) Wildlife belongs to all Montanan citizens But the way it's being regulated trappers think it is only their right. They are incorrect.

It is public trust issue for all.

5) The public should be considered when they speak about this. The ideas being presented should have some bearing on the issue. They have not been accorded That right. When will we have a response About fairness at the table.

6) Stop over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to closing of that region.

Thank you for your time..

Cheryl Kindschy

801 11 th

Helena,Mt.

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6 **From:** Heidi Handsaker [<mailto:onwingsofsong@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 9, 2018 8:13 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals....

Hello!....

I am writing to sincerely urge that you put a moratorium on the trapping of swift foxes, as there is a 2015 estimate of only 175 of them left here in Montana... It surely doesn't make sense to kill an already endangered animal and deem him/her to be worth only around seven dollars, for the animal's fur alone!

I support reducing the bobcat-fur quota from 250 to 150, but it also doesn't make sense that trappers are allowed to kill so far over the quota number, and that extra number needs to be taken out of next year's quota.... This is painfully clear, that if trappers are noticing fewer bobcats and fewer rabbit/hare numbers, it is because trappers have been permitted to kill so many of them for too long --- and as all cats are naturally curious, the bobcats must be easy to lure in and trap/kill..... It seems exceedingly strange that trappers are allowed to control how many bobcats we do or don't have in Montana --- they have the right to say if a fur-bearing animal should live or die, whereas someone such as a hiker or wildlife photographer has no right to say the bobcats should live and be respected, and for much more than just their fur....

I also support the forming of a beaver trapping quota, and a moratorium on killing them at higher elevations.... I also support the relocation and re- introduction of beavers, as they should have some safe spaces in their own native wilderness home.... and if there truly are some biologists employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the biologists should know how important beavers are to our ecosystems....

I still believe that there is an extreme difference between trapping --- and the ethical sustenance hunting of deer and elk.... The hunting seems much more regulated, the killing seems to be more humane and also quicker (with less torture involved), and poaching is taken seriously by FWS.... But trappers are often alone out in the woods, and they could be trapping any animal we know of, since most of their traps are indiscriminate --- how many of them would actually report any 'extra' animals they found in their traps (and released or killed)?.... I very much doubt that they would be so ethically inclined to report an 'accidentally' caught species like a wolf or a Canadian lynx, or a bald eagle....

Thank you very much for listening, and considering....

Respectfully from, Heidi Handsaker....

Billings, Montana.... 🙏🐾

Heidi Handsaker  
[onwingsofsong@aol.com](mailto:onwingsofsong@aol.com)

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**7 From:** Betsy Klein [<mailto:B@planb.foundation>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:10 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

I am writing you in regards to current Montana Furbearer Trapping Proposals.

1. Please support Proposal for Region 3 to decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150. This region historically goes over quota and the animals killed over quota should automatically be deducted from the next year's quota. There should be some retribution for this ongoing violation of going over quota.
2. Please support saving the Swift Fox. For the Swift Fox there should be no quota as they are almost extinct due to over trapping. Having the trapping season overlap their mating season does not allow the population to ever recover and is NOT conservation.
3. Please support pro-beaver measures including:
  - Quotas
  - Mandatory reporting
  - Protections from trapping in the higher elevations
  - Support reintroduction

Beavers are a critically necessary keystone species designed to create wetlands, water reservoirs, fire breaks, slow snow melt runoff and improve our water quality.

The value of their pelts has plummeted for the fewer than 1% of the population who even participate in trapping. So why are we sacrificing our ecosystem for a handful of people and for very little economically?

The time to evolve and save these species is now. Or there will be none left.

Thank you  
Betsy

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Betsy Klein / Founder  
Founder / The Plan B Foundation  
714.478.0353  
[PlanB.Foundation](http://PlanB.Foundation)

*A 501c(3) corporation created to support organizations in their mission to protect, preserve and rescue wolves and wolf dogs through advocacy, education, and funding.*

SAVE THE DATE! Sedona Wolf Week 2019, March 25 - 30.

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**8 From:** [lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com](mailto:lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com) [<mailto:lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 4:10 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Below are my comments on the proposals.

1. Proposal for Region 3: Decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150.

**SUPPORT**

2. Proposal for a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox.

**SUPPORT with a Trapping Moratorium on swift fox**

3. PRO-BEAVER MEASURES

**SUPPORT**

**FOR**

...

- **Quotas**
- **Mandatory reporting**
- **Protections from trapping in the higher elevations**
- **Support reintroduction**

Thank you,

Lynée Beck

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9 From: Bonney Eken [<mailto:bonneyeken@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 11:29 AM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Hello,

As a resident of Montana and a concerned citizen regarding how the wildlife here is managed, please note my following comments.

Region 3 - Yes, reduce the quota from 250-150 BUT also animals killed over quota need to be removed from next year's quota.

Swift Fox - there MUST be a moratorium on the Swift Fox. I dare you to show a picture of this little fox to your children, grandchildren or any child while telling them that they are fair game for trappers.

Pro Beaver Measures. Again there MUST be quotas, mandatory reporting, protections from trapping in higher elevations AND support for re-introduction.

AND last but NOT least, there MUST a 24 hour trap check rule.

Sincerely  
Bonney Eken

341 Eddy  
Missoula, MT. 59801  
406-830-4740

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10 **From:** Richard Firth [<mailto:wrfirth@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 5, 2018 3:18 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

**Dear Sirs:**

Even though I do not reside in Montana, I would not want to live in a state that does not treat its wildlife with the utmost respect and dignity. Since I care for wildlife everywhere I feel it is necessary to comment on the following three proposals dealing with trapping in your state:

**1. Proposal for Region 3: Decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150.**  
**SUPPORT**

**I support the reduction in quota but animals killed over quota need to be removed off the next year's quota, too!**

**2. Proposal for a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox.**  
**SUPPORT but INSIST on a Trapping Moratorium on swift fox.**

**Swift fox populations have plummeted 67% in Montana! THIS IS SIMPLY INEXCUSABLE!**

Swift fox are protected in Alberta and Saskatchewan? It is illegal to trap them! So why in Montana?.

**THEREFORE I INSIST ON A 0 QUOTA FOR SWIFT FOX CONSERVATION & RECOVERY! Otherwise, it is mute.**

**3. PRO-BEAVER MEASURES!**  
**URGE FOR Quotas**  
**Mandatory reporting**  
**Protections from trapping in the higher elevations**  
**Support reintroduction**

Beaver are nature's hydro-engineers. They are a critically necessary keystone species designed to create wetlands, water reservoirs, fire breaks, slow snow melt runoff and improve our water quality. We need beaver. We need safe places for them to go and where they cannot be lethally trapped.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Firth  
10111 Holly Rd.  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

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11 **From:** Paula Ficara [<mailto:paulaficara@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 7:52 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 Trapping Season

Dear Fish & Wildlife Commission Members,

I am writing to add my comments for your Furbearer Trapping Proposals for 2018-2019. If trapping is going to legally exist in the state of Montana, then it needs to be truly and honestly highly regulated. The general public is aware that few trappers who violate trapping regulations are arrested. Trappers must be regularly monitored in their practices in order to assure that the animals they trap suffer as little as possible and if they violate the laws set to enforce this, there need to be serious legal consequences so that they take these practices seriously.

- I request a 24-hour mandatory trap check for ALL wildlife. This not only lessens the suffering of the living beings trapped but helps in protecting pets and children who could accidentally be trapped.
- I request that MTFWP stop the constant “over quota” trapping of wolves and other wildlife when closing that region.
  - Set a lower quota knowing that more animals will be trapped due to lapse in time.
  - Give trappers 24 hours to remove their traps rather than the 48 once the quota has been reached.
  - Restructure MTFWP’s process of attaining the numbers so that time doesn’t lapse between the report and the processing of it.
- I support the bobcat quota decrease from 250 to 150 in region 3.
- I request a zero quota for the swift fox to support conservation and recovery of the species.
- I request that the trapping of beavers be strictly regulated as they play an important role in the health of the ecosystem. Develop a science-based quota that must be adhered to, insist on mandatory reporting, outlaw trapping in the higher elevations, and support reintroduction.
- I request that MTFWP acknowledge that the majority of Montanan’s and tourists who visit Montana do not support trapping (and are, in fact repulsed by it) and that be seriously taken into consideration when considering the Montana Furbearer Trapping Proposals for 2018-2019.
- I request that MTFWP acknowledge and make the final decisions according to the Public Trust Doctrine that Montana wildlife belongs to all Montanans and, again, the majority of Montanans do not support trapping.

Most members of the general public believe trapping to be barbaric and cruel, and it is shocking that it is still practiced in this country. Montana is considered one of the country’s treasures because of its wildlife. The amount of money brought in by eco-tourism is something to be recognized. Please regard the public’s desire to stop this inhumane practice and, at the very least, regulate it in a way that brings some sort of ethics and integrity to the practice.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paula Ficara

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12 From: mary shabbott [<mailto:mshabbott@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 3:26 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: For what it is worth

I support the proposal for region 3 to decrease the bobcat quota. Way too many of these animals have been slaughtered and these are only reported numbers. Animals killer over quota need to be taken off next year’s quota as well.

Swift foxes are In serious trouble. Zero quota! No hunting or trapping.

Beavers are a critical keystone species. No trapping. No murder of these animals.

My comments for what they are worth.

Mary Shabbott

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13 **From:** María Elvira Sagarzazu [<mailto:sagarzazu@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 12:25 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** less killing, safer lands

**Proposal for Region 3: Decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150. But please consider not just the reduction in quota but animals killed over quota that need to be removed off the next year's quota as well.**

**Also we need a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox hand in hand with a Trapping Moratorium on swift fox.**

**As for beavers, please make mandatory reporting and reduce the trapping regulations that put beavers in danger for half the year to 9 months. Beavers have been in our muddy lands far longer than people, they must preserve a part of their environment for their own needs. And we want larger spaces trapping free to avoid the horrible suffering a caught animals helplessly agonizing. This is not a XXI century way to mistreat animals in the country we love to regard as civilized one.**

Sincerely,

**Marina Sagardua**

**Brighton, MA**

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14 **From:** Jeff Rader [<mailto:jlrader2001@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 9:22 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: Open for public comment MT Trapping Proposals!

Dear FWP Personnel,

Regarding the attached proposals impacting furbearer harvest in Montana:

I support the reduction of the bobcat quota in District 3. This was discussed at the Montana Trappers Association district meeting in April and based on numbers provided by the District 3 Biologist, and based on anecdotal observations by fur harvesters in District 3 it was felt that a temporary reduction in the bobcat quota was necessary for the maintenance of a healthy bobcat population.

Regarding the Swift Fox Conservation Strategy, I urge you to go with the best advice of your biologists. Don't fall into the trap (no pun intended) of capitulating to public opinion because this public opinion is driven by a very few, very vocal animal rights activists in the state who have an agenda driven by non-Montana interests.

Regarding the beaver proposal, beavers are alive and well in Montana and if left alone they will reintroduce back into suitable habitat. Again, please listen to your biologists. The Montana Trappers Association is working in conjunction with a federal agency to improve beaver habitat which will ultimately attract beaver back into the area. No action is necessary for the overall beaver population in Montana.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Rader**

P.O. Box 6273

Bozeman, MT 59771

406-580-3954, cell

406-222-9816, home

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15 **From:** paula israel [<mailto:paulaisrael2@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 3:46 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Please ban trapping

Please no animal deserves to be trapped and suffer in pain. Please we must respect this animals that have been here a lot longer that we have. Is it about money, power and tourism?

Show some respect.

--

Paula Israel

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16 **From:** Vicki Markus [<mailto:vicki.markus@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 12:46 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Trapping comments

To Whom it may Concern;

I support your proposal for Region 3. Decreasing the bobcat quota from 250 to 150. However, animals killed over quota need to be removed off of next years quota

I support a proposal for a Conservation Strategy for the Swift Fox. I insist on a trapping moratorium on the Swift Fox. 0 quota for the Swift Fox for conservation and recovery.

I support pro-beaver measures. We need quotas, mandatory reporting and they need protection in higher elevations.

Thank You,  
Vicki Markus

**Vicki Markus**

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17 **From:** [lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com](mailto:lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com) [<mailto:lyneezajacbeck@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 4:10 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Below are my comments on the proposals.

1. Proposal for Region 3: Decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150.

#### **SUPPORT**

2. Proposal for a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox.

#### **SUPPORT with a Trapping Moratorium on swift fox**

3. PRO-BEAVER MEASURES

#### **SUPPORT FOR**

...

- **Quotas**
- **Mandatory reporting**



- **Protections from trapping in the higher elevations**
- **Support reintroduction**

Thank you,

Lynée Beck

**18 From:** Shelley Ruth Wyndham [<mailto:shelley@spiritworldmedicine.co.za>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 10:15 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** "Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals"

1. Proposal for Region 3: Decrease bobcat quota from 250 to 150.

**SUPPORT**

Over 1500 bobcat were reported killed legally throughout Montana this past trapping season. Region 3, located in SW Montana, had a pattern, along with Regions 1 and 2 in western Montana of going over quota from 2010-2015. An additional 187 bobcats were reported killed!

I support the reduction in quota but animals killed over quota need to be removed off the next year's quota, too!

2. Proposal for a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox.

**SUPPORT** but I **INSIST** on a Trapping Moratorium on swift fox.

Who would oppose a "conservation strategy"? Why though is one now being proposed for the little swift fox? In the war against coyotes and wolves, swift fox were formerly wiped out in Montana. Approximately 1,000 swift fox were later reintroduced into Montana along the Canadian border between 1983-1997. Another roughly 200 were released on to two Native American Reservations in 1998-2002 and 2006-2010. However, in the last census, swift fox populations have plummeted 67% in Montana!

(Draft Conservation Strategy) link from [fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife](http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife)

Did you know that Swift fox are protected in Alberta and Saskatchewan? It is illegal to trap them! Not so in Montana.

According to the USFWS the little swift fox are also very easy to trap. Compound that with their very curious nature (Stewart, 1999) and you have the perfect storm to easily award yourself with a whooping \$7 swift fox pelt.

In the 2016/2017 trapping proposals, the quota on swift fox was reduced from 30 to 10 which was reflective of the averages reported trapped and killed over the years since Montana resurrected trapping them. TFMPL expressed concern then to the Commissioners if this kill rate was reflective of the low population or low interest of trappers. Now evidence points to our bigger fear. Montana estimates only 175 swift fox!

We cannot have a legitimate conservation strategy for the declining swift fox encompassing the stated goals for population monitoring, dispersal, and habitat acquisition, yet continue to trap them! Please note the time in which swift fox venture off to new areas is just prior to the mating season, i.e. Feb/March. Montana trapping season on swift fox runs NOV1-MAR1 unless the quota is reached.

**I INSIST ON A 0 QUOTA FOR SWIFT FOX CONSERVATION & RECOVERY!** Otherwise, it is mute.

**3. PRO-BEAVER MEASURES! URGE FOR**

Quotas

Mandatory reporting

Protections from trapping in the higher elevations

### Support reintroduction

Beaver are nature's hydro-engineers. They are a critically necessary keystone species designed to create wetlands, water reservoirs, fire breaks, slow snow melt runoff and improve our water quality. Not surprising, there is no science involved in the current trapping of this invaluable and perhaps dwindling species. Beaver can be trapped for fun and fur 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year, dependent on the region, in unlimited numbers, telling no one, for a mere purchase of a \$29 trapping license in urging for a 24 hour trap check time period. No, this does not mean that we condone trapping, but there is no excuse for trapped animals to linger and suffer, indefinitely as the regulations in Montana permits. Montana. Trapping damage permits are permitted year round. A beaver pelt is selling now for less than \$10. To trap and relocate a beaver pays, \$50! We need beaver. We need safe places for them to go and where they cannot be lethally trapped.

I also urge you for a 24 hour trap check time period. Personally this does not mean that I condone trapping, but there is no excuse for trapped animals to linger and suffer, indefinitely as the regulations in Montana permits.

Thank you.

Shelley Wyndham

143 Kennedy street

chambersburg

PA

17201

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19 **From:** Mary S. [<mailto:mary.sarumi@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, July 14, 2018 5:25 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Dear Commissioners,

Please place a 0 quota on the trapping of the swift fox. Their numbers are too low. Where it the logic to pay to have them reintroduced. What will it cost to recover them now?

Bobcat

Please decrease the bobcat quota from 250 to 150 in region 3

Beavers

Please place mandatory reporting, protect from trapping in the higher elevations and support reintroduction.

Please listen to the majority. We care about our wildlife.

thank you

Mary Sarumi

Great Falls, Mt

## Other Trapping Comments

**1 From:** Kara O'Brien [<mailto:blackcatmeows456@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:05 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

Hey,

I really hope that you'll reconsider allowing people to trap these beautiful wild animals. They deserve to run free. They value their lives as much as we do. Trappers leave these animals frightened and injured, whining and crying, until they decide to play God and take the animals life. Many other wolf pups, coyote pups, and fox kits without a mother. Many of these die from starvation.

Please, please, please do not allow this to continue happening. You are so much better than that and I know that you care about the welfare of our wildlife. I ask you to reconsider allowing this to go on. There's no reason for it.

Thanks for taking the time to read my message!

Kara O'Bryan

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**2 From:** fred [<mailto:cederic739@ptd.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 3:40 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

I can not believe a civilized country still does this crap, Its time to stop the medieval ideas of hunting with traps. Wildlife belongs to everyone and to no one. For you to give trappers the right to kill what ever they want is wrong. This idea long ago wiped out species of animals that can never come back, also torturing animals was a crime when I last heard.. Stop trapping animals like wolves,

---

**3 From:** E Lath [<mailto:missbeth885@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 4:21 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Please. please save these beautiful creatures from the horrors that men are capable of. It's proven that predators like the wolf are vital for a health environment. Please. for the future of the state and the world please fix the trapping policies

---

**4 From:** Gynette Cathey [<mailto:gynettecathey@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 4:32 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

The citizens of America have been quite clear on the subject of trapping.

97% want to see it banned completely. As a voting American I and millions of people want these hunts stopped. The use of my public lands for the continued practice Americans detest is ridiculous. Scientists and ecologists have proven the necessity of these animals. Please listen to the science and the people.

Thank you

Gynette Cathey

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**5 From:** ARKHIPOVA OLGA [<mailto:olya.211268@live.ru>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 3:06 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee,

As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and would like to express my opinion on the 2018-2019 trapping season regulations.

First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The Public Trust Doctrine unambiguously says wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores this simple fact and fails to represent all Montanan's.

Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife.

The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped and all remaining traps should be removed within 24 hours when the quota is achieved.

I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana.

Sincerely,

Arkhipova Olga

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Отправлено из приложения "Почта" для Windows 10

6 From: bigskyhal.excite [<mailto:bigskyhal@excite.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 8, 2018 5:53 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Trapping

This concerns trapping in Montana. We have a legitimate Fish and Game which monitors species health and numbers. We certainly don't need animal rights activists trying to sway the fish and game on trapping matters. Let the department do its job and allow trappers to do theirs. Thank You, Harold Johnson, Plentywood, MT

---

7 From: Lizabeth Johnson [<mailto:aoife9695@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 4:17 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing you to comment on the upcoming trapping season in Montana. Although I am not a resident of Montana, I have in the past visited Montana to enjoy the national parks and public lands there. As a tourist, I find it appalling that Montana's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks office does not monitor trapping more closely. I know that many people in Montana do not support trapping and that they feel their opinions are not taken into consideration by FWP when it comes to setting trapping regulations and quotas. In particular, I have learned that many people feel that trappers should be required to check their traps every 24-hours to prevent the suffering of the animals that have been caught in the traps. In addition, many people I have met have told me that trappers often go over the allowed quota in a particular area because, even when the quota for a specific area has been met, there is no requirement that trappers remove all remaining traps from the area, which leads to more animals suffering and dying. Wildlife and public lands in Montana belong to ALL Montana taxpayers, not just trappers and hunters, so FWP should take ALL taxpayer comments into consideration when setting trapping policies, especially given that some of those taxpayers make a living off of tourism, which industry is harmed when tourists hear or see evidence of cruelty to wildlife.

Sincerely,

Lizabeth J. Johnson

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8 From: Marco Angelo [<mailto:marcoangelomusic@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 12:07 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

Stop this cruelty towards wolves!  
They need to live as we do!

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**9 From:** Regan Downey [<mailto:regan@nywolf.org>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

Dear Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission members,

I urge you to reconsider your trapping proposals for the upcoming season. Traps are indiscriminate and cruelly kill thousands of target and non-target animals each year, often in a slow, painful fashion. MFWP should be considering ways to decrease, and eventually end, their trapping season rather than allowing it to continue. Trapping laws are rarely enforced or regulated, and owners often leave their traps unattended for days, resulting in unnecessary deaths.

Montana's wildlife belongs to all Americans, not just residents of the state of Montana, and should be managed as such. Rather than listening to the wishes of a small but vocal minority of hunters and trappers in Montana, commission members should be relying on the opinions and desires of all US residents, a majority of whom oppose trapping and hunting of non-game animals such as bears, wolves, and bobcats. Montana is one of the last truly "wild" places and to witness the death and destruction that occurs within a state that prides itself on its wildlife is truly devastating. I find much joy in knowing that animals are able to roam freely in Montana, even while I know I will most likely never see these animals. Please consider the monumental responsibility you've been entrusted with in managing wildlife within your state for all US residents, and ban trapping across Montana.

Sincerely,

Regan Downey

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**10 From:** Todd George [<mailto:tageorge6@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 4:32 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

Dear Commissioners,

Please find herein comments regarding the furbearer trapping proposals to be discussed at the August 9, 2018 Wildlife Commissioner's public meeting.

I wish to highlight the inconsistency between the State of Montana's efforts to attract eco tourists and their money to the state (see [WWW.VISITMT.COM](http://WWW.VISITMT.COM)) and the archaic Montana trapping laws which continue to allow a small special interest group to deprive the broader public of safe egress through public lands without the risk of encountering indiscriminate traps. With increasing numbers of people seeking to experience nature and wildlife on public lands, trapping on our lands is no longer a responsible practice and should eventually be eliminated.

I request that the commissioner's thoroughly and regularly consider the the long term economic benefits of tourism and the public risks posed by the placement of indiscriminate traps on public lands while developing trapping plans and regulations.

I request that the Commissioner's acknowledge that the majority of the public are repulsed by trapping and take these sentiments into consideration.

I request that the Commissioner's acknowledge the Public Trust Doctrine that Montana's wildlife belongs to all Montanans and apply the doctrine in all decisions regarding the 2018-2019 trapping proposals.

Proposal for Region 3:

I support the reduction in quota but request that the Commissioner's require that the number of animals killed over the quota be deducted from the next years quota.

Proposal for a Conservation Strategy for Swift Fox:

Swift Fox populations have plummeted and therefore, I request a ZERO quota on Swift Fox. This is essential for any Conservation & Recovery Strategy to be legitimate and successful.

Proposals relating to Beavers:

I request that the trapping of Beavers be strictly regulated given their essential role in the ecosystem. I request the development of a science-based quota system with mandatory reporting and sanctions and the elimination of Beaver trapping in higher elevations.

I request the the Commissioner's put an end to consistent over quota trapping of wolves and other animals by lowering quotas to account for time lapses in reporting, reducing the time to remove traps to 24 hours following quotas being reached and restructuring the process for tracking kills to mitigate the the lapse between reporting and processing to close a region.

I request mandatory 24-Hour trap checks for ALL wildlife to lessen the inhumane suffering inflicted upon trapped animals and to protect families and pets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd George

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11 From: Nic D [<mailto:snobunnie1992@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 6:03 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest.
2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife.
3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region.
4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved.
5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping.
6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine.
7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community.

-Dr. Kelly Dunn

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12 From: Suzy Bailey [<mailto:talulaughbell@aol.com>]

Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 8:56 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

Subject: Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

To whom it may concern:

As a concerned citizen, I'm asking you please not allow trapping to continue. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated, as you suggest. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping!

Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. The Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's, and not just the trapping community.

We need to preserve the wildlife in this country. Many of the animals trapped or not for food, they are for trophies.

Please stop this madness.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bailey

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13 **From:** Growling Oz [[mailto:grOwling\\_Oz@yahoo.com](mailto:grOwling_Oz@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 10:53 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Kindly let them live. First we destroyed their habitat and now those who protected them want to kill them. We are responsible for the equilibrium imbalanced due to mindless interference with the wild life for everything from fashion to food. And it stuns me we call ourselves the superior species and talk about ecosystem and before man the ecosystem was well balanced and you those reading do you have a heart though you are hypocrites and would do anything for money even kill your own folks and kids. Do you feel my pain do you even consider a life is a life did that thought hit you anytime ever. If you wanna kill them for your ignoramus floxinoxinihilipilification reason then we don't need law we'll follow your footsteps and kill the humans we feel are a burden and sure would end up at your doorstep. You people it's of no use for you'd say you are controlling the population of wolves well why don't you relocate them and stop thinking like a petty disdain nudnik human. Relocate them instead of killing else the same applies to human for todays generation know nothing about the ecosystem.

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14 **From:** Sue Menter [<mailto:suementer@comcast.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2018 8:32 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Trapping wolves and other mammals is inhumane and barbaric. If you cannot outlaw this, you should make it as least torturous as possible. Think about how your dog would feel being caught in one of these. It is the same suffering for all the trapped animals.

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15 **From:** deborah van damme [<mailto:natali100@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 6:51 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** PLEASE STOP MURDERING WOLVES

Dear All,

1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest.
2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife.
3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region.
4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved.
5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping.
6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine.
7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community.

Wolves are highly compassionate, intelligent and necessary fellow creatures. Torturing and murdering them should be considered a heinous crime.

Deborah Van Damme

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16 **From:** Robert Sheppard [<mailto:bob.sheppard@blackfoot.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 6, 2018 10:34 AM

**To:** Martha Williams <[fwpdirector@mt.gov](mailto:fwpdirector@mt.gov)>



Cc: FWP General <[fwpgen@mt.gov](mailto:fwpgen@mt.gov)>

Subject: Trapping Education

## FWP and Trappers Distrust

I was asked by an employee of the FWP, at a meeting between trappers and the FWP concerning trapper education, what I expected from the FWP. I replied, to be treated fairly and not be stabbed in the back again as we had been several times in the past. Now this.

We (meaning trappers in the MTA because I represent them) have been stabbed in the back again by the FWP. We worked with you (meaning the FWP) to facilitate a mandatory trapper education course that you wanted. As one of the parts of the agreement, you would allow us to address the trap check time through the education process. The ink had not even dried on the agreement and we had not even had our first meeting with you to work out the details of the education plan, then it is announced that you are forming another Trapping Advisory Committee (TAC) to address "contentious issues such as trap check times". You say to contact Mr. John Vore as the go to guy for more information. In our meetings and numerous conference calls relating to trapper education, Mr. Vore has continually been a push for mandatory trap check times. He did not like the way that it went with our agreement and it appears obvious that he will not let us get a chance to even attempt to work on it. He and others (names available on request) have continually spouted platitudes about the other side having concerns and not being listened to in these matters. I would disagree with that as I have heard plenty of talk, concerns and complaints at way more than just one single meeting from the anti trap crowd. If that is a justifiable complaint, then I expect that when an advisory board for ethics and regulations on attorneys should be formed, it would include non-attorneys and others who have never had any legal work with attorneys, should have an equal say about the situation. After all, there are more non-attorneys than the opposite in our population (I think).

Now a question to consider. If there is to be a TAC for the trappers, to give recommendations to the commissioners, why not a Hunters Advisory Council for recommendations to the commissioners? How about a Fishermen's' Advisory Council to address "contentious issues" and make recommendations to the commission? These advisory councils would of course consist of people that "don't have an agenda but are problem solvers". Why are trappers being singled out?

I submit to you that there are people within your organization, in positions of relative degrees of power and persuasiveness, which are pushing their agenda against trapping. In addition, you are falling into the trap of listening to the "reasoning" that it is to keep things fair and equal for all and for the good of the animals and the department. Think what you will, but history has shown in almost all instances that when one part crumbles, the other parts are weakened and will fall in time. That includes hunting, fishing, tree harvesting, root gathering, access to public (and private) lands and the list goes on.

I am convinced that Mr. Vore and some others are pushing their agenda and are definitely not honoring the agreement that we made to give us a chance to address these "contentious issues" through the education process as the commission and the FWP agreed. That is the reason why we feel that we cannot trust the FWP. I am not alone in this, as I have had numerous conversations with other trappers as well as other sportsmen who see this in the same light. The trappers will honor their end because we gave our word. We will stand behind it even though we feel that we have again been thrown under the bus by the FWP. We will strive to move ahead and have the best trapper education course that we can.

Again, I will reiterate that we will do our best to honor the agreement as it was made and it will not be us that spoils the stew. However, I would suggest that you look within for the future, as I feel that I cannot turn my back on the FWP. I am not alone in this feeling, as there seems to be many other sportsmen and sportswomen out there that feel the same.

After putting the previous part of this letter together, I have since spent many hours with Mr. Vore and others from the department working out details in the mandatory trapper education format. When I put the aforementioned to them there was no substantial denial, just a little double talk. I am confident that the trappers will honorably complete their commitments to this project. I wish I could say the same for the FWP. If for whatever reason, you dispute these claims and would like to discuss them with me, feel free to call me. To catch me at home usually requires calling before 7 A.M. and after 7P.M. as I am usually out and have little to no cell coverage. If you leave a message, I will get back to you as soon as I can.



Sincerely,

Robert Sheppard  
PO Box 129  
Ovando, Mt  
406-793-5885  
[Bob.sheppard@blackfoot.net](mailto:Bob.sheppard@blackfoot.net)

P.S. Recently I have learned that the person picked to lead the TAC is a bonafide Greenpeace member. The Greenpeace organization is recognized by the Federal government as an eco-terrorist organization. No agenda here-Huh?

Some follow-up information since writing the first part of this letter:

Apparently, there was some misunderstanding of the meeting results at Kalispell. My take on that meeting was that we were going to go ahead with our agreement. Some of the commissioners were not in accordance with the modifications to traps at that time, but I was under the impression that with more time (which others and I had wanted anyway) that we would move ahead in the proposed direction. Apparently, the director and others did not see it this way and the TAC was put into effect. When I proposed to talk to Martha Williams about this misunderstanding, I was blown off and told to talk to John Vore. I already told you about those conversations. No communication between trappers and FWP (because the FWP will not). I would say to you Ms. Williams, that there is a gap here that will have an adverse affect on relations between us. I feel strongly that we have tried to cooperate to the best interest of all parties (with the exception of the animal rights agenda) but have been stymied by the leadership in the FWP.

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17 **From:** Stephanie Kaylan [<mailto:durgaomwolf@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 2:08 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Trapping wildlife???????????????? Give me a break. :>{

If you did this to humans, MAYBE humans would wake up & stop this pitiful action.  
When the hell did you feel that you have permission to do such crap?  
Geez Louise.  
Wake up.  
Knock it off.

How dare you-----

SRK  
New Mexico

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18 **To: Fish, Wildlife and Parks**

**Re:** Public Comments on 2018/2019 Furbearer & Trapping Seasons and 2018 Quotas—Proposed.  
Swift fox Conservation Strategy—Proposed. Nongame Check-off Workplan—Proposed.

**From:** Footloose Montana, supported by more than 181,880 Montana voters.

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Parks,

We very much appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Please see our questions and thoughts below, and attached.

**1. When was the last Environmental Assessment (EA) of recreational trapping done, and how were its findings integrated into the decision on setting quota on furbearers for the 2018-19 trapping season?**

Because the public "owns" Montana's wild animals, we should be able to see an assessment of the consequences of recreational trapping that kills tens, or even hundreds of thousands of wild animals in MT every year. Questions need to be addressed including: What are the environmental consequences of unlimited beaver trapping? How have fires of recent years impacted the habitats & living conditions of Montana's furbearers, their prey and other predators? What are the ecological consequences of trapping of tens, or hundreds of thousands of wild animals in terms of species diversity, and ecosystem stability? How does climate change impact Montana's furbearing and other wild animals?

**2. Where is the science that supports FWP's decision to reduce the bobcat quota in Region 3 from 250 to 150?**

Surely FWP has a better and more scientific explanation for why there are apparently fewer rabbits available for bobcats to prey on than simply acting on trappers' observation that this is the case. If not, bobcat trapping, and all other trapping of wild animals in MT should be suspended immediately.

**3. It is imperative to clean up the inconsistencies in trapping regulations.**

Confusing and contradictory regulations continue unchanged. Perhaps it's a given that regulations are largely unenforceable due to the sheer number of hidden traps. However, the trapper bears little or no responsibility for putting the public at risk and causing non-target injury and death. It is the public, not the trapper, who is penalized. Here are some examples:

- It's unlawful to disturb a trap, legal or **illegal**, even if your foot, your pet or working dog, or endangered/protected species or livestock is caught in it, without the trapper's permission.
- Setbacks from recreation areas, campgrounds, fishing access sites, designated trails and trailheads **do not apply to traps set in/on water**.
- Conibears that are 7"x7" or larger that are "originally" placed in water do not require placement within a container to minimize non-target "capture." Nor do these lethal water traps require a setback even if near trails or campgrounds, or fishing access sites.
- Those who are trapping predators and/or non-game are **not** required to report to FWP the "incidental" trapping of dogs. Therefore, there is no reliable reporting of pets and livestock caught in traps.

- In general it remains unclear what department oversees predator and non-game species trapping. No regulations, records or oversight pertain to this kind of trapping. This means anyone can claim they are trapping for coyotes, for instance, when any other species is caught, undermining FWP's collection of funds for furbearer licenses. Crazy as it seems, this lawless trapping is defended as wildlife management. At a time of pressures from all sides on our wildlife, when strides need to be made to better understand the inter-relationship of wildlife and each species' affect on ecosystems, this relentless, unrestrained trapping can only be considered destructive to science and the health of our land. We hope FWP and the governor's office will focus on changing this uncontrolled taking of the public's wildlife for recreation.

**4. To mitigate the damage indiscriminate traps cause, trapped areas should be posted with signs easily visible to warn the public of the danger.**

**5. To reduce the number of injured and killed endangered and threatened wildlife, non-target and domestic animals caught in traps, a mandatory 24-hour trap-check needs to be put in place.**

**6. Beaver trapping should be suspended in this era of fire and drought.**

We are already bearing the high cost and political chaos brought on by fire and drought due to climate change. The natural water engineering that beavers do **for free** in a short time to restore groundwater, recharge aquifers, mitigate forest fires, and provide irrigation and drinking water, as well as provide wetlands that act as nurseries for endangered trout, game, and birds is essential and critically needed. Trapping beaver on public lands, especially in the high country, while concurrently reintroducing them, deepens and accelerates the damage. We cannot afford it.

**7. End trapping of fishers because there is no data on their population and forest fires have reduced their habitat.**

Fishers have never recovered from being trapped out, in spite of reintroduction efforts. Their main food source, porcupines, is in steep decline. There shouldn't be trapping in fisher habitat at all, much less trapping for fishers.

**8. Where is the science that supports integration of recreational trapping into the Swift Fox Conservation Plan?**

Apparently, only parties that support recreational trapping worked on the SFCP, hence the question about the necessity of trapping is not being addressed in the plan, nor were any other, perhaps organizations that oppose trapping involved in the development of the SFCP. It is obvious that the goal of this plan is to not only increase the swift fox population for its own sake so that the species may survive and increase its geographic distribution, but to also increase 'trapping opportunities' for those who like to kill them for fun and trophies. The latter is ludicrous.

Finally, FWP Commission's cover sheet for the "swift fox conservation strategy" notes that, ".... The alternative to implementing this conservation strategy is to have no contemporary strategy ...."

It is unclear why there is no alternative to the proposed plan, which, as a true alternative, has NO recreational trapping as part of the conservation strategy.

## **9. Non-game Check-off Plan:**

Approve and increase funding for non-game wild animals in MT!

Thank you for your consideration of our questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Connie Poten for the board and supporters of Footloose Montana

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## **19 The North American Wildlife Conservation Model and Montana Trappers**

### **The North American Wildlife Conservation Model is one of America's great achievements.**

The North American Wildlife Conservation Model is one of America's great achievements. Conceived by American conservationists including Theodore Roosevelt, George Grinnell, and Gifford Pinchot, the model established hunting and fishing license revenues to study, restore and manage wildlife populations which were depleted from uncontrolled hunting and trapping in the 19th Century.

The model, together with organizations including the *Montana FWP*, the *Boone and Crocket Club*, and the *National Audubon Society*, have done great work in wildlife research, reintroduction, and protection and have restored the populations of many species in Montana. The success of this work provides inspiration for wildlife management worldwide.

### **Of the ten furbearer species trapped in Montana, four are designated Species of Concern**

This success has not happened with Montana's trapping program. Of the ten furbearer species trapped in Montana, four are designated Species of Concern, with populations barely surviving, depleted mostly from over trapping. The problem is not individual trappers, who are mostly responsible and knowledgeable about wildlife. The problem is that there are so few trappers that their license fees don't cover the cost of studying or managing furbearer populations in the state. Recent annual revenues to FWP from our 6,000 licensed trappers are about \$200,000 compared to annual revenues to FWP of \$64,000,000 from over a third of a million hunters and fishermen.

### **Beginning with the territorial legislature in 1877, beaver were protected on public lands.**

Perhaps the most important species, beaver, are trapped with essentially no quotas. Beginning with the territorial legislature in 1877, Montana beaver were protected on public lands.

### **The protection was gradually eased until 1993 when the last quotas were removed.**

The protection was gradually eased until 1993 when the last quotas were removed. Since 1993 the annual number of beavers reported trapped, a FWP measure of beaver populations, have declined from 13,000 to the current 6,000. Should we be concerned? There is no count of beavers in Montana. Before trapping there was an estimated 250,000 beavers. Now, perhaps, there are 20,000.

### **A keystone species, beavers once provided millions of acre-feet of water storage along the 60,000 miles of Montana's mountain creeks.**

A keystone species, beavers once provided millions of acre-feet of water storage along the 60,000 miles of Montana's mountain creeks. Wetlands created by beaver ponds provide water for agriculture, fish habitat, big game habitat, and for many of the birds and animals which attract Montana's \$3.6 billion in tourist revenue.

Half of Montana's endangered species are dependent on wetlands. Mountain beaver dams and their associated wetlands decrease downstream flooding and provide water and fire breaks for firefighters.

Limiting recreational trapping on public land but allowing trapping for official, traditional public safety, property protection and livestock protection would, at no cost, allow furbearer populations to regain their natural levels.

20 Sir:

More and more, restoration practitioners are using beavers to accomplish stream, wetland, and floodplain restoration.

This is happening because, by constructing dams that impound water and retain sediment, beavers substantially alter the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the surrounding stream ecosystems, providing benefits to plants, fish, and wildlife!

The possible results are many, inclusive of :

higher water tables; reconnected and expanded floodplains; higher summer base flows; expanded wetlands; improved water quality; greater habitat complexity; more diversity and richness in the populations of plants, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals; and overall increased complexity of the river ecosystem

In many cases these effects produce the same outcomes that have been identified for expensive river restoration projects.

So, please end the trapping of beavers!

And about trapping in general, as long as this is all allowed in Montana: a 24-hour mandatory trap-check should be introduced now!

Too many non-target animals, including endangered species, pets and livestock, are caught! These all might have a chance to survive if found within 24 hours.

The extreme suffering of these poor sentient beings should not be condoned under any circumstances, but at least a shorter time period for this sadistic suffering would be a move forward toward ending this barbaric 'habit'.

Sincerely: Anna Brewer, Tina Beurtels; John Summers; Henry T.; Vicky Osborn; Teddy Miller Texas  
Amanda Fields; Jurgen Sorens; Rita Suffolk; Mary Dalton; Joseph Pritchard; Kimberley Fields; Simon Sears;  
Beverly Woods; Anita Brewer; Daniel Russel; Petra Stafford; Kim Wright; Daphne Harlington, New Mexico;  
Kathy Stafford, Joan Butterfield, Kenneth Lawson, Myrthe Low, Diane Bremer

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21 Dear FWP Commissioners and Agency representatives,

I urge you to adopt policies and procedures that prioritize beavers and other animals for their ecosystem and economic services. Trapping is an inhumane and unnecessary practice and not appropriate for best practices in the 21st century. I encourage you to ensure that modern-day science and unbiased logic direct your thinking and resulting policy recommendations, rather than allowing yourself to be blinded by the persuasive convenience of tradition.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Lonski  
Missoula, MT

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22 **From:** Diane Bentivegna [<mailto:diane.bentivegna@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:53 PM

**To:** Tim Aldrich <[Cartim8@gmail.com](mailto:Cartim8@gmail.com)>; [dan@sweetwatertravel.com](mailto:dan@sweetwatertravel.com); [lbrower@yahoo.com](mailto:lbrower@yahoo.com); [rstuker@itstriangle.com](mailto:rstuker@itstriangle.com); [scolton@yellowstonelaw.com](mailto:scolton@yellowstonelaw.com); FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** COMMENTS > 2018-19 furbearer trapping season.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking my public comment re: the 2018-19 furbearer trapping season.

I am a tourist. I visit the state of Montana at least 4 times annually to photograph the beautiful wildlife that call it home and I spend a considerable amount of money in your state to do so. I respectfully suggest that wildlife is far more valuable alive than dead.

I am completely opposed to trapping of all kinds, especially wolves. The value and importance of conserving wildlife and ensuring biodiversity is an accepted axiom of the 21st century. The importance of a keystone predator such as the gray wolf to a balanced ecosystem is undeniable, especially considering the rise of chronic wasting disease, etc. That our policies would and should be motivated by the best available scientific principles is critical. No scientific data supports the need for trapping wildlife. None.

Wildlife and other natural resources are a public trust which means that every citizen has an interest and a voice in the management of natural resources. The public trust is a legal concept that implies that we all share equal, undivided interests in America's wildlife. The public trust doctrine imposes limits on governments to ensure public access to and protection of important natural resources. Thus, decision-making and resulting wildlife policy should be developed based on sound science and carried out in a democratic manner responsive to the voice of the people. The overwhelming majority of citizens oppose the barbaric and inhumane practice of trapping.

Thank you for considering my public comment.

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Best regards,  
Diane Bentivegna  
494 South 14 Street  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

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**23 From:** Ashli Carter [<mailto:catsntrees@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 1:49 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

I am an avid outdoors person as well as a lover of Montana, a place where I hike, fly fish, and backpack almost every year. I want to voice my concerns and comments about the trapping season.

I'd like to start by saying that after talking with residents and other tourists that enjoy visiting your state, trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. Sometimes the traps are left for a very long period of time before they are checked and this of course causes all the animals to experience immense amounts of pain, not to mention all the domestic animals caught in these barbaric traps. There should be a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife...this should be a no brainer. I feel also that there is a constant over quota when it comes to trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of the region and this needs to stop. I think that the trappers should have 24 hours or less to remove their traps when their quota is achieved. I feel that the traps should be set up with GPS on them so that they can be monitored and removed if the trapper refuses to comply and then their rights to trap are curtailed as a response.

I do not support trapping in any form and the majority of Montanan's and tourists don't support trapping either. There is no need for this practice in a civilized society, people have jobs and since the economy is doing "so great" there is no need for any kind of side job like trapping, or even if this is a full time job, the market is not there. The wildlife belongs to all

Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and also the tourists that bring in a substantial amount of money to your state, and not just the trapping community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ashli Carter

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24 **From:** Glenn Graham [<mailto:glenngraham76@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 1:43 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018 2019 trapping season

Stop this archaic cruelty. Americans are astonished that you still allow the barbarism of trapping in this century. It's 2018, not 1818. Stop trapping now. It's unethical and should be illegal.

Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, under the Public Trust Doctrine. Most people want trapping to be stopped. There is no justification for it.

Glenn Graham  
267 Lowell Street  
Redwood City  
CA

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25 **From:** Dorothy Filson [<mailto:djfilson@bresnan.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 1:37 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a lifelong, 5<sup>th</sup> generation Montanan, who grew up on a ranch in Broadwater Co. My ancestors homesteaded on Filson Rd. in 1864 in Broadwater Co. and I grew up on that ranch.

I wish to submit the following considerations:

Montana is facing great changes every day. The state has been “discovered” and is becoming home to thousands more people every year. With them they bring their habits and desires which impact all of the state, the environment and the wildlife.

Montana has the good fortune to be the home to many rare and precious species of wildlife, but that is quickly changing. There are many areas of the world who, regretfully, wish they still had the opportunities to observe and enjoy what we, in Montana, take for granted.

With ever increasing encroachment (which changes and destroys habitats), global warming (which reduces food sources) and trapping, some species are on the brink of extinction in the foreseeable future. Because it is often the superior genetic specimens who get trapped, dependent young die from starvation.

As intelligent, proactive managers, hopefully we can do all we can to ensure that Montana can be the best it can possibly be for humans and all inhabitants who are fortunate to call this beautiful place, "home".

I would request that you make these changes for the 2018-2019 trapping guidelines:

Protect beaver as nature's hydro-engineers. They are a critically necessary keystone species that produce wetlands, bodies of water, fire breaks, and slow down the snow melt runoff which improves our water quality. We had many beavers on Beaver Ck. which ran through our ranch and their contribution was invaluable to maintaining a healthy eco-system.

Please enact a 0 quota for Swift Fox. They help keep rodent populations in check. We need to support natural means to solve problems other than poisons, etc. which set in motion another set of problems. The same applies to bobcats.

We have a significant opportunity **NOW** to preserve the grandeur of Montana as it was, and, to some degree, still is. Wildlife watchers bring in \$\$ millions of revenue to Montana each year. The profits from trapping licenses is paltry in comparison, in addition to the problems that traps cause to which there is no true compensation.

I request that you develop and implement a plan that will protect and support wildlife in Montana now and for future generations. **We are at a critical juncture. We will not get a "do-over" once these species have gone extinct. What do we wish our legacy to be for future generations?**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dorothy Filson

PO Box 553

Bozeman MT 59771

406-580-8784

[djfilson@bresnan.net](mailto:djfilson@bresnan.net)

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26 **From:** Larissa Chiriaeva [<mailto:larissa.chiriaeva@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:40 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping season

Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee,

As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and the regulations.

First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The FWP is not for all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores the majority.

Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap closure. The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped once the quota is achieved.



I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana.

Sincerely,

Larissa Chiriaeva, PhD

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27 **From:** Sergey Prokushkin [<mailto:prokush@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:24 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for 2018-2019 trapping season

Dear member of the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee,

As a citizen of the United States, I am deeply concerned with the wolf and other wildlife trapping practices in Montana and would like to express my opinion on the 2018-2019 trapping season regulations.

First of all, let me point out it is well known the majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping at all. The Public Trust Doctrine unambiguously says wildlife belongs to all Montanan's, not just to the trapping enthusiast minority. It appears the Montana FWS systematically ignores this simple fact and fails to represent all Montanan's.

Second, the trapping is not that highly regulated as the agency suggests. There isn't even a 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife.

The constant over-quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region should be stopped and all remaining traps should be removed within 24 hours when the quota is achieved.

I urge you to reconsider your policies toward wildlife trapping in Montana.

Sincerely,

Sergey Prokushkin, PhD

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28 **From:** Michele Ritzinger [<mailto:micheleritzinger@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 9:38 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as suggested, there should be a 24 hr mandatory trap check for all wildlife. Also the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife needs to stop. Trappers have 24 hrs to remove their traps when the quota is achieved. The majority of the people that live in Montana and visit there do not support trapping. The wildlife belongs to all of Montana under the Public Trust Doctrine. Lastly the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's , not just the trapping community. Thank you.

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29 **From:** [didukey@aol.com](mailto:didukey@aol.com) [<mailto:didukey@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 9:46 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community.

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30 **From:** Cathy Corey [<mailto:cathecorey05@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, July 14, 2018 6:19 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

from my iPhone

Why trap wild animals for fur?!

It is cruel and unnecessary!

These animals are necessary to the ecosystem!

Montana needs to improve its

Treatment of all wildlife if it wants

Any tourists!!!!

Cathryn Corey

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31 **From:** Ruth Meredith [<mailto:meredithruth39@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 11:32 AM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Please Stop these and any other killings, let the wildlife live in peace. If you don't, we'll end up with No wildlife left.  
Please have a heart and STOP now.

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32 **From:** hatterashoney45 [<mailto:hatterashoney45@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 12:34 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

I am AGAINST trapping wolves. I find method TRAPS barbaric and unnecessary. They allow animals extreme pain and suffering!! PLEASE, ban these!! They must become illegal. Also, there has to be a better way to coexist with wildlife...more & more of us are encroaching on PUBLICALLY owned open space!

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33 **From:** Gloria Straube [<mailto:bluewaterapp@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 1:42 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. This is a diseased outdated barbaric way of inhumane hunting.
2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. 24-hour is still inhumane as it should be a 12-hour mandatory check. Think about this...
3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. Our wolves have suffered enough through the hands of inhumane human hunters. Lets give them a chance to live out their lives in their world without the constant threat of their lives being taken away from them inhumanely and torturously.
4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved. Again, this is so inhumane as another animal could lose their innocent life in one of these barbaric hold traps.
5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. As a matter of fact, less than 2% of humans overall support this type of trapping. Most people want to view these animals in the wild in their own natural environment. Not viewing the sadistic photos that appear all over social media that have a large following of disgust in humanity.
6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine. It also belongs to the long list of people who call Montana their second home, such as I. Our voices should stand for something. And we want our voices, and the voices of the ones who cannot speak (such as the wolves) to be heard.
7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community. The trapping community humans are stuck in a world of past due inhumane influences that have ravished their minds from the beginning. If they want to hunt, hunt humanely. Trapping is as barbaric as eating people.

Gloria Straube  
Gardiner, MT

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34 **From:** Eileen Sutz [<mailto:seaspiriteileen@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 1:45 PM

**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Cc:** [seaspiriteileen@gmail.com](mailto:seaspiriteileen@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

A large group of family spend a month in Bozeman in December and August so this is even more important to us as we don't want to spend money if this egregious treatment of wildlife continues.

1. Trapping in Montana is not highly regulated as you suggest. We have seen many articles and photos of animals suffering .
2. The time has come for 24-hour mandatory trap check for all wildlife. Trapping is incredibly inhumane. It's banned in every country in the European Union and beyond. This is the very least that can be done .
3. Stop the constant over quota trapping of wolves and other wildlife prior to the closing of that region. This is largely ignored and there's are no methods in place to stop going over the quota and heavily enforce this with jail time and fines.
4. Trappers have 24 hours to remove their traps when a quota is achieved.
5. The majority of Montanan's and tourist don't support trapping. This is FOR SURE!! This small community of trophy hunters are bowed down to while the majority of voters and taxpayers ( and tourists who spend money ) are ignored.
6. Wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the Public Trust Doctrine.
7. Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Trapper Advisory Committee should represent all Montanan's and not just the trapping community.

Thank you for your consideration .

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35 **From:** Cathy Corey [<mailto:cathecorey05@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:06 PM

To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Trapping of wild animals needs to be regulated. Wildlife is necessary for the ecosystem to remain healthy!

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36 From: Rose Marie Lampo [<mailto:rmhillardt@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:06 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Stop killing wildlife. Stop laying traps for wildlife. Just stop.

Rose Marie Lampo  
20548 Soell Dr  
Covington LA. 70433

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37 From: Stephanie Farac [<mailto:sfarac13@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:32 PM  
To: FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
Subject: Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

No more trapping on public lands. Trapping should be ended all together. I spend a lot of money to see these animals in Montana and they are all trapped for pennies. Sickening. Also so cruel and inhumane. Get civilized! Wildlife is in trapping and hunting and trapping is out! I will not spend another dollar there until this is ended.

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38 **From:** Debra Thaisen [<mailto:tropicalfish46@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 2:53 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

To whom this concerns,

I really think that trapping should be banned. It is nothing more than torture to these poor animals. In this day and age..nobody seems to be concerned about the animals disappearing because of trapping and hunting. Without all these animals on this planet we will cease to exist. And the environmental issues are right behind this issue. I am sure you have heard all this before. It will catch up . . .This , to me is extremely heartbreaking to see and witnesses in my lifetime. I strongly believe our planet and all that inhabit here will be in dire straight which .ay come sooner then on thinks. I hope that you really read this and truly think about it..for you live on this planet too. May you find peace in whatever you decided. I only hope you make the decision.

Sincerely,  
Debra Thaisen

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39 **From:** Clifford Hoover [<mailto:clifford8hoover@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2018 8:16 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comments for trapping proposal 2018 - 2019

Please stop trapping Jesus animals

40 **From:** Rhonda Lanier [[mailto:rhonda\\_lanier@yahoo.com](mailto:rhonda_lanier@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 15, 2018 10:15 AM

**To:** Dan Vermillion <[dan@sweetwatertravel.com](mailto:dan@sweetwatertravel.com)>; Logan Brower <[lbrower@yahoo.com](mailto:lbrower@yahoo.com)>; Richard Stuker <[rstuker@mtintouch.net](mailto:rstuker@mtintouch.net)>; Shane Colton <[scolton@yellowstonelaw.com](mailto:scolton@yellowstonelaw.com)>; Tim Aldrich <[cartim8@gmail.com](mailto:cartim8@gmail.com)>; FWP Commission <[FWComm@mt.gov](mailto:FWComm@mt.gov)>

**Subject:** Comments to FWP for 2018-2019 Furbearer and Trapping Season

Dear Chairman Vermillion and Commissioners,

I wish to submit my comments as an American citizen and taxpayer concerning the 2018-2019 Furbearer and Trapping Season. I want to continue seeing them living wild and free on the Montana landscape as do most Montanans and the tourists who visit Montana each year, thereby providing much needed revenue.

- It is an absolute disgrace that still there is no mandatory 24 hour trap check established. The fact that you claim on your website that trapping is highly regulated is just blatantly untrue. Trapping is in fact poorly regulated; no warning signs are required and can be set year round on public lands. And please take this on board: at some point in the future there is certainly a high likelihood that a child will be caught in a trap. And what will be FWP's defense when that happens? It is therefore time that a MANDATORY 24 hour trap check for ALL wildlife be established and strictly enforced as much as humanly possible.
- I am glad to see that Dave Paulie is again serving as an advisor on the Trapping Advisory Committee. I would like to see more people serving on this committee who supports wildlife and best science available, and who wish to uphold the Fair Chase Doctrine, which trappers certainly do not.
- I would remind you that all wildlife belongs to all Americans under the Public Trust Doctrine; wildlife does not exist for the "sport" and entertainment of trappers.

Thank you for considering my comments on the 2018-2019 Furbearer and Trapping season.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Lanier

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