

* HUGH ZACKHEIM
HELENA HEADQUARTERS
HELENA MT

NOW YOU KNOW

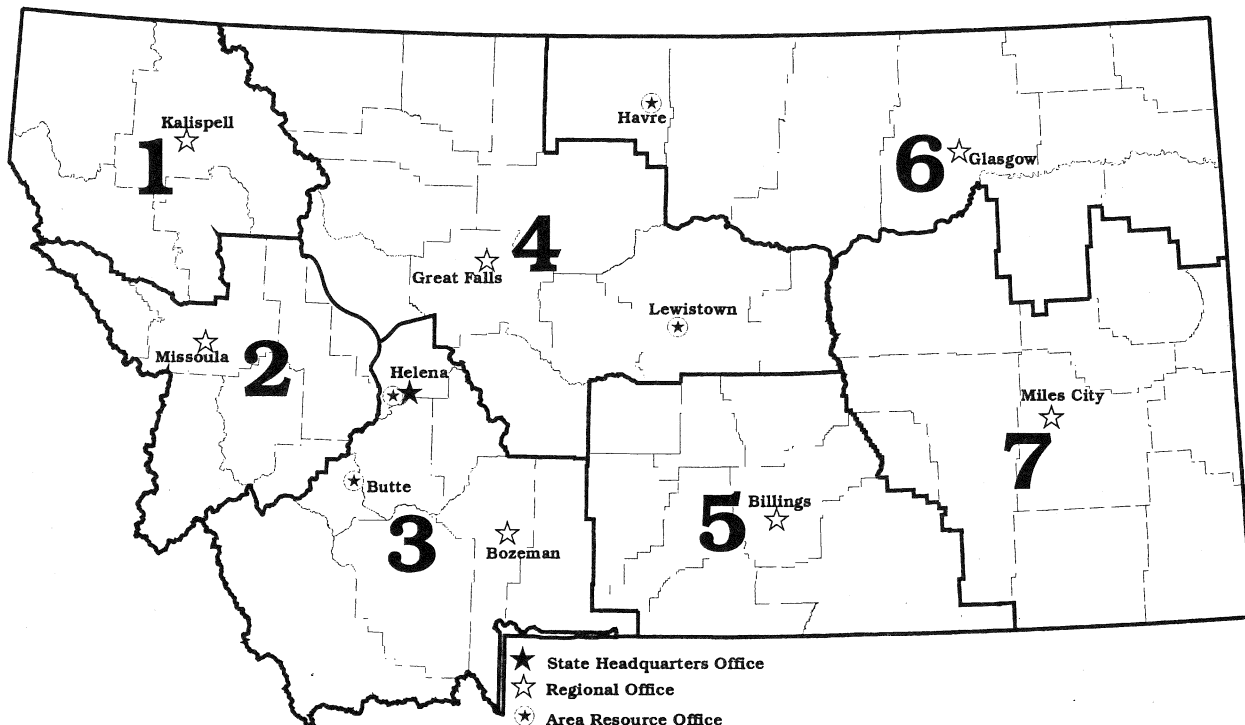
A collection of facts
and figures about . . .



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

September 2005

MAP 1. FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



STATE HEADQUARTERS

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
406/444-2535

REGION 1

490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
406/752-5501

REGION 2

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804
406/542-5500

REGION 3

1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
406/994-4042

Helena Area Res. Office

930 Custer Avenue West
Helena, MT 59620
406/495-3260

Butte Area Res. Office

1820 Meadowlark Lane
Butte, MT 59701
406/494-1953

REGION 4

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406/454-5840

Lewistown Area Res. Office

2358 Airport Road
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
406/538-4658

REGION 5

2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105
406/247-2940

REGION 6

54078 US Hwy 2W
Glasgow, MT 59230
406/228-3700

Havre Area Res. Office

2165 Highway 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
406/265-6177

REGION 7

Industrial Site West
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
406/234-0900

ALSO FIND FWP ON THE WEB AT fwp.mt.gov

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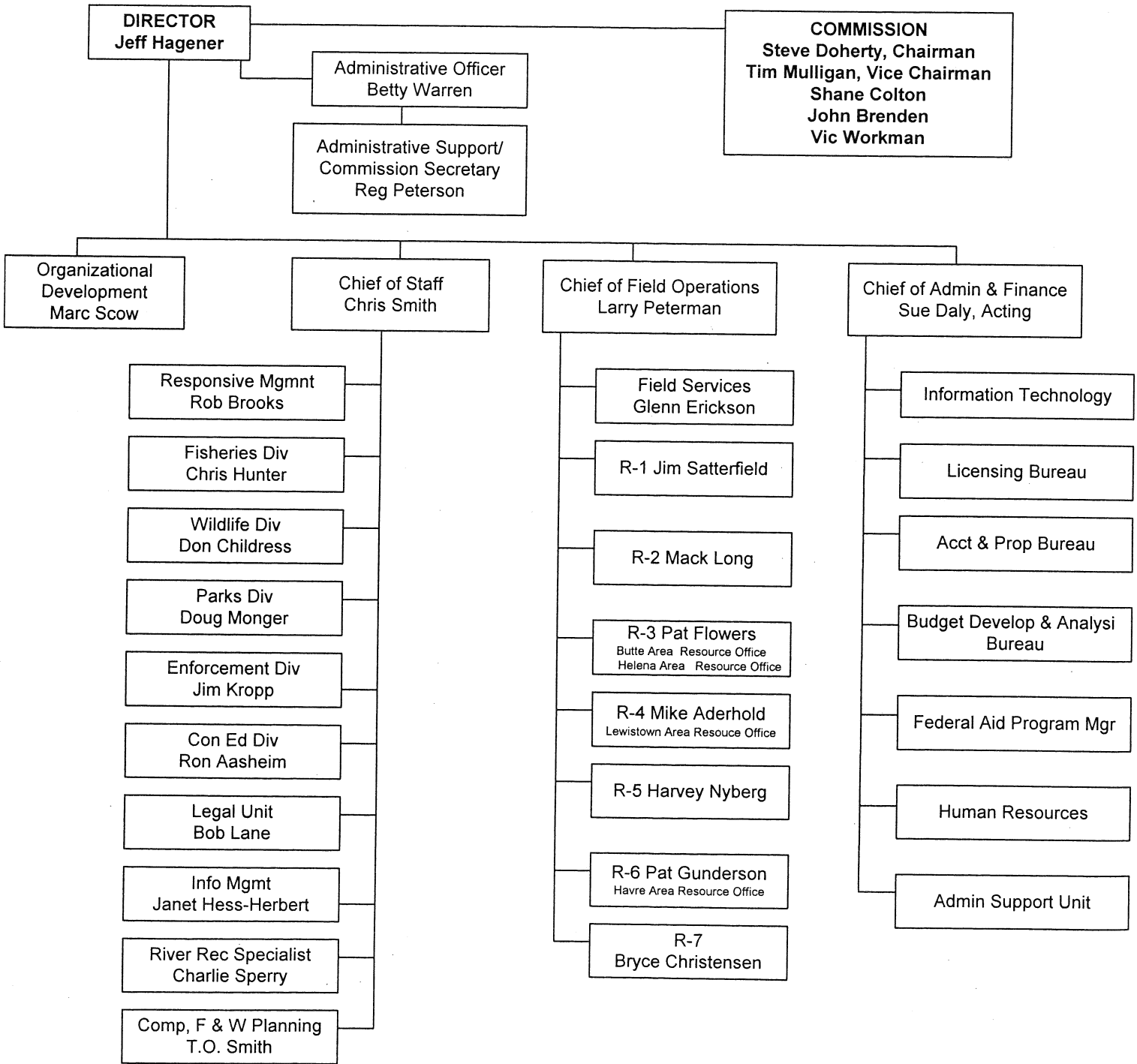
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DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Organizational Chart

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



Administrative Staff

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission

The Governor appoints members of the five-member FWP Commission from five geographical districts. Members serve staggered four-year terms, with three members appointed at the beginning of the Governor's term and two appointed two years after the Governor's term begins. The appointments are to be made without regard to political affiliation and solely for the wise management of the fish, wildlife, state parks and other outdoor recreational resources of the state. At least one member must be experienced in the breeding and management of domestic livestock.

The FWP Commission sets department policy; establishes fishing, hunting, and trapping rules; establishes rules governing the use of lands owned or controlled by the department and waters under the jurisdiction of the department; approves all acquisitions or transfers of interest in land or water; and approves the department budget.

Commission Members

Steve Doherty, Chairman – Great Falls	452-9791
Victor Workman-Whitefish	862-3633
Tim Mulligan-Whitehall	287-3746
Shane Colton-Billings	259-9986
John Brenden – Scobey	783-5394

Director's Office

Director - Jeff Hagener	444-3186
Chief of Staff - Chris Smith	444-3186
Chief of Field Operations – Larry Peterman	444-3186
Chief of Administration & Finance – Sue Daly, Acting	444-3107
Administrative Officer - Betty Warren	444-9089
Commission Secretary – Reg Peterson	444-7826
Organizational Development - Marc Scow	444-5670
Responsive Management Unit – Rob Brooks	444-5786
River Recreation Management – Charlie Sperry	444-3888
Legal Unit – Bob Lane	444-4045

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation

The mission of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation is to provide private support for critical efforts of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and to take a leadership role in preserving and enhancing Montana's natural, cultural and recreational resources for future generations. The Foundation raises funds for charitable and educational purposes, and awards grants to organizations that hold federal tax- exempt status. The Foundation was founded in 1999 and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of business and community leaders. For more information, please contact Spencer Hegstad, Foundation Executive Director, at 406-444-6759 or email him at FWPFoundation@mt.gov



Division Administrators

Helena-based division administrators serve in a staff role, handling major budget matters, program development and policy decisions.

Conservation Education - Ron Aasheim.....	444-4038
Enforcement - Jim Kropp	444-5657
Field Services - Glenn Erickson	444-3196
Fisheries - Chris Hunter.....	444-3183
Parks - Doug Monger.....	444-3750
Wildlife - Don Childress.....	444-2612

Regional Supervisors

Regional supervisors handle on-the-ground implementation of programs and policies.

Region One - Kalispell – Jim Satterfield	751-4566
Region Two - Missoula - Mack Long.....	542-5504
Region Three - Bozeman - Pat Flowers.....	994-4050
Region Four - Great Falls - Mike Aderhold.....	454-5846
Region Five - Billings - Harvey Nyberg.....	247-2951
Region Six - Glasgow – Pat Gunderson	228-3704
Region Seven - Miles City - Bryce Christensen	234-0913



Mission, Goals & Responsibilities

Mission

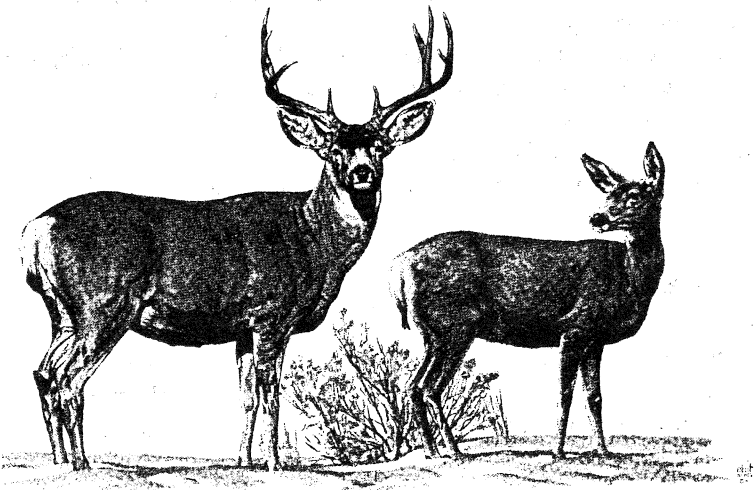
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), through its employees and citizen Commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

Goals

- ☞ Maintain and enhance the health of Montana’s natural environment and the vitality of our fish, wildlife, cultural and historic resources.
- ☞ Provide quality opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment of fish, wildlife and state parks-related resources.
- ☞ Emphasize education, communication and responsible behavior to afford Montanans the opportunity to better understand and participate in the decision-making processes that sustain our natural, recreational and cultural resources for future generations.
- ☞ Create an efficient and effective work environment where priorities are clear and employees are accountable, valued, and recognized for their contributions.

Responsibilities

FWP, by law, supervises the management of all fish, wildlife, game and nongame birds, waterfowl and game and nongame furbearing animals of the state. Further, FWP is responsible for all state parks-related scenic, historic, archeological, cultural and recreational resources of the state.



Director's Office

Director's Office

The Director's Office is responsible for:

- ∟ overall department direction on policy, planning, program development, guidelines, and budgets;
- ∟ serving as a liaison with the Governor's Office and the legislature;
- ∟ interaction with the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, supervision of the seven divisions, and supervision of the seven regional offices;
- ∟ supervision of legal services for the department;
- ∟ information management of the FWP web site; and
- ∟ serving as a liaison with Montana tribes and with other state and federal agencies.

Divisions in Brief

Administration & Finance Division

The Administration and Finance Division is responsible for:

- ∟ accounting;
- ∟ purchasing and property management;
- ∟ personnel;
- ∟ federal funds administration;
- ∟ information technology; including the automated licensing system;
- ∟ licensing and special drawings;
- ∟ budgeting;
- ∟ administrative support.

Conservation Education Division

The Conservation Education Division is the information and education arm of FWP. The Division acts as a clearinghouse for information on FWP activities, and is a contact point for people requesting information about FWP business, including state and national media. Several educational and recreation-safety programs are administered from this division, including:

- ∟ hunter and bow hunter education programs and the shooting range development program;
- ∟ boating, snowmobile and off-highway vehicle safety programs;
- ∟ youth-education programs;
- ∟ FWP's official magazine MONTANA OUTDOORS;
- ∟ hunting, fishing and trapping regulation booklets, films and videos.

Enforcement Division

The Enforcement Division is responsible for:

- ∟ enforcing all fish, wildlife and parks laws of Montana, FWP rules and Commission regulations;
- ∟ enforcing statewide boating, snowmobile and off-highway vehicle rules and regulations;
- ∟ enforcing private-property laws and regulations as they apply to fishing and hunting;
- ∟ regulation of commercial uses of wildlife such as alternative livestock ranches, shooting preserves, zoos and menageries.

Field Services Division

The Field Services Division is responsible for:

- ∟ FWP Lands Programs;
- ∟ Design and Construction Bureau;
- ∟ Hunter Access Enhancement Programs;
- ∟ Landowner-Sportsman Relations Program;
- ∟ Game Damage Assistance Program;
- ∟ Aircraft Unit;
- ∟ Livestock Loss Reimbursement Program; and
- ∟ "Crossing the Barriers" accessibility program.

Fisheries Division

The Fisheries Division is responsible for the management and perpetuation of Montana's fish and other aquatic resources. Montanans and visiting anglers want optimum fish populations in Montana waters and diverse, high quality angling opportunities. These opportunities are being provided through:

- ∟ a strong commitment to habitat protection;
- ∟ a "wild fish" management philosophy for streams and rivers;
- ∟ an efficient hatchery stocking program for lakes and reservoirs;
- ∟ a management emphasis on remaining native species;
- ∟ adequate public access for angling; and
- ∟ an increased emphasis on public education and participation in management.

Parks Division

The Parks Division's objective is to provide diverse recreational opportunities while preserving important historical and cultural resources within Montana. The division is responsible for the development, maintenance and operation of all:

- ∟ state parks;
- ∟ affiliated lands;
- ∟ fishing access sites;
- ∟ the snowmobile program;
- ∟ state trails programs; and
- ∟ other recreational and community grant programs of the department.

Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division is responsible for protecting, enhancing and regulating the wise use of the state's wildlife resources for public benefit now and in the future. Wildlife Division programs provide management of:

- ∟ big game (12 species);
- ∟ upland game birds (10 species);
- ∟ waterfowl (about 40 species);
- ∟ furbearers (10 species);
- ∟ nongame (over 678 species);
- ∟ Montana's 109 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA);
- ∟ Habitat Montana programs; and
- ∟ state issues related to endangered and threatened wildlife in Montana.

Fishing and Water Resources

Handy Information and Statistics

Licensing Information

- Resident youths 12-14 years of age, as well as disabled residents and resident seniors 62 years of age and older, need only a conservation license to fish and hunt upland game birds and migratory waterfowl. Resident youths under the age of 12 do not need a license to fish.
- Residents age 15 to 61 need a fishing license.
- The 1999 Legislature passed House Bill 534 requiring anglers to purchase a Warm Water Game Fish Stamp license to possess any warm water fish caught in designated waters. Funds raised are earmarked for operation of the new Fort Peck Hatchery. Resident youth under 15, disabled anglers, and seniors are exempt. For a list of waters requiring the stamp, check the fishing regulations on the FWP web site at *fwp.mt.gov* or the fishing regulations booklet available at all FWP offices. (Zackheim)
- Nonresident youths under 15 do not need a license, if accompanied by an adult holding a valid Montana fishing license, but the combined fish limit for the two anglers cannot exceed the legal limit for one licensed angler. (Zackheim)

Who Fishes in Montana

- Residents comprise about 53 percent of the state's fishing license buyers. (McFarland)
- About 33 percent of all adult Montana residents purchase fishing licenses annually. (McFarland)
- In total, 227,562 residents and 200,647 nonresidents held Montana fishing licenses in 2003. (McFarland)
- Nonresidents reported 800,723 angler days in 2003, or 29.2 percent of the angling pressure. Montana residents accounted for 70.8 percent of the total angling pressure.

What They Catch

- Over 11,000 individual waters in Montana support 90 species of fish. Of these, 57 are native to the state and one is a possible native. The remaining 32 are introduced species. Of the total 90 species, more than 30 are classified as game fish under Montana statutes. (Zackheim)
- Eighteen species are listed as "species of special concern" in Montana, including the pallid sturgeon which was listed as a federally endangered species in 1991; the white sturgeon, listed as endangered in 1994; and the bull trout, listed as a federally threatened species in 1998. Other species that have been petitioned to be listed are: paddlefish, sicklefin and sturgeon chub, fluvial Arctic grayling, redband trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and burbot.
- Over 80 percent of angler days are spent seeking trout and salmon.
- The state fish is the cutthroat trout, which has two subspecies: the Yellowstone and the westslope.

Where They Fish

- Rivers receiving the heaviest fishing pressure in 2003 were sections of the: Missouri, Madison, Big Horn, Bitterroot, Clark Fork, Gallatin, and Yellowstone rivers. (*Statewide Angling Pressure* estimates)
- Those lakes receiving the heaviest fishing pressure in 2003 were: Fort Peck Reservoir, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Holter Reservoir, Georgetown Lake, Flathead Lake, Hauser Reservoir, Lake Koocanusa and Hebgen Lake. (*Statewide Angling Pressure* estimates)
- Most fishing activity, over 29 percent, took place in FWP Region 3 in south central Montana, including waters near Livingston, Bozeman, Dillon, Helena, and Butte.
- Waters most heavily fished in FWP Region 3 included the Madison River, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, the Upper Yellowstone River, Hebgen Reservoir, the Gallatin River and the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers.
- About 15 percent of the angling in 2003, or 424,703 angler days, occurred in the rivers and reservoirs of the Upper Yellowstone River drainage upstream of and including the Big Horn River.
- Anglers spent 2.7 million days fishing in Montana in 2003, down from an all time high in 1999 of 3.18 million days.
- There are more than 15,000 miles of cold-water rivers and streams in Montana and about 1,900 coldwater lakes totaling 400,000 acres. (McFarland)
- Montana contains approximately 6,100 miles of warm-water rivers and streams, and thousands of warm water lakes covering an estimated 350,000 acres, from the massive Fort Peck Reservoir to an untold number of small ponds. (McFarland)
- There are 320 Fishing Access Sites in Montana. Please refer to the Fishing Access Site Brochure for details about these site. The FAS Brochure is available from all FWP regional offices and the FWP headquarters office.
- Improved boat ramps are available at 160 FAS sites. (Kuser)
- Fees: Day-use fees are not charged at fishing access sites. Camping is allowed at 104 sites. Overnight camping fees are charged at 52 sites:
 - \$7 per night if someone in the camping group has a fishing license, or
 - a \$12 fee, if no one in the group has a license.
- The Parks Division develops and maintains fishing access sites. The Fisheries Division is responsible for locating and acquiring new sites. Current fishing access site acquisition funds originate from \$1 from each resident fishing license and \$5 from each nonresident fishing license. Of the funding generated, half is used for the operation and maintenance of existing FAS sites and the other half is used to acquire new sites.

When They Fish

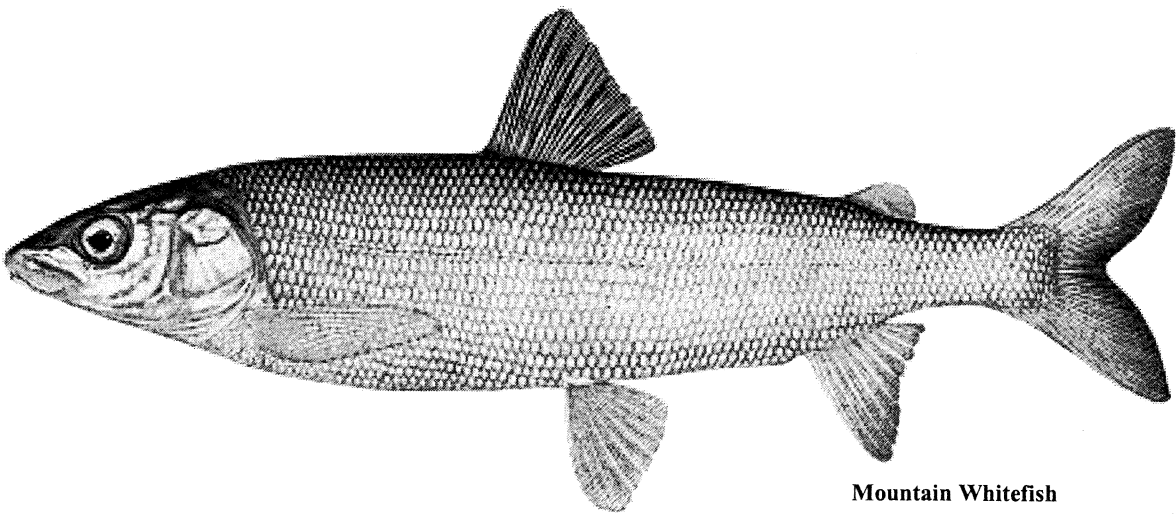
- July sees the most angling action with 539,401 angler days in 2003, or 19.7 percent of the year's activity. June and August each saw 16.2 percent of the total year's angling pressure and only two percent of the year's angling occurred in November. (McFarland)
- The general fishing season in Montana runs from the third Saturday in May through November 30. All waters in the Eastern Fishing District and most lakes, reservoirs and larger rivers are open year-round.

Economics of Fishing

- ☞ In 2004, anglers spent an estimated \$235 million in Montana on transportation, lodging, food, guide fees and other direct purchases, excluding license fees. Nonresidents account for more than 50 percent of that total, and stream and river anglers account for almost 70 percent of total expenditures. (Brooks)
- ☞ For every dollar spent by the FWP Fisheries Program, anglers spend \$10.70 benefiting local communities and the state’s economy. (Brooks)

Blue Ribbon/Wild & Scenic Rivers

- ☞ A total of 1,139 miles of 15 individual streams and rivers in Montana are classified as “Blue Ribbon” streams in Montana. They are the: Beaverhead, Big Hole, Bighorn, Blackfoot, Boulder, Flathead (mainstem), Flathead (South Fork), Gallatin, Kootenai, Madison, Missouri, Rattlesnake Creek, Rock Creek, Stillwater and Yellowstone. (Zackheim)
- ☞ Montana contains 368 miles of federally designated "Wild and Scenic" rivers. These rivers are the: Upper Missouri (149 miles from Ft. Benton to the Fred Robinson Bridge), North Fork of the Flathead (58 miles from the Canadian Border to its confluence with the South Fork), Middle Fork of the Flathead (101 miles from the confluence of Strawberry and Bowl creeks to its confluence with the South Fork), and South Fork of the Flathead (60 miles from the confluence of Young's and Danaher creeks downstream to Hungry Horse Reservoir). (Hess-Herbert)



Mountain Whitefish

TABLE 1. FISHES OF MONTANA

Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA status	Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA status
Arctic Grayling	N	G	S	C	Interior Redband Trout	N	G	S	
Bigmouth Buffalo	N				Iowa Darter	N			
Black Bullhead					Kokanee Salmon	P	G		
Black Crappie					Lake Chub	N			
Blue Sucker	N		S		Lake Trout	N	G		
Bluegill					Lake Whitefish	P	G		
Brassy Minnow	N				Largemouth Bass		G		
Brook Stickleback	N				Largescale Sucker	N			
Brook Trout		G			Longnose Dace	N			
Brown Trout		G			Longnose Sucker	N			
Bull Trout	N	G	S	T	Mottled Sculpin	N			
Burbot	N	G			Mountain Sucker	N			
Channel Catfish	N	G			Mountain Whitefish	N	G		
Chinook Salmon		G			Northern Pike	N	G		
Cisco		G			Northern Pikeminnow	N			
Common Carp					Northern Redbelly Dace	N			
Creek Chub	N				Northern Redbelly X Finescale Dace	N		S	
Emerald Shiner	N				Paddlefish	N	G	S	
Fathead Minnow	N				Pallid Sturgeon	N	G	S	E
Flathead Chub	N				Peamouth	N		S	
Freshwater Drum	N				Pearl Dace	N			
Golden Shiner					Plains Killifish				
Golden Trout		G			Plains Minnow	N			
Goldeye	N				Pumpkinseed				
Goldfish									
Green Sunfish									
Green Swordtail									

Fishing and Water Resources									
Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA status	Common Name	Native	Game Fish	Species of Concern	ESA status
Pygmy Whitefish	N	G			Sturgeon Chub	N		S	
Rainbow Smelt					Tiger Muskellunge		G		
Rainbow Trout		G			Torrent Sculpin	N		S	
Redside Shiner	N				Trout-perch	N		S	
River Carpsucker	N				Utah Chub				
Rock Bass					Variable Platyfish				
Sailfin Molly					Walleye		G		
Sand Shiner	N				Western Mosquitofish				
Sauger	N	G	S		Western Silvery Minnow	N			
Shortfin Molly					Westslope Cutthroat Trout	N	G	S	
Shorthead Redhorse	N				White Bass				
Shorthead Sculpin	N				White Crappie				
Shortnose Gar	N		S		White Sturgeon	N	G	S	E
Shovelnose Sturgeon	N	G			White Sucker	N			
Sicklefin Chub	N		S		Yellow Bullhead				
Slimy Sculpin	N				Yellow Perch				
Smallmouth Bass		G			Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	N	G	S	
Smallmouth Buffalo	N								
Spoonhead Sculpin	N		S						
Spottail Shiner									
Stonecat	N								

Index to codes:
N - Native to Montana

P - Possibly native to Montana
G - Game fish

S - Species of Concern
E - Endangered
T - Threatened

C - Candidate species

Table 2
STATE OF MONTANA--FISH RECORDS (As of March 4, 2005)

FISH	MONTANA NATIVE	LENGTH	WEIGHT	GIRTH	SITE	ANGLER	BAIT TACKLE	DATE
Arctic Grayling	•	20"	3.63 lbs.	11.7"	Washub Lake	Glenn Owens	Wet Fly	6/28/03
Bigmouth Buffalo	•	40.7"	57.75 lbs.	32.5"	Nelson Reservoir	Craig D. Grassel	Bow & Arrow	6/4/94
Black Bullhead		15.5	2.33 lbs.		Lower Flathead River	Darwin Zemple, Jr.	Chicken Liver	4/4/94
Black Crappie		16.7"	3.13 lbs.		Tongue River Reservoir	Al Elser		1973
Bluegill		11"	2.64 lbs.	17"	Peterson's Stock Dam	Brent Fladmo	Worm	6/3/83
Blue Sucker		29.75"	11.46 lbs.	18.5"	Yellowstone River Miles City	Doug Askin	Worm	10/7/89
Brook Trout			9.06 lbs.		Lower Two Medicine Lake	John R. Cook		1940
Brown Trout			29 lbs.		Wade Lake	E.H. "Peck" Bacon		1966
Bull Trout (Dolly Varden)	•	37"	25.63 lbs.	25"		James Hyer	Trolling Line	1916
Burbot	•	39"	17.08 lbs.	16.25"	Missouri River Wolf Point	Jeff Eugene Iwen	Minnow	4/18/89
Channel Catfish	•	34.2"	27.17 lbs.	23.2"	Castle Rock Lake	Ed Ellertson	Night Crawler	4/26/98
Chinook Salmon		38"	31.13 lbs.	26.5"	Fort Peck Reservoir Face of Dam	Carl L. Niles	Diamond King Spoon	10/2/91
Cisco		17.25"	1.75 lbs.		Below Ft Peck Powerhouse	Curt Zimmerman	Phelps floater & small minnow	5/19/01
Coho Salmon		25.5"	4.88 lbs.		Fort Peck Reservoir Face of Dam	Irven F. Stohl	Daredevil	5/29/73
Common Carp		38"	40.2 lbs.	30.5"	Nelson Reservoir	Jared S. Albus	Bow & Arrow	5/24/98
Cutthroat Trout	•		16 lbs.		Red Eagle Lake	Wm. D. Sands		1955
Flathead Chub	•	11.2"	0.59 lbs.		Thornton Pond	Douglas Jordan	Worm	4/29/01
Freshwater Drum	•	29.5"	21.59 lbs	26.5"	Fort Peck – Ghost Coulee	Matt Washut	Smelt	5/3/03
Golden Trout		23.5"	5.43 lbs.	13"	Cave Lake	Mike Malixi	Lure	7/16/00
Goldeye	•		3.18 lbs.		Nelson Reservoir	Don Nevtriv	Jig/Power Crawler	7/4/00
Green Sunfish		8.6"	0.56 lbs.		Castle Rock Reservoir	Roger Fliger	Popping Bug	6/19/91
Kokanee Salmon		26. 8"	7.85 lbs		Hauser Lake	John Bomar	Jig	9/23/03

Table 2 Continued

Lake Trout			42 1/2"			42.69 lbs.	31 1/2"	Flathead Lake	Ruth Barber	Flatfish	6/23/04
Lake Whitefish			26 3/8"			10.08 lbs.	17"	Lower St. Mary Lake	Theo Hamby	Worm	6/24/95
Largemouth Bass			22"			8.29 lbs.	17.75"	Many Lakes	Adam Nelson	Spinner Bait	6/11/99
Largescale Sucker	•		23"			5.06 lbs.		Kootenai River	Loren Kujawa	Night Crawler	5/12/96
Longnose Sucker	•					3.27 lbs.		Marias River	Ray Quigley	Worm	5/8/88
Mottled Sculpin	•					0.05 lbs.		Belt Creek (North of Neihart MT)	Brad Sullivan	Worm	7/30/01
Mountain Sucker	•		6.2 "			1.60 oz.		Beaver Creek Reservoir	Robert Garwood	Worm	4/23/01
Mountain Whitefish	•		21.14"			5.09 lbs.	13 7/8"	Kootenai River Below dam	Mervin Fenimore	Cut Bait	9/15/87
Northern Pikeminnow	•		27 1/8"			7.88 lbs.		Noxon Rapids Reservoir	Darrel Torgimson	Lure	5/28/91
Paddlefish	•		6'5"			142.5 lbs.	41.75"	Missouri River Near Kipp Park	Larry Branstetter	Snagged	5/20/73
Northern Pike						37.5 lbs.		Tongue River Reservoir	Lance Moyer		1972
Pallid Sturgeon	•					60 lbs.	27.5"	Yellowstone River Near Sidney	Gene Sattler		5/13/79
Peamouth	•		13.7"			1.05 lbs.		Flathead Lake	Paul Teichman		9/16/02
Pygmy Whitefish (Tie record)	•		9"			0.23 lbs.		Little Bitterroot Lake	Kevin Hadley Troy Fraley	Glow Hook Maggot	2/27/05
Pumpkinseed						0.95 lbs.		Milnor Lake	Tim Colver	Worm	7/9/85
Rainbow Trout			38.62"			33.1 lbs.	27"	Kootenai River	Jack G. Housel, Jr.	Lure	8/11/97
Rainbow-Cutthroat Hybrid Trout			35.75"			30.25 lbs.	27.5"	David Thompson Brdg Ashely Lake	Pat Kelley	Bait	5/16/82
Redside Shiner	•		6.5"			0.10 lbs.	3.75"	Lost Lake	Josh Ahles	Worm	8/21/01
River Carpsucker	•					6.42 lbs		Intake – Irrigation Canal	Bill Odenbach	Jig & Worm	5/22/00
Rock Bass			8.6"			0.57 lbs.	8.1"	Tongue River Reservoir	Don Holzheimer	Rubber Jig	6/1/89
Sauger	•		28.2"			8.805 lbs.	15.1"	Fort Peck Reservoir	Gene Moore	Whistler/Minnow	12/12/94
Saugeye						15.66 lbs.		Fort Peck Reservoir Squaw Creek	Myron Kibler	Minnow	1/11/95

Table 2 Continued

Shortnose Gar	•	34"				7.02 lbs.	12"	Fort Peck Dredge Cuts	Ron Gulbertson	Speared	12/22/03
Shorthead Redhorse	•	20.25"				4.68 lbs.		Marias River Near Loma	Ray Quigley	Worm	4/14/85
Shovelnose Sturgeon	•	39.5"				13.72 lbs.	18"	Missouri River Near Virgelle	Sidney Storm	Minnow	4/19/86
Smallmouth Bass		21"				6.66 lbs.	17"	Fort Peck Reservoir	Mike Otten	Crawdad	7/30/02
Smallmouth Buffalo	•	32.2"				32.63 lbs.	28.5"	Nelson Reservoir	Richard Liesener	Bow & Arrow	6/4/94
Stonecat	•	10"				0.54 lbs.		Milk River	Dale Bjerga	Worm	6/16/96
Tiger Muskellunge		45.25"				27 lbs.		Lebo Lake	Dan Dupea	Jig	10/2/94
Tiger Trout		20.6"				4.04 lbs.	12"	Bear Lake	Joe Sobczak	Wooley Bugger	2/9/97
Utah Chub						1.81 lbs.		Canyon Ferry Reservoir	Eugene Bastian	Rat Fink/Maggots	2/5/92
Walleye		31.5"				16.63 lbs.	21.25"	Fort Peck Reservoir	Danny Spence	Minnow	1/21/00
White Bass		16.25"				2.25 lbs.	12 1/8"	Missouri River South of Bainville	Vernon Pacovsky	Minnow	9/23/98
White Crappie		18.5"				3.68 lbs.		Tongue River	Gene Bassett	Worm	5/10/96
White Sturgeon	•					96 lbs.		Kootenai River	Herb Stout		1968
White Sucker	•	21 5/8"				5.33 lbs.	12.75"	Nelson Reservoir	Fred Perry	Spear	2/10/83
Yellow Perch		14.5"				2.37 lbs.		Ashley Lake	Vernon Schmid	Jig/Maggots	3/31/88
Yellow Bullhead		11.8"				0.93 lbs.	7.5"	Tongue River Reservoir	Carl Radonski	Bait	5/24/98

Montana Fish Hatcheries

The first Montana hatchery began operation in 1908 at what is now Washoe Park Trout Hatchery at Anaconda. Currently, nine hatcheries are operated by FWP; eight are state owned and one, Murray Springs at Eureka, is owned by the Corps of Engineers and operated under contract by FWP. Murray Springs is a mitigation hatchery to partially offset the loss of fishing opportunities due to the construction of Libby Dam. Three other federal hatcheries at Bozeman, Creston and Ennis are operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fort Peck Hatchery will be completed and in operation by FWP in the fall of 2005.

Stocking Fish

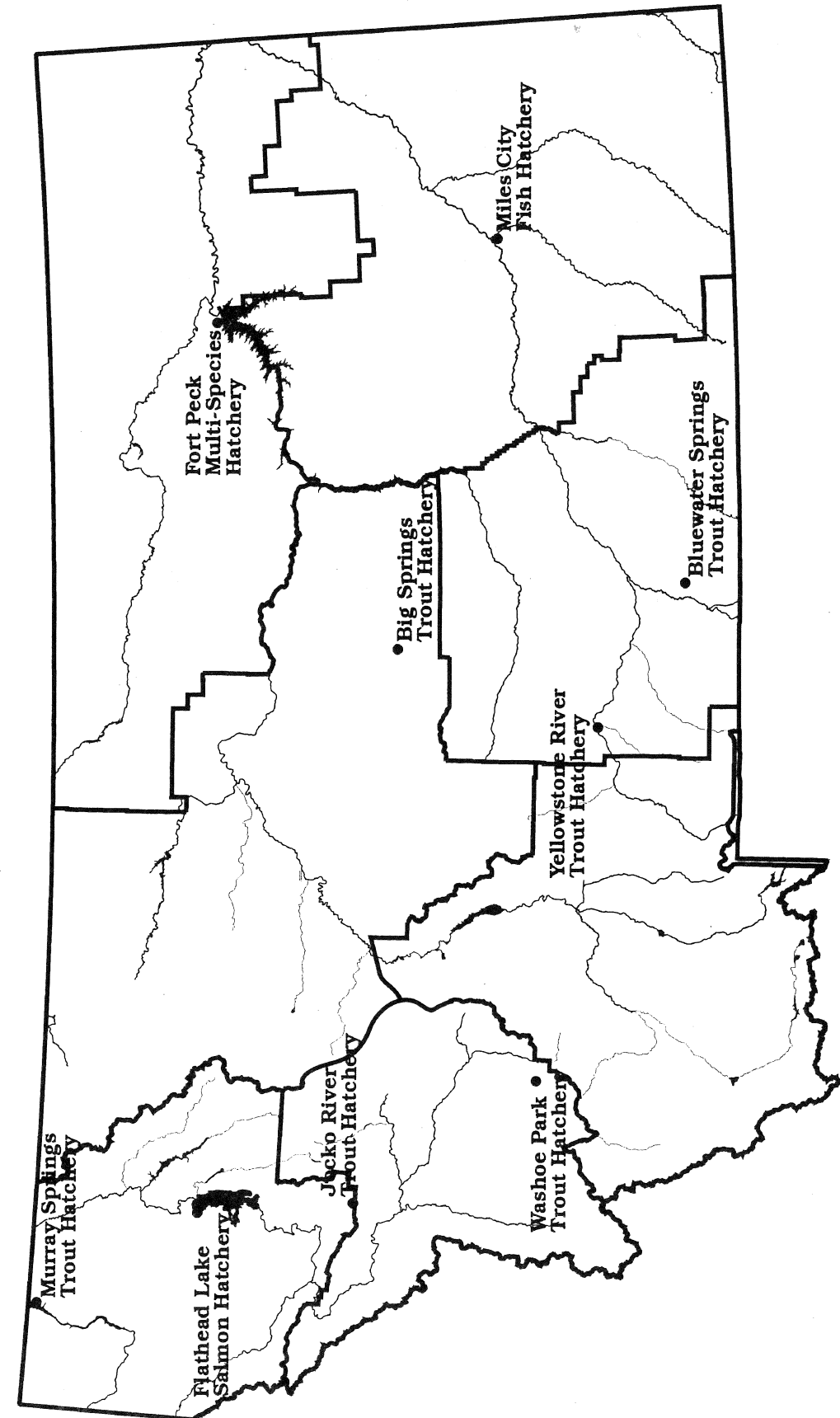
- ☞ In 2004, Montana waters were stocked with over 46.8 million fish. Approximately 6.2 million were cold-water species. Of these, over 3 million were rainbow trout and about 1.9 million were kokanee. Of the 40.5 million warm water species stocked, 39.4 million were walleye. (Bertollotti)
- ☞ Approximately 95 percent of the fish stocked in Montana waters annually are raised in FWP's nine fish hatcheries and planted in lakes and reservoirs.
- ☞ Maintaining naturally producing wild trout populations has been a priority in Montana since 1974 when a controversial research project on the Madison River showed planting of hatchery trout to be detrimental to wild populations in rivers and streams.

TABLE 3. MONTANA HATCHERIES SUMMARY

Name	Location	Year operation began	Type of facility	Species held
Murray Springs	Eureka	1978	Broodstock Production	westslope cutthroat rainbow trout kokanee salmon
Flathead Lake	Somers	1913	Production	westslope cutthroat kokanee salmon
Jocko River	Arlee	1948	Broodstock	rainbow trout
Washoe Park	Anaconda	1908	Broodstock	westslope cutthroat
Giant Springs	Great Falls	1924	Production	rainbow trout kokanee salmon
Big Springs	Lewistown	1921 1960 lower unit	Production	rainbow trout cutthroat trout brown trout kokanee salmon
Yellowstone River	Big Timber	1921	Broodstock	Yellowstone cutthroat
Bluewater Springs	Bridger	1949	Production	rainbow trout Yellowstone cutthroat Chinook salmon
Miles City	Miles City	1983	Production	warm water species (walleye, northern pike, bass, catfish, etc.)
Fort Peck	Fort Peck	2005	Production	warm water species (walleye, northern pike, bass, catfish, etc.)

The primary purpose of broodstock facilities is to produce eggs for production hatcheries. Production facilities raise fish to the age at which they will be stocked.

MAP 2. STATE FISH HATCHERIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN MONTANA



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
2004 Montana Stocking Summary
TABLE 4

Start Date: 01/01/2004 End Date: 12/31/2004

Species	Fry	Fingerlings	Catchables	Ttl Fish	Weight	Distr Cost
Artic Grayling	133,290	27,940	42,719	203,949	14,468	289,260.00
Black Crappie	0	0	14	14	10	0.00
Bluegill	0	12,000	0	12,000	37	360.15
Channel Catfish	0	0	9,300	9,300	203	779.75
Chinook Salmon	0	192,882	0	192,882	4,466	916.76
Cutthroat W S1	145,687	439,407	25,073	610,167	21,244	5,785.94
Cutthroat Y1st	4,000	271,007	1,059	276,066	11,176	1,791.68
Kokanee	1,383,370	518,171	0	1,901,541	6,211	2,322.72
Largemouth Bass	0	134,125	3,075	137,200	4,489	2,635.66
N. Pike X Muskie	0	0	2,400	2,400	12	188.50
Native Rainbow T	0	1,027	0	1,027	43	87.20
Northern Pike	40,000	415,000	0	455,000	278	379.70
Pallid Sturgeon	0	0	5,588	5,588	1,026	414.80
Rainbow Trout	175,801	2,613,531	248,066	3,037,398	235,521	3,563,544.00
Rainbow X Cutthroat	28,288	0	0	28,288	34	54.40
Sauger	300,000	49,378	0	349,378	42	17.65
Shovel Nose Sturgeon	72,500	0	0	72,500	2	0.00
Smallmouth Bass	0	35,075	0	35,075	93	1,176.81
Walleye	37,799,550	1,697,106	147	39,496,803	2,242	5,537.71
Yellow Perch	0	0	944	944	11	0.00

Table 5 - Fish Stocking By Year - Montana 1995 - 2004

Species	YEAR											TOTAL BY SPECIES SINCE 1995
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		
Arctic Grayling	131,262	3,700	243,511	25,139	58,896	63,355	229,236	273,664	727,019	203,949	1,959,731	
Black Crappie	0	0	600	0	0	0	0	1,500	1,800	14	3,914	
Bluegill	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600	0	600	12,000	14,200	
Brook Trout	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	14,000	16,500	
Brown Trout	5,000	60,459	64,113	152,604	86,165	134,820	89,915	88,208	88,019	0	769,293	
Channel Catfish	0	5,400	0	27,771	36,530	52,900	14,600	7,800	13,100	9,300	167,401	
Chinook Salmon	17,500	40,647	118,200	0	26,070	195,332	26,072	401,974	325,694	192,882	1,344,371	
Cutthroat WSL	733,223	607,181	706,587	596,446	484,867	635,689	720,319	482,168	630,661	610,167	6,207,308	
Cutthroat YLST	477,022	274,129	209,856	245,552	146,646	270,151	266,865	224,809	277,968	276,066	2,669,064	
Fathead Minnow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	791	0	0	791	
Kokanee	2,637,174	3,067,667	3,644,470	1,972,183	1,380,587	2,621,606	2,881,984	2,651,071	1,536,429	1,901,541	24,294,712	
Largemouth Bass	165,075	9,865	125,885	73,902	134,272	61,140	58,660	71,663	32,934	137,200	870,596	
N. Pike x Muskie	0	0	8,500	10,646	5,210	8,200	0	10,275	0	2,400	45,231	
Northern Pike	200,000	540,017	200	1,231,800	9,000	61,612	91,289	193,650	252,785	455,000	3,035,353	
Pallid/other Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0	6,276	0	486	6,088	5,588	18,438	
Rainbow Trout	3,558,417	3,428,627	3,793,580	3,368,388	3,739,763	3,163,128	4,503,447	4,049,914	3,838,333	3,037,398	36,480,995	
Rainbow x Cutthroat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,040	21,505	28,288	71,833	
Sauger	0	0	0	0	205,024	0	17,551	23,823	662,123	349,378	1,257,899	
Cisco	0	0	6,440,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,440,000	
Smallmouth Bass	37,984	94,475	63,000	122,976	88,960	70,165	86,993	8,646	43,450	35,075	651,724	
Walleye	29,792,318	36,642,822	59,686,170	36,075,067	50,816,783	35,194,077	32,668,989	34,857,443	32,668,116	39,498,803	387,898,588	
Yellow Perch	0	2,300	4,700	0	0	0	39,020	18,575	37,181	944	102,720	
Annual Report Total:	37,754,975	44,777,289	75,109,372	43,902,474	57,218,763	42,538,451	41,696,540	43,388,500	41,166,305	46,767,993	474,320,662	

Fisheries Historical Perspective

- 1864 First Montana Territorial Legislature passes a law limiting the means of taking trout to “a rod or pole, line and hook.”
- 1876 Use of explosives to kill fish is outlawed.
- 1889 Federal government introduces brown, rainbow, and brook trout into streams in Yellowstone National Park that drained into Montana.
Montana’s first game wardens are hired.
The first warm water hatchery is constructed at Miles City.
- 1895 The first Fish and Game Commission in Montana is established.
- 1907 Washoe Park Trout Hatchery built in Anaconda.
- 1912 Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery built in Somers.
- 1921 Big Springs Trout Hatchery built in Lewistown.
Yellowstone River Trout Hatchery built in Big Timber.
- 1922 Giant Springs Trout Hatchery built in Great Falls.
- 1924 Resident hunting and fishing license sales reach 56,113.
- 1928 The Fish and Game Commission establishes a daily limit of 40 fish. No more than five fish can be less than seven inches long, and the limits applied to all species combined. The season is closed from March 15 to May 20.
- 1939 Commission reduces the limit for trout to 15 fish.
- 1940 Fish and Game develops its first five-year stocking program for each hatchery.
- 1947 Jocko River Trout Hatchery in Arlee is obtained.
First fish biologist is hired.
- 1949 Bluewater Springs Trout Hatchery built in Bridger.
- 1955 Montana Water Pollution Control Law is passed.
- 1958 Biologists from Fish and Game, Montana State College (now Montana State University), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service develop the nation's first stream rating map.
- 1959 The Commission reduces the daily limit to 10 trout or 10 pounds and one fish.
- 1963 Stream Protection Act is passed.
- 1970s Number of hatcheries decrease from 13 to 8.
- 1973 Fish and Game Commission changes the stocking policy. FWP no longer stocks catchable-sized trout in streams with healthy wild trout populations.
The Montana Water Use Act is passed.
- 1974 Fish and Game stops stocking trout in rivers and streams.

REP ID: 50707

REF ID: 09002

- 1975 The Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act is passed.
- 1976 Murray Springs Fish Hatchery constructed.
- 1977 Expansion of the Fishing Access Site Program; portion of anglers license fee is earmarked to purchase new sites.
- 1978 The Fish and Game Commission establishes the first special management area by adopting a catch-and-release regulation on a portion of the Madison River.
Yellowstone River in-stream flow reservations adopted by Board of Natural Resources and Conservation.
- 1980 Computer files were built to catalogue lake and stream names and locations, survey information, fish planting records, data from fisherman logs and data from fishing pressure surveys.
- 1981 Concern over the Yellowstone River paddlefish population prompted dramatic regulation changes for that fishery. Economic sanctions against Iran brought paddlefish roe to the surface as a viable alternative to Caspian Sea sturgeon roe.
- 1983 FWP assumed management of the warm-water fish hatchery in Miles City from the federal government.
The Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and FWP filed a lawsuit against ARCO, under federal and state Superfund laws, to recover damages for injuries to natural resources in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin caused by the release of hazardous substances from decades of mining and smelting.
- 1984 In a precedent setting decision, the Montana Supreme Court declared the waters of the Beaverhead and Dearborn rivers open to public recreational use. These decisions were based on the state constitution that stated waters could be used for recreation without regard to whether the state or a private person owns the bed of the stream.
- 1985 Protection of public access to Montana’s streams and rivers was achieved through legislative action.
FWP Fisheries Division initiated a comprehensive two-year study to determine the economic value of fishing in Montana.
- 1991 Montana signs a five-year agreement designed to ensure the survival of the last river-dwelling population of Arctic grayling in the lower 48 states. The pact is centered on the recovery of grayling in southwestern Montana's Big Hole River.
- 1992 The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission approves an emergency closure on bull trout fishing west of the Continental Divide to stem a dramatic decline in native bull trout populations.
- 1993 FWP institutes an Aquatic Education Program.
- 1994 Whirling Disease is found in the Upper Madison River.
Montana enters into a cooperative paddlefish management plan with North Dakota to coordinate management and research efforts in both states and ensure recreational fishing for the species can continue.
- 1995 Governor Racicot appoints a Whirling Disease Task Force to advise the state on how it should address threats presented by the disease.
Future Fisheries Improvement Program established to enhance stream rehabilitation efforts.
- 1996 Family Fishing Adventures begins to train anglers, loan equipment, create a free fishing day, and increase accessibility.
Three schools in Montana begin pilot testing the national “Hooked on Fishing-Not Drugs” program.
- 1997 White sturgeon found in the Kootenai River listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arctic grayling and bull trout federally categorized as candidate species for listing.
The second statewide warm-water fish management plan was adopted. The 10-year plan covers 1997-2006.

- 1998

Partial settlement of the Natural Resources Damage Lawsuit with ARCO on the upper Clark Fork River near Butte for \$215 million. Lawsuit was filed nearly 20 years ago.
- Bull trout throughout the Columbia River basin, including Montana, were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- 2000

A new River Conflict Policy and boating rules were adopted by the FWP Commission, including no-wake zones in northwestern and west-central Montana and Tongue River Reservoir State Park.

Signing of the federal Water Resources Development Act will aid in the development of the \$20 million warm-water hatchery on 100 acres of federal land south of the dredge cuts below Fort Peck Dam.

Three major rivers were closed to angling for part of the summer due to drought conditions. In one month, FWP responded to over 90,000 inquiries about the drought and fire conditions on the web page and a telephone hot-line.
- 2001

FWP Commission adopts new rules on the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers to reduce crowding and user conflicts.
- 2002

FWP develops an Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

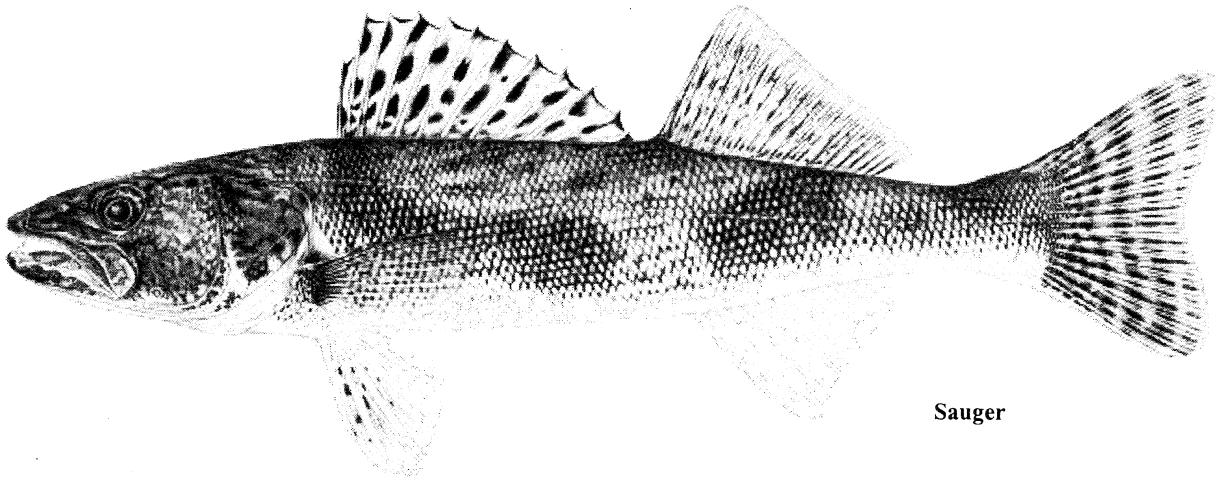
A recreation management specialist is hired and a River Recreation Advisory Council is appointed.
- 2003

Fort Peck warm-water hatchery construction begins.

There are 320 fishing access sites in Montana.

FWP surveyed some of Montana's 4,200 warm-water prairie streams for the first time with the help of federal State Wildlife Grants.
- 2004

The first year of an experimental, tightly managed bull trout fishing season on three waters in Western Montana. Bull trout were federally listed as a threatened species in 1998.



Sauger

Montana's Wildlife

Handy Information and Statistics

Overview of Wildlife in Montana

- ⌞ A total of 637 vertebrate species are known to inhabit Montana. This total includes 413 bird, 108 mammal, 85 fish, 13 amphibian and 18 reptile species. Of the 413 bird species documented to occur in the state, 268 breed here, and 145 stop here during seasonal migrations or are occasional visitors to Montana.
- ⌞ The state animal is the grizzly bear; the state bird is the meadowlark.
- ⌞ The online field guide to Montana's wildlife species can be found on the FWP web site at fwp.mt.gov under Fieldguide.
- ⌞ The list of wildlife species "of concern" in Montana can be found at fwp.mt.gov under Wild Things. It includes:
 - 6 amphibians
 - 56 birds
 - 18 fish
 - 27 mammals

Game Animals (12 species)

- ⌞ Game animals include mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, black bear, woodland caribou, grizzly bear and wild bison. *There are currently no open hunting seasons for woodland caribou, grizzly bear or bison.*

Upland Game Birds (10 species)

- ⌞ Upland game birds include blue grouse, spruce (Franklin's) grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, chukar partridge, wild turkey and ptarmigan. *There currently is no open hunting season for ptarmigan.*

Migratory Game Birds (40 species)

- ⌞ Migratory game birds include ducks, geese, brant, swans, sandhill crane, coots, common (Wilson's) snipe, tundra swan, and mourning doves.

Fur-bearing Animals (10 species)

- ⌞ Fur-bearing animals include marten, otter, muskrat, fisher, mink, beaver, bobcat, wolverine, northern swift fox and lynx. *There are currently no open trapping seasons for lynx or swift fox.*

Predatory Animals: (4 species)

- ⌞ Predatory animals include coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunk).
- ⌞ Residents are not required to have a license to trap or hunt predatory species.

Nongame Wildlife: (678 species)

- ⌞ Nongame wildlife according to state law are: "Any wild mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation of this state."
- ⌞ The vast majority of Montana's wildlife species (86.6 7 percent) are in this category: 56 fish species, 96 mammals, 413 bird, 13 amphibian, 18 reptile, 124 mollusk and 22 crustacean species. (Heidi Youmans)

- ☞ Nongame species that are sometimes hunted and that may be pursued without a hunting license include tree squirrels and rabbits.
- ☞ Nongame species sometimes trapped due to the commercial value of their fur, and that may be trapped by Montana residents without a trapping license, include: badger, raccoon and red fox. Nonresidents must have a trapping license to trap these species, but not to hunt them.
- ☞ Lists of all of the wildlife species that occur in Montana can be viewed or downloaded from the Montana Natural Heritage Program website (<http://nhp.nris.mt.gov>)
- ☞ Information about the Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy and projects supported with State Wildlife Grant funds can be found at fwp.mt.gov on the wild things page. Sixty fish and wildlife species are currently assessed by FWP as being in the greatest need of conservation, based on declining populations or their presence on the federal threatened and endangered species lists.
- ☞ The Montana Bird Distribution Database (MBD) can also be accessed on the Montana Natural Heritage Program website noted above.
- ☞ A field checklist of Montana birds can be viewed and downloaded at fwp.mt.gov by clicking on Wild Things and scrolling to the bottom of the page to the Field Checklist of Montana Birds.
- ☞ Estimated wildlife populations in Montana include:
 - ☞ Moose 4,800
 - ☞ Sheep 5,300
 - ☞ Black Bear 15,500
 - ☞ Antelope 220,500
 - ☞ Mountain Lion 1,800
 - ☞ Elk 138,496
 - ☞ Mule Deer 327,931
 - ☞ Whitetail Deer 237,496

Habitat Conservation

- ☞ Montana’s wildlife management program emphasizes conservation of the habitats that support Montana’s wildlife populations.
- ☞ Montana's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy looks at species on a broad scale, showing how all species are connected when tied to specific habitats, and how conserving the habitat of one species can benefit many species.

Habitat Montana

- ☞ The goal is to preserve and restore important habitat for fish and wildlife. FWP conserves habitat on private land using the purchase of conservation easements as one tool. In 2005, the legislature made the program permanent. Each year the program generates \$2.8 million for land easements, leases or acquisitions. About 258,500 acres have been protected to date.

Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program

- ☞ The goal is to increase upland game bird habitat and hunting access. Landowners can benefit from a cost-sharing program, while improving their land and making it more inviting for Montana’s upland game birds. Projects should comprise at least 160 contiguous acres. For more information, call the nearest FWP office, or search for the Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program on the FWP home page at fwp.mt.gov and use the on-line application form.

Montana Wetlands Legacy Program

- ☞ The goal is to create and protect wetlands. Through the Wetlands Legacy Program, FWP helps link landowners who own wetlands and riparian areas with the experts who know how to preserve them and with potential project funding sources. For information, contact the FWP Montana Wetlands Legacy Coordinator at 406-994-7889.

Living with Wildlife

- ☞ *Living With Wildlife* brochures with suggestions for preventing or solving conflicts between humans and wildlife in residential settings may be obtained at FWP offices or downloaded from FWP’s website at fwp.mt.gov

Wildlife-Related Recreation

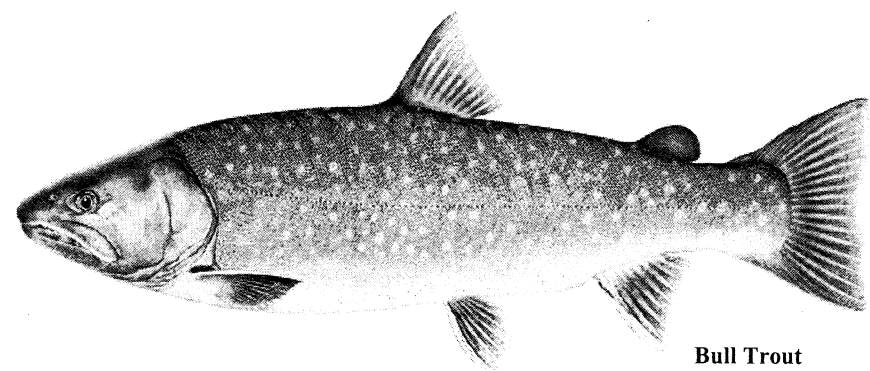
- ☞ An estimated 511,000 nonresidents and 341,000 residents participated in wildlife viewing in Montana, according to 2001 national survey. Nonresidents were defined in the survey as those who traveled more than one mile from home to engage in the activity, as compared to those who participated near and around their homes.*
- ☞ According to national sources, trip-related expenditures for wildlife viewing activities in Montana were about \$207,496,000 in 2001.*
- ☞ Wildlife is integral to Montana traditions and way of life. In 2001, 63 percent of Montanans age 16 and older hunted, fished or watched wildlife, while nationally 39 percent of citizens 16 and older hunted, fished or watched wildlife.*
- ☞ Nationwide, the research showed that 18 percent of U.S. residents hunted or fished and 31 percent engaged in wildlife-watching.
- ☞ About 40 percent of Montanans aged 16 and older hunted or fished, while 52 percent participated in wildlife-watching activities including observing or photographing wildlife, or viewing wildlife at backyard bird feeders.

Endangered, Threatened and Candidate Species In Montana Under the Federal Endangered Species Act

- ☞ Endangered Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- ☞ Threatened Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
- ☞ Candidate Sufficient information on the biological status and threats exist to list as threatened or endangered.
- ☞ Non-essential Experimental Population (XN) A population of a listed species reintroduced into a specific area that receives more flexible management under the Act.
- ☞ Critical Habitat (CH) Specific areas (i) within the geographic area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to conserve the species and (II) that may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon determination that such areas are essential to conserve the species.

- ☞ The following animals are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service as Threatened, Endangered and Candidate Species in Montana.
- Endangered - black-footed ferret (XN), whooping crane, least tern, pallid sturgeon, white sturgeon (Kootenai River population);
- Threatened - gray wolf (XN), grizzly bear, bald eagle, piping plover (and CH in certain counties), bull trout (Columbia River basin and St. Mary-Belly River populations and proposed CH in certain counties), Canada lynx ;
- Candidates for listing as threatened or endangered - Arctic grayling (fluvial population), yellow-billed cuckoo (western population);
- Proposed Critical Habitat – bull trout streams, lakes and reservoirs in the St. Mary-Belly river basin.

- ☞ More information about these species can be found at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's web site under Threatened and Endangered Species –Montana.



HUNTING INFORMATION

Licensing

- ☞ In 2004, FWP's automated licensing system (ALS) issued more than 1.6 million licenses to hunters and anglers. That includes 148,000 deer licenses and 122,000 elk licenses.
- ☞ Resident and nonresident youths may purchase or apply for a license if they will be 12 years old before or during the season for which they are applying.
- ☞ Those born after January 1, 1985, are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season.
- ☞ To hunt waterfowl, a federal duck stamp and a Montana Migratory Bird License is required at age 16.
- ☞ You do not need a federal duck stamp to hunt mourning doves, common (Wilson) snipe or sandhill cranes (a crane permit is required, see current waterfowl regulations) in Montana, but you do need a Montana Migratory Bird License.
- ☞ An individual becomes eligible for resident fishing, hunting and trapping licenses after six months legal residence in Montana. Individuals may claim only one state of residence. They also must claim all income as Montana taxable income.

Licensing Calendar

- ☞ January 1 - Nonresident combination applications available.
- ☞ March 15 - Application deadline for nonresident combination licenses.
- ☞ Early April - Big Game Regulations available in print and at fwp.mt.gov .
- ☞ May 1 - Application deadline for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats.
- ☞ June 1 - Application deadline for elk, antelope and deer special drawings.

Results Calendar

- ☞ Check the FWP web page at fwp.mt.gov .
- ☞ Mid-April - Results of nonresident combination drawings mailed and posted.
- ☞ Third week of June - Results of moose, sheep and goat drawings.
- ☞ Early August - Results of deer, elk and antelope drawings.

Game Animals

- ☞ Big game animals include mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, Shiras moose, black bear, and mountain lion.

- Upland game birds include sharp-tailed grouse, sage grouse, Hungarian partridge, chukar partridge, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, spruce (or Franklin's) grouse, ring-necked pheasants and Merriam's turkeys. (Willow ptarmigan also occur in some parts of Montana, but they cannot be legally hunted.)
- The Montana waterfowl license allows resident and nonresident hunters to take ducks, geese, swans, doves, cranes, coot and common snipe.
- Furbearing animals include: beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, marten, fisher, wolverines, bobcat, lynx, and swift fox. Nonresidents cannot take furbearers in Montana. A trapper's license is required for residents to take furbearers. Harvest seasons are closed for lynx and swift fox.
- Predatory animals are legally defined as coyote, weasel, skunk and civet cat (spotted skunks). Nonresidents must have a license to trap predators, but not to hunt them. Residents are not required to have a license to trap or hunt predatory species.

Hunting Basics

- Hunters must have landowner permission (verbal or written) to hunt on private property in Montana.
- All hunters, whether successful or not, must stop at established game checking stations both on their way to and back from hunting areas.
- Hunters must wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist visible at all times when hunting big game during the firearms season. Archers must wear hunter orange if a firearms season for the species pursued is open in the area in which they are hunting.

Who Hunts in Montana

- National research in 2001 shows 74 percent of Montana's hunters are residents 16 years and older. (2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation)
- Montana has the highest level of resident participation in hunting in the nation, with 24 percent participation.
- Statistics suggest that approximately 39 percent of Montana's adult male population and 13 percent of the adult female population purchase a hunting license annually. (FWP Automated Licensing System)

Hunter Education

- Annually, about 1,200 volunteer Hunter Education instructors throughout the state donate 30,000 hours teaching 350 classes in order to certify close to 6,500 individuals in hunter education. Anyone born after January 1, 1985 is required to complete the hunter education course before purchasing a hunting license. In the past 15 years alone, close to 100,000 people have been certified. Hunter education became mandatory in 1957.
- Approximately 500 volunteer instructors have certified 30,000 students in bow hunter education since the program began in 1991. About 2,500 students complete the training each year. Hunters wanting to purchase a bow and arrow license in Montana must, regardless of age, show proof of having successfully completed a bow hunter education course or show a previous year's archery license from any state or province.
- More than 28,000 individuals purchase bow and arrow licenses annually. One dollar from each license is devoted to support the bow hunter education effort across the state. Instructors are not compensated for any of their time.

Alternative Livestock (Game Farms)

As of February, 2005, there were 61 licensed alternative livestock facilities in Montana. (Feldner)

- FWP issues licenses to alternative livestock facilities, game bird farms, fur farms, zoos, roadside and wild animal menageries, shooting preserves and other private use of game birds, commercial and private fish ponds, taxidermists, falconry, and raptor propagators in Montana. Since the passage of Initiative 143 in November of 2000, the department has not issued any new alternative livestock licenses. Most commercial licenses are renewed on an annual basis following payment of a renewal fee and submission of required information and reports.
- Chronic wasting disease, a fatal brain disease of deer and elk, appeared for the first time in Montana in captive elk at an alternative livestock operation near Philipsburg in 1999. FWP has tested more than 7,000 wild deer and elk for CWD since 1996. In addition, another 3,500 captive deer and elk from Montana's alternative livestock facilities have been tested for CWD since 1999. All of those samples have tested negative for CWD. FWP continues year round testing of all animals that appear sick or emaciated.
- Exotic species are classified into three categories in Montana. Exotic species not currently classified are prohibited from being imported into the state until a committee is able to determine how that species should be classified and what requirements, if any, must be met. For details, see the FWP web page at fwp.mt.gov and enter as search words: Exotic Species.

Game Damage

- The game damage assistance program paid \$426,836 in response to 733 problem wildlife complaints in 2004. (Erickson)
- The Livestock Loss Reimbursement Program reimburses landowners for injury to or loss of livestock, which is directly attributed to allowing public hunting on their property. In 2004, the program paid \$18,747 to 15 landowners. One claim was denied. The average payment for the 15 approved claims was \$1,249.83.

Land Ownership and Wildlife

- Montana is the fourth largest of the 50 states, with a total area of almost 92.9 million acres. Private and reservation lands comprise approximately 65 percent of the state. The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management together administer nearly 25 million acres, or 27 percent of the state. State land accounts for almost 5.5 million acres, or 6 percent of the state. Of this, FWP owns .003 percent or approximately 300,000 acres. (NRIS GIS Program)
- About 28 percent of the deer harvest was on public land and about 69 percent of the harvest was on private land, according to the 1998 harvest survey. (Candy Hinz)
- About 17 percent of the antelope harvest occurred on public land and about 81 percent on private land, according to the 1999 harvest survey. (Candy Hinz)
- About 62 percent of the elk harvest occurred on public land and about 34 percent on private land, according to the 1997 harvest survey. (Candy Hinz)

Lands and Access

- In 2004, hunters enjoyed hunting on nearly 8.8 million acres of land provided through the Block Management Program and the 1,262 participating landowners. (Charles)

- ⚡ FWP administers a series of 77 wildlife management areas. The largest is the Blackfoot-Clearwater at 63,850 acres. Approximately 35,000 acres of the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA are leased from private landowners and other entities. (Knapp)
- ⚡ FWP manages 52 conservation easements totaling over 370,000 acres. A conservation easement is an agreement between a landowner and the easement holder that limits the uses of the property to preserve conservation values. (Dils)

Economics of Hunting

- ⚡ Montana hunters, residents and nonresidents combined, spend about \$187 million annually on transportation, lodging, food, guide fees, and other purchases, excluding license fees. (Brooks)
- ⚡ Montana elk hunters spent an estimated \$91.8 million in 2004 on transportation, lodging, food, guide fees and other purchases, excluding license fees. (Brooks)
- ⚡ Deer hunters spent an estimated \$69.8 million, black bear hunters spent \$3.4 million, and antelope hunters spent \$7 million in 2004. (Brooks)
- ⚡ For every dollar spent by the FWP Wildlife Program, \$14.35 is spent by hunters and wildlife-related recreationists benefiting local communities and the state's economy. (Brooks)

Harvest Facts

- ⚡ In license year 2003, 15 percent of harvested mule deer had antlers with at least two points on one side; 44 percent had antlers with at least four points on one side; and 14 percent had antlers with at least five points on one side.
- ⚡ In license year 2003, 8 percent of harvested white-tailed deer had antlers with at least two points on one-side; 42 percent had antlers with at least four points on one side; and 23 percent had antlers with at least five points on one-side.
- ⚡ In license year 2003 bull elk harvest, spike bulls comprised 12 percent of the bull harvest. About 37 percent of the bull elk harvested had antlers with at least five points on one side; 30 percent had antlers with at least six points on one side; and 4 percent of the bull elk harvested had antlers with at least seven points on one side.

TABLE 6. HARVEST ESTIMATES FOR GAME SPECIES IN MONTANA
as determined by Statewide Harvest Survey (Hinz & McCarthy)

Species	Hunters Afield	Harvest	% Success	Lic. Year
Deer	153,255	126,547	68	2003
Elk	115,476	28,916	24.7	2003
Antelope	33,376	30,540	72.1	2003
Moose	642	537	83.7	2004
Bighorn Sheep	324	195	60.3	2004
Mountain goat	321	250	77.7	2004
Black bear – Spring	6,872	503	7.3	2002
Black bear – Fall	7,468	696	9.3	2002
Mountain Lion	6791	335	20	2004
Merriams turkey - Spring	2,772	1,126	41	1995
Merriams turkey – Fall	3,249	1,356	42	1995
Sharp-tailed grouse	14,747	79,541	81.5	2003
Sage grouse	3,198	7,843	64.7	2003
Blue grouse	8,190	22,868	64.7	2003
Ruffed grouse	8,738	30,611	71.5	2003
Franklin's (spruce) grouse	2,807	5,279	49.1	2003
Ring-necked pheasant	27,352	163,418	81.1	2003
Hungarian partridge	11,036	59,154	76.9	2003
Chukar partridge	500	1,369	51.3	2003
Mourning dove	1,600	19,100	NA	2004
Ducks (Hunter number combines duck & geese)	14,200	133,600	NA	2004
Geese		66,700	NA	2004

NA NOT AVAILABLE
* No survey conducted - harvest total from hunter mandatory check-in.

TABLE 7. MONTANA BIG GAME TROPHIES

The following table lists the largest authentic weights recorded by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for various game species that do not correspond with the listed Pope & Young or Boone & Crockett records. Typical or non-typical antler formation does not correspond to the recorded weights; this is a general species weight category for elk, mule deer and whitetail deer. (Karwaski)

Species	Largest Live Weight	Largest Dressed Weight	MT Pope & Young Highest Score	Year Taken	County	MT Boone & Crockett Highest Score	Year Taken	County/Area
ANTELOPE	160	121	84 2/8	1989	Garfield	92 6/8	1977	Garfield
BLACK BEAR	505	NA	21 0/16	1990	Lake	21 5/16	1992	Broadwater
BISON	1,555	NA	NA	NA	NA	135 0/8	1997	Park
ELK NON-TYP	1,010	810	409 2/8	1996	Lincoln	423 4/8	1971	Granite
ELK TYP	NA	NA	411 3/8	2000	Rosebud	419 4/8	1958	Madison
GRIZZLY BEAR	1,002	NA	NA	NA	NA	25 9/16	1934	Upper Boulder River
MULE NON-TYP	453	340	274 1/8	1978	Lincoln	275 7/8	1962	Highland Mountains
MULE TYP	NA	NA	184 1/8	1994	Ravalli	205 3/8	1983	Custer
MOUNTAIN GOAT	310	212	49 6/8	1990	Gallatin	54 0/8	1998	Flathead
MOUNTAIN LION	176	NA	15 7/16	1996	Madison	15 12/16	1994	Lincoln County
SHIRAS MOOSE	1,117	840	169 2/8	1995	Park	199 6/8	2003	Glacier County
BIGHORN SHEEP	302	222	192 1/8	1998	Fergus	204 7/8	1993	Granite
WHITETAIL NON	375	275	210 7/8	1986	Teton	252 1/8	1968	Hill
WHITETAIL TYP	NA	NA	182 0/8	1994	Custer	199 3/8	1974	Missoula

TABLE 8. SPECIAL DRAWING STATISTICS 1992-2002

APPLICATIONS													
SPECIES	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antelope	53,484	54,109	50,893	50,469	47,874	44,171	43,353	43,908	45,101	47,522	27,890	53,574	52,113
Deer B	33,943	35,281	33,604	34,724	37,553	29,483	20,686	17,901	16,945	23,790	71,364	31,505	29,146
Elk Permit	72,757	77,103	72,243	75,265	74,570	69,890	70,591	69,102	68,494	70,643	71,364	73,724	62,260
Deer Permit	7,065	7,535	7,404	7,964	8,269	5,026	5,998	7,732	11,289	12,656	14026	15,443	16,043
Moose	23,094	23,690	19,186	17,448	17,630	17,201	16,499	18,330	17,770	20,357	21,893	22,745	22,624
Sheep	13,022	14,228	12,745	11,723	12,198	12,128	12,144	12,754	12,384	14,919	16,747	17,845	18,406
Goat	6,770	7,175	6,536	6,334	6,375	6,349	6,540	7,086	7,158	8,761	9,439	10,312	10,503
TOTAL	210,135	219,121	202,611	203,927	204,469	184,248	175,811	176,813	179,141	198,648	209,946	196798	211095
SUCCESSFUL													
SPECIES	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antelope	42,512	43,152	38,434	37,780	32,097	29,088	28,966	30,777	32,015	34,960	36,750	38,782	38,496
Deer B	26,557	27,857	27,862	27,544	23,212	16,747	13,194	12,061	13,330	18,880	22,214	23,136	24,296
Elk Permit	33,962	37,820	36,847	37,931	40,561	38,472	36,194	38,767	39,629	40,499	40,593	40,647	25,708
Deer Permit	2,250	2,000	1,750	1,975	1,575	1,299	1,691	3,526	7,237	8,018	8,778	9451	9688
Moose	722	723	748	769	743	714	676	636	625	644	615	660	648
Sheep	660	637	651	543	555	597	480	446	437	300	331	325	391
Goat	293	264	275	293	285	277	279	289	307	320	322	319	333
TOTAL	106,956	112,453	106,567	106,835	99,028	87,194	81,480	86,502	93,580	103,621	109,639	113320	99260
% SUCCESS IN DRAWING													
SPECIES	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Antelope	79%	80%	76%	75%	67%	66%	67%	70%	71%	74%	76%	72%	73%
Deer B	78%	79%	83%	79%	62%	57%	64%	67%	79%	79%	80%	74%	83%
Elk Permit	47%	49%	51%	50%	54%	55%	51%	56%	58%	57%	57%	55%	42%
Deer Permit	32%	27%	24%	25%	19%	26%	28%	46%	64%	63%	63%	61%	60%
Moose	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%
Sheep* <small>*Includes ewe permits</small>	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Goat	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%	1%
TOTAL	51%	51%	53%	52%	48%	47%	46%	49%	52%	52%	52%	60%	50%

*Includes ewe permits

NON-RESIDENT COMBINATION LICENSE STATISTICS

(After HB-195 and License Structure changes)

TABLE 9

Number of Applicants

Type	Quota or Target	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
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Big Game Combination:

BG General	11,500	14,994	14,031	15,518	15,918	15,411	15,312	13,116	14,897	16,121
Elk General			1,157	1,424	1,236	1,496	2,066	1,448	1,648	1,623
BG Pref		5,619	5,315	5,538	7,040	8,082	0	0	0	0
Elk Pref			220	309	493	485	0	0	0	0
*BG Outfitter	5,800	5,127	4,798	4,875	5,588	4,971	4,382	4,164	4,663	5,318
*Elk Outfitter			533	580	621	748	654	649	658	655

Deer Combination:

General	2,300	8,024	8,166	8,585	9,759	10,464	9,697	9,086	10,665	11,376
Outfitter	2,300	2,395	1,994	2,143	2,304	2,183	2,150	2,027	2,298	2,443
Landowner	2,000	3,148	2,776	2,671	2,810	2,937	2,721	2,552	3,012	2,784

TOTALS:

	23,900	39,307	38,990	41,643	45,769	46,777	36,982	33,042	37,841	40,320
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Success Rates

(Licenses Issued)

Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
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Big Game Combination:

BG General	5,881	5,525	5,172	3,675	2,652	10,188	10,430	10,358	10,482
Elk General		440	481	292	281	1,312	1,070	1,142	1,018
BG Pref	5,619	5,315	5,538	7,040	8,082	0	0	0	0
Elk Pref		220	309	493	485	0	0	0	0
*BG Outfitter	5,127	4,798	4,875	5,588	4,971	4,359	4,164	4,663	5,318
*Elk Outfitter		533	580	621	748	652	649	658	655

Deer Combination:

General	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Outfitter	2,395	1,994	2,143	2,304	2,183	2,148	2,027	2,300	2,443
Landowner	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

* Numbers as of deadline

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Wildlife Historical Perspective

- 1869

First laws protecting game birds closes quail and partridge seasons for three years.
- 1870

First grouse hunting season set; bag limit established at 100 prairie chickens.
- 1872

First closed season on buffalo, moose, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, antelope and hares. Season closes February 1 to August 15 each year.

Yellowstone National Park established.
- 1874

Passenger pigeon extinct.
- 1876

First closed seasons on furbearing animals and on waterfowl.
- 1877

Act makes it unlawful to kill game animals for hides alone; hunters must use or sell meat.

Unlawful to hunt or chase game animals with dogs.

Law prohibits the sale of game birds for market purposes.
- 1879

Bounty on mountain lion established.
- 1883

Act prohibits the destruction of game bird and waterfowl nests and taking of eggs from nests.

Hunting prohibited in Yellowstone National Park.
- 1889

Montana statehood.

Montana hires first game wardens.
- 1893

First year-around closed season on moose and elk.
- 1892

Malnutrition and starvation contribute to problems associated with loss of winter range for northern Yellowstone elk herd.
- 1895

First Fish and Game Board authorized by legislature.

Big Game Season - September 1 – January 1, set by legislature. Limits: Eight deer, eight bighorn sheep, eight mountain goats, eight antelope, two moose, three elk.
- 1897

First daily bag limit on game birds: 20 grouse or prairie chickens per day.
- 1901

W.F. Scott, first State Fish and Game Warden (Director) appointed by Governor.

Bobwhite introduced - Kalispell, Flathead County.

First license required (nonresidents only) to take game animals and game birds. Nonresidents required to purchase hunting license of \$25 - game animal, \$15 - game birds.
- 1903

Guides license required.
- 1905

First resident hunting and fishing license required at cost of \$1 per family.

Ring-necked pheasant introduced to Bitterroot Valley.
- 1909

First daily bag limit on wild ducks at 20 per day.
- 1910

First elk transplanted in Montana to Fleecer Mountain, Silver Bow County, from Yellowstone National Park.

- 1911 First game preserves, Snow Creek Game Preserve, Dawson County, created by legislature primarily for antelope but also for deer and game birds. Pryor Mountain Game Preserve also created.
59,291 hunting and fishing licenses are sold in Montana.
- 1913 Montana Fish and Game Commission organized.
Sun River Game Preserve created by legislature.
- 1915 Season closed on bighorn sheep and remained closed until 1953.
- 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty Between Great Britain (Canada) and the United States ratified providing federal authority to manage migratory game birds and protecting many nongame bird species.
- 1919 Restrictions on the use of automobiles to help hunters kill game are established.
Some 14,000 Yellowstone National Park elk die of starvation.
- 1921 Legislature established modern system on five Fish and Game Commissioners to be appointed by Governor. The commissioners are granted the power to allot Fish and Game Districts and to close or open seasons under certain conditions.
Use of dogs for bear hunting was prohibited.
- 1923 Grizzly bear protection follows its classification as a game animal.
The black bear designated as a game animal.
- 1922 Hungarian partridge purchased in Europe. A total of 6,000 are released throughout Montana in 1926.
- 1925 Montana's total antelope population is estimated at 3,000.
- 1926 First land acquired for game management purposes: 27 acres at Red Rock Lakes, Beaverhead County.
- 1928 First ring-necked pheasant season.
- 1929 First Hungarian partridge season.
First game farm at Warm Springs.
- 1931 First big game resident license to take deer and elk \$1.
- 1934 First federal duck hunting stamps go on sale.
- 1935 46 State game preserves in Montana (the maximum number of preserves in effect at one time).
- 1936 Statewide buck law declared - 29,699 resident big game licenses sold at \$1 each.
First winter deer ranges leased in Sanders, Missoula and Powell counties.
C.M. Russell Game Range (Fort Peck Game Range) created by Congress (97,000 acres).
- 1939 State versus Rathbone case which established important precedent to game damage problems.
First degree in wildlife technology was granted at the University of Montana, Missoula.
- 1940 First acquisition of the Judith River Game Range for elk winter range, Judith Basin County.
First state big game manager position created.
- 1941 The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman Robertson or P-R) program began.

- First wildlife biologist hired.
- Fish and Game Commission given regulatory power over opening and closing seasons, setting of bag limits, and creating game preserves.
- Commission establishes a program to obtain scientific data as a basis for wildlife management.
- First mountain goats transplanted in Montana from Deep Creek, Teton County to Crazy Mountains, Sweetgrass County.
- 1942 First bighorn sheep transplanted from Sun River, Teton County to the Gates of Mountains, Lewis and Clark County.
Surveys estimate 14,000 antelope in eastern and central Montana.
- 1943 First mule deer transplanted from National Bison Range, Lake County, to Glendive badlands, Dawson County.
Antelope hunting renewed in Montana on annual basis (750 permits).
- 1945 First white-tailed deer transplanted from Bowser Lake, Flathead County, to East Rosebud, Stillwater and Carbon County.
Moose seasons resume in portions of Park, Gallatin, Madison and Beaverhead Counties after a 50-year moratorium.
- 1947 Sun River Game Range in Lewis and Clark County acquired.
A prohibition is placed on killing bear cubs and females with cubs.
- 1948 Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range in Missoula and Powell counties acquired.
A prohibition is placed on the use of bait to harvest bears.
Wildlife management curriculum begins at Montana State College, Bozeman, in cooperation with the State Fish and Game Department.
- 1950 First statewide mountain goat and bighorn sheep studies completed.
The Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit founded at the University of Montana, Missoula.
- 1951 Gallatin Game Range acquired to provide elk winter range.
- 1952 First department studies on the effects of insecticides on bird life completed in eastern Montana.
- 1953 Limited permit system established for bighorn sheep hunting.
Mountain goat hunting changes to limited permit system.
Freezout Lake waterfowl hunting area acquired in Teton County.
First special bow and arrow licenses established.
- 1954 First turkey plant in Judith Mountains, Fergus County, with 13 birds from Colorado.
- 1956 First statewide deer archery season.
- 1957 Deer and elk hunting units established.
The Wildlife Laboratory, Montana Fish and Game Department, started operations at Montana State University.
- 1958 First statewide either-sex deer seasons.

- 1959** First special turkey license issued.
- Antelope, moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat special season units are organized into administrative districts.
- 1960** Bitterroot and Madison-Wall Creek elk winter ranges acquired in Ravalli and Madison counties.
- 1961** Montana, west of the Continental Divide placed in the Pacific Flyway.
- 1962** Cooperative Gallatin Elk Management Plan initiated with Fish and Game Department, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Park Service.
- Fleecer Mountain Game Range acquired primarily for elk winter range in Silver Bow County.
- Bounty on mountain lion discontinued.
- 1963** Studies begin to determine the affect on mountain grouse of DDT spraying to control spruce budworm on the Bitterroot National Forest. Nearly three million acres sprayed in Montana since 1953.
- Statewide mountain goat harvest over 500, compared to just 30 in 1941.
- 1964** Tenth consecutive year that statewide deer harvest exceeded 100,000, and ninth consecutive year that hunter success exceeded 90 percent.
- Big game license form changes enabling hunters to purchase deer tags and/or elk tags separately.
- 1965** Pacific Flyway boundary moved eastward from Continental Divide.
- 1967** A new sportsman's license and a youth license established.
- First grizzly bear license and grizzly bear trophy license issued.
- Tenth year of turkey hunting in Montana - nearly 5,000 harvested since first 18 were planted in 1955.
- 1968** Canyon Ferry Game Management area project for waterfowl habitat development and public hunting was initiated.
- Statewide elk harvest estimated at 16,000 (equaling the previous peak harvest in 1955).
- 1969** Conservation License created.
- Twelfth consecutive year that statewide moose harvests have exceeded 400 (with hunter success usually between 70-80 percent).
- Investigations of mercury contamination of game birds frequenting grain-growing areas were initiated.
- Deer hunter success 80 percent (success exceeded 80 percent in 13 of past 15 years and is double that before 1952).
- 1970** Studies to determine the effects of logging on elk ecology were begun in cooperation with the U.S.F.S. and U of M School of Forestry.
- The first swan season (500 permits) at the Freezout Lake area.
- The Beartooth Game Range, providing key elk winter range and other wildlife habitat, acquired.
- Mountain lion classified as a game animal.
- 1971** Montana Environmental Policy Act, the first comprehensive environmental bill, is passed by Legislature.

- 1972** New State Constitution declares that Montana's legislature "shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources."
- First sandhill crane season established in Phillips County.
- 1973** The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is passed by Congress.
- 1974** Legislature protects the Yellowstone River by placing a moratorium on granting major new fish water rights.
- 1975** Grizzly bear classified as an threatened species in the lower 48 states.
- 1977** Grizzly bear studies begin along Rocky Mountain East Front to determine impacts of oil and gas exploration, human disturbance and to help develop guidelines for management.
- 1978** Board of Natural Resources and Conservation grants a major instream water allocation for fish and wildlife and other purposes in the Yellowstone River Basin.
- 1981** Endrin crisis strikes Montana. Warnings on potential contamination of game birds and waterfowl keep hunters at home.
- 1983** Whistling swan season established in Montana's portion of Central Flyway.
- 1985** Legislature establishes wild buffalo as a game animal.
- Bighorn sheep license auction created.
- 1986** Block Management Program established.
- First Montana Waterfowl Stamp goes on sale.
- 1987** Legislature passes House Bill 526, landmark legislation which provides a source of funds for habitat protection.
- Legislature passes a bill requiring bow hunter education for youngsters 12-17 years of age.
- Pheasant Habitat Enhancement Program established.
- Moose license auction created.
- 1988** Montana's elk harvest exceeds 25,000. Post season elk population is estimated at 88,000.
- Robb Creek Wildlife Management Area is established to help support the wintering needs of Yellowstone's northern elk herd.
- 1989** After the drought and fires of 1988 and a bitter cold winter, Gov. Stan Stephens, the Montana Congressional delegation and the recently established Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation help FWP acquire more elk winter range in southwestern Montana to support the wintering needs of Yellowstone's northern elk herd.
- 1991** Montana Fish and Game Commission name changed to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission.
- Legislature eliminates license to hunt bison, although bison still remain game animals in Montana.
- Mountain lions now occur in 47 of 56 Montana counties.
- Fifty permits are issued for a spring grizzly bear hunting season along the Rocky Mountain East Front. Hunters take three male bears before the season is halted by a federal judge.
- Legislature establishes the third week in September as "Hunting Heritage Week."

- 1991** Legislature passes a bill making it illegal to attempt to kill or shoot at simulated wildlife (decoys).
Legislature passes a bill authorizing FWP and Department of Livestock to revise and update rules regulating the operation of game farms in Montana.
FWP "Habitat Montana" program created.
- 1992** Gov. Stan Stephens creates the Montana Landowner-Sportsman Council to maintain and improve favorable relations and communications between Montana's landowners and sportsmen and -women.
Gov. Stephens, Montana hosts the first-in-the-nation Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage.
Licenses are now required to hunt on state school trust lands.
FWP develops a Statewide Elk Management Plan.
- 1993** Legislature passes House Joint Resolution 24, calling for a Private Lands/Public Wildlife Advisory Council and Governor Racicot creates the council in May.
Application deadline for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat is moved to May 1.
- 1994** FWP publishes a final EIS on the future management of black bears in Montana.
The presence of tuberculosis is confirmed in a wild mule deer shot in December 1993 in south-central Montana. Over 120 additional mammals are subsequently killed to test for the prevalence of the disease in the area.
Endangered black-footed ferrets from a captive population in Wyoming are reintroduced to Montana at the U.L. Bend National Wildlife Refuge south of Malta.
FWP hosts its first "Becoming an Outdoors-Woman" workshop.
- 1995** FWP Commission celebrates its 100th anniversary.
Legislature passes House Bill 195 establishing a variable-priced license for nonresident clients of outfitters with the proceeds dedicated to improving public hunting access to private lands and the Block Management Program.
FWP produces a final EIS to guide future management of mountain lions in the state.
Endangered Rocky Mountain gray wolves from Canada are reintroduced to Yellowstone National park and central Idaho. FWP releases a draft wolf management plan.
- 1996** FWP becomes a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact with 8 other states, allowing suspension of hunting/fishing/trapping privileges to people convicted in any of the member states.
Mule deer populations on the decline due to extremely dry summers in 1997 and 1996 and harsh winters. FWP Commission reduced licenses by 30,000.
FWP launches internet web site.
- 1998** An Adaptive Harvest Management concept is implemented to manage deer and set regulations that reflect the dynamic nature of deer populations.
The Environmental Impact Statement for FWP's Wildlife Program is completed.
FWP commits to develop a new Automated Licensing System.
- 1999** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) found in an elk in a game farm near Phillipsburg; herd was eliminated.
Legislation passed creating a continuing hunter education program for adults and a mandatory

- course for convicted violators of fish and game laws.
All hunting on private property now requires landowner permission by law.
- 2000** A 140,000-acre conservation easement between FWP and Plum Creek Timber Company was approved in the Thompson and Fisher river valleys in northwest Montana - the largest of its kind in Montana's history.
A statewide weed coordinator hired.
Fishing and upland game bird license prices were reduced about 50 percent for Montana youth ages 15-17.
- 2001** Remedial hunter education course established and required of those who lose their hunting privileges as a result of a hunting violation available on the FWP web page.
- 2002** The automated licensing system (ALS) goes into effect.
FWP begins first phase of a process to develop and adopt a wolf management plan, required by the USFS prior to the future delisting of the wolf.
The first director of the Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center hired.
- 2003** About 4,000 first-time 12- to 17- year-old hunters received free youth sportsman's licenses.
More than 8 million acres were enrolled in FWP's Block Management Program.
FWP launches its new Automated Licensing System.
- 2004** For the first time in 40 years, the antlerless elk season was extended for two weeks in some districts for hunters with unused general season elk licenses. Unlimited numbers of antelope special archery-only licenses were available in much of the state.
Hunters saw advertising for the first time in the deer, elk and antelope hunting regulations.
After nearly two years of public discussion, FWP adopted an updated elk management plan to guide future management of the species.



State Parks and Recreation Resources

Handy Information and Statistics

Park Details

- ☞ Refer to the State Parks Brochure for detailed information about specific sites and features (updated Spring 2005) or go to the FWP web page at fwp.mt.gov under Parks and Recreation.
- ☞ Montana's parks system consists of 50 State Parks, 12 affiliated lands, and approximately 320 fishing access sites.
- ☞ Montana's largest State Park is Makoshika, with 11,531 acres; the smallest park is Parker Homestead State Park, consisting of one building. The most recent additions are Tower Rock State Park near Cascade, added spring 2004, and Brush Lake near Plentywood, added in December of 2004.
- ☞ The Parks Division has three programs: state parks, fishing access sites and the trails/recreation/community grant programs.

Visitation

- ☞ In 2004, the Montana State Parks system hosted an estimated 5.2 million visitors: 1.65 million state parks visitors and 3.6 million fishing access site visitors. (Dalbey)
- ☞ The most highly visited park in 2004 was Giant Springs State Park near Great Falls with 180,024 visitors, surpassing Cooney State Park for the first time since 1995.
- ☞ Resident visitation to Montana State Parks increased from 70 percent of total visitors in 2003 to 73 percent in 2004.

Fees

- ☞ Montana residents have free **daily entry** into all 50 Montana State Parks. A new, optional \$4 fee paid with a vehicle's registration provides free daily entry to vehicles licensed in Montana and the occupants.
- ☞ A \$25 Parks Passport permits nonresidents unlimited daytime use of all Montana State Parks. Camping fees still apply.
- ☞ Camping fees are \$7 for fishing license holders at those Fishing Access Sites where camping fees are charged, and \$12 per night for non-fishing license holders.
- ☞ At state parks that charge camping fees, the fees range from \$12-15. Camping fees at State Parks are reduced by \$2 from the listed in-season rates from Oct. 1-April 30. Reservations are not available at state park campgrounds.

Economics

- ☞ State Parks create an estimated 1,170 private sector jobs and \$23.4 million in direct income for residents of Montana. Park visitor expenditures in local communities adjacent to parks are estimated at \$116 million. (Dalbey-2002 *Economic Impact Survey of Visitors to Montana's State Parks and Fishing Access Sites* by Bureau of Business and Economic Research)

Trails

- ☞ Montana has over 4,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. (*Montana Winter Guide* by Travel Montana)
- ☞ Registered snowmobiles in Montana numbered 25,964 in 2003-2004. (Paige)
- ☞ A total of 33,394 off-highway vehicles (OHVs) were registered in Montana in 2004.
- ☞ Snowmobiles operating on public land must be registered at the County Treasurer's office in the county where the owner resides, and the owner must display the decals.
- ☞ Snowmobiles not registered in Montana are required to have a current nonresident permit before being ridden on public lands in Montana. Permits can be purchased from vendors, Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, or online at fwp.mt.gov.

Boating

- ☞ A total of 59,259 motorboats were registered in Montana in 2004. (Lodman/Jendro)
- ☞ Since 1992, youngsters 13-14 years of age operating a motor boat (over 10 horsepower) or jet skis without an adult on board have had to first complete a boating safety course.
- ☞ All watercraft must be equipped with a personal flotation device (PDF) for all riders (a seat cushion is not sufficient); children under 12 years of age must wear PFDs at all times when a boat under 26 feet is in motion. Anyone operating or riding on a jet ski must wear a PFD. Anyone water skiing or being towed must wear a PDF.
- ☞ Operating a watercraft without a sufficient number of personal flotation devices aboard is the most common violation of Montana's water recreation laws.



Parks Historical Perspective

- 1929 State Land Board is authorized to set aside state lands for parks.
- 1936 Lewis and Clark Caverns is donated as Montana's first state park.
- 1939 First comprehensive legislation establishes a state Park System and a separate State Park Commission.
- 1947 StateParks receive their first legislative appropriation.
- 1953 Administration of state parks is transferred to the Highway Commission with a \$45,000 annual budget.
- 1955 First boating lifesaving equipment law passed. Wardens begin enforcement of boat safety laws.
- 1963 Fish and Game Department appropriation includes legislative intent to allocate funds for development of fishing and boating facilities in state parks.
- Motorboat fuel tax is separated from gas tax for state boat park creation, improvement, and maintenance (now 0.9 percent).
- 1964 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is established to provide up to \$900 million annually for park development nationally.
- 1965 Administration of state parks and the LWCF program is transferred to the Fish and Game Commission.
- Montana Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee is established (eliminated by 1971 Executive Reorganization Act).
- 1975 Coal Tax park acquisition trust fund is established at 2.5 percent of Coal Severance Tax receipts.
- 1982 LWCF funding for state and local park development projects in Montana is reduced to \$0 from a maximum of \$3.4 million in 1979.
- 1986 All Coal Tax earnings earmarked for the parks trust are diverted to the General Fund until June 30, 1989; parks trust interest earnings are diverted solely to park maintenance.
- 1987 All General Fund support of the State Park System is eliminated.
- Net loss of \$1 million per year since 1985 from Coal Tax and General Fund for state park repairs and improvements.
- 1989 State Park System celebrates its Golden Anniversary.
- Entrance fees are initiated at state parks.
- 1990 State Park Futures Committee's report to the governor recommends an additional \$6.3 million per year over five years and 30 new full-time employees to upgrade the Park System.
- 1991 Floaters are charged fees on the Smith River for the first time.
- 1994 The 53rd Legislature passed a bill designating and establishing certain Montana State Parks as "primitive parks, and eliminating user fees for Montana residents who visit primitive parks.
- 1995 The Parks Division initiates a comprehensive plan for the Montana State Parks System, the “2020 Vision for Montana State Parks.”
- The legislature approved funding to begin planning for the new visitor center at Ulm Pishkun, and a new animal shelter and nature center to be located at Spring Meadow Lake.
- 1996 Draft management plans for Lewis and Clark Caverns and Chief Plenty Coups were underway. In addition, final management plans for Wild Horse Island and the Smith River were completed. The new State Park System Plan was started.

- 1997 Visitation exceeds 1.4 million at Montana’s State Parks.
- 1998 A comprehensive Blackfoot River Corridor Recreation Management Plan completed.
- Parks Division "2020 Vision Plan" completed.
- Commercial use fee/registration process initiated for FAS and other FWP lands (Alborton Gorge).
- 31 fishing access sites now on camping fee list, 108 fishing access sites considered "primitive" by Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM).
- Three tipis and one yurt are now available for renting at selected state parks to compliment the three cabins already available.
- 1999 The Ulm Pishkun Visitor Center was dedicated and a grand opening was held in early June.
- 2000 The FWP Commission determines that Native Americans do not have to pay daily entrance fees at four park sites located on reservation lands: Chief Plenty Coups, Big Arm, Finley Point and Yellow Bay.
- The Six Year Plan for Montana State Parks completed, as well as, the State Trails Plan and Trails Programmatic EIS.
- Management plans established for Bannack, Giant Springs, Lewis & Clark Caverns, Chief Plenty Coups, Frenchtown Pond and the Blackfoot River.
- 2001 The Parks Passport available online, the first FWP license to be sold on the Internet.
- Traveler’s Rest, the historic Indian campsite that provided respite for the Lewis and Clark Expedition near Lolo, becomes Montana’s newest State Park.
- 2002 The Montana State Park Futures Committee II established to follow-up on work begun by the first State Park Futures Committee in 1989.
- Seven local government entities across the state received nearly \$150,000 to fund boating improvement projects.
- 2003 A new law passed by the Montana legislature eliminated daily and annual state park entry fees for Montana residents beginning in 2004. Revenue to operate, maintain and improve state parks is raised by an optional \$4 added to vehicle registrations.
- 2004 Legislature passes a new law establishing a permanent decal boating registration system.
- Tower Rock State Park near Cascade became an official state park.
- River recreationists and communities participated in shaping new statewide rules to help manage recreation and reduce conflicts on Montana's busy and popular rivers.
- Brush Lake State Park near Plentywood became an official state park.
- 2005 Legislature passes a new permanent validation system for boats in Montana.

Enforcement

Handy Enforcement Statistics

Enforcement Facts

- ⌘ Fish, Wildlife & Parks currently has 99 sworn officers, 89 of which are assigned to field or patrol districts.
- ⌘ Montana encompasses 145,552 square miles of land and 1,551 square miles of water. As such, one field warden is employed for every 1,691 square miles of land and water in the state. At this ratio, one warden patrols nearly the equivalent of the state of Delaware.
- ⌘ In 2004, 4,425 citations and complaint forms were written by Montana game wardens. Game wardens also issued 1,609 courtesy citations and gave 4,974 verbal warnings.
- ⌘ The division conducts regulation compliance and investigations in the following program areas: fisheries, wildlife, parks, boating and water safety, snowmobile operations and safety, off-highway vehicle operation and safety and commercial licensing and permits.
- ⌘ The division's Criminal Investigation Section conducts and coordinates long-term, in-depth criminal investigations of major poaching rings and criminal commercialization of Montana's wildlife resources that often result in state as well as federal felony charges.
- ⌘ Wardens typically have personal contact with over 150,000 sportsmen and women and recreationists every year.
- ⌘ On average, around \$540,000 in fines is assessed for violations each year. Half is deposited in the General Fund, and half goes to the county where the violation occurred.
- ⌘ The first Montana Deputy Game Wardens were appointed in 1889; two years before the agency was created.
- ⌘ Montana game wardens must have at least a Bachelor's degree in fish or wildlife management, parks or recreation management, criminal justice or a related field. Candidates for a game warden position must pass rigorous written and physical testing, and are subject to an in-depth background check and extensive psychological evaluation. Newly appointed wardens must then complete the Montana Law Enforcement Academy's 12-week resident training program and receive a Law Enforcement Basic Certificate. The next step is successful completion of the division's three-month Field Training and Evaluation Program. Even after qualifying for permanent status, wardens must periodically re-certify in critical law enforcement professional skills and evaluations for the rest of their career.

Violation Facts

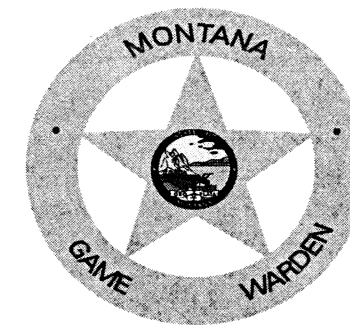
- ⌘ In 2004, the most common violations were:
 - fishing without a license,
 - hunting big game without landowner permission, and
 - failing to have proper personal floatation devices (PFDs) on board boats.

Help Stop Violations

- ⌘ Since the TIP-MONT program's inception in 1985, over \$151,350 in reward money has been paid to those supplying tips to TIP-MONT. The highest amount rewarded to an individual to date is \$2,000. In 2003, over 1,360 calls were received, and of these, 744 were hunting related. (Lewis)

- ⌘ The TIP-MONT hotline number is 1-800-847-6668.
- ⌘ Individuals and agencies interested in helping increase TIP-MONT rewards may make tax-deductible contributions to:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation
 Attn: TIP-MONT
 P.O. Box 200701
 Helena, MT 59620-0701



Money Matters

Revenue Sources FY 2005

Hunting & Fishing Licenses	57.8%	\$41,270,746
Federal Revenue	28.3%	20,185,120
Other State Revenue	12.1%	8,662,446
Private	1.8%	1,300,000
State General Fund	0.0%	-0-
TOTAL		\$71,418,312

Planned Expenditures FY 2005

Management & Finance	20.7%	\$14,814,936
Wildlife	19.0%	13,563,111
Parks	16.1%	11,495,382
Fisheries	17.8%	12,687,768
Enforcement	9.8%	6,997,829
Field Services	12.7%	9,096,331
Conservation Education	3.9%	2,762,955
TOTAL		\$71,418,312

(FY - Fiscal Year begins July 1 and extends to June 30 of the following year.)

License Sales

FWP's license year begins March 1 and extends through February of the following year.

- ☞ License revenues provide approximately 58 percent of FWP's total operating budget.
- ☞ In fiscal year 2004, nonresident license sales accounted for over 70 percent of total license revenues.
- ☞ Federal funds account for over 28 percent of the overall budget for use in fisheries and wildlife restoration efforts and for parks development and maintenance, boating safety, education, and regulation. (2005 Annual Report)
- ☞ License agents get 50 cents for each individual license they sell. FWP's approximately 350 license agents statewide sold 1.3 million individual hunting and fishing licenses during the 2004 license year. (Whitney)

Payment of Taxes

- ☞ FWP makes payments to local governments for special improvements districts (SIDs) and on land, which is essentially a property tax paid to counties at the same rate a private landowner would pay real property taxes. In 2004, payments totaled \$411,724. FWP pays in a county when total holdings of wildlife management areas and fishing access sites in that county exceed 100 acres. FWP does not pay taxes on state parks, and affiliated parks lands, most office buildings or fish hatcheries. (Edge)
- ☞ The five counties receiving the largest tax payments in 2004 were:
 - 1. Anaconda-Deer Lodge \$49,964
 - 2. Lake 48,687
 - 3. Yellowstone 48,299
 - 4. Gallatin 37,297
 - 5. Teton 44,882

Fisheries Funding Sources

- ☞ The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program helps support sport fish and motorboat access projects in Montana and across the nation. The program was originally established in 1950 through the Dingell-Johnson Act and was amended in 1984 by the Wallop-Breaux Act. The program is funded by a federal excise tax placed on the manufacture of fishing equipment such as lures, rods, reels, and fish finders, along with a portion of federal fuel taxes associated with motorboat use. Dollars collected are apportioned back to the states based on land and water area and the number of people who buy fishing licenses. In 2005, \$7 million was allocated to Montana. In addition to contributing state license dollars, every paid fishing license holder generates about \$5 for Montana in Sport Fish Restoration Program fund apportionments.
- ☞ Many of FWP fishery field biologists and hatchery personnel are funded with Federal Aid, as well as major hatchery renovation projects, aquatic education, research, habitat protection, angler surveys, and some fishing access site maintenance, improvements and site acquisitions. Fifteen percent of the funds must be used for motorboat access projects and up to 15 percent can be spent on aquatic education programs. For every three federal sport-fish dollars spent, Montana must contribute at least one dollar of state license dollars or other non-federal matching funding toward the total cost of each project.
- ☞ Current fishing access site acquisition funds originate from \$1 from each resident fishing license, and \$5 from each nonresident season fishing license. Of the funding generated, half is used for the operation and maintenance of FAS sites and the other half is used to acquire new sites. About \$250,000 is generated annually for new acquisitions. (Kuser)



Wildlife Funding Sources

- ☞ The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, placed a federal excise tax on the manufacture of rifles, handguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. States receive a portion of these funds based on the land area of the state and the number of people who buy hunting licenses in that state. Montana received over \$6.2 million in 2005. In addition to contributing state license dollars, every paid hunting license holder generates about \$6 for Montana in Wildlife Restoration Program fund apportionments. Funds are used for wildlife management, research projects, hunter education, land acquisition, and block management contracts. FWP must spend \$1 in state funds (usually license dollars) for every \$3 in Wildlife Restoration funds that are spent on projects.
- ☞ Habitat Montana includes several programs that benefit wildlife habitat as listed below:
 - House Bill 526: designates portion of hunting license money for land acquisition (\$3 million)
 - Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program (\$700,000)
 - One Bighorn Sheep License Auction (in 2005 the highest bid = \$160,000; FWP received 90 percent)
 - One Moose License Auction (in 2005 the highest bid = \$15,000)
 - One Elk License Auction (in 2005 the highest bid = \$23,000)
 - One Mule Deer Auction (in 2005 the highest bid = \$6,700)
 - Waterfowl Stamp Program for habitat enhancement (\$250,000)



Fish and Wildlife Funding Sources

- ☞ For several years, states and other conservation partners asked the U.S. Congress to provide funding to help conserve fish and wildlife species of special concern and to prevent species from becoming endangered. Congress responded by providing one-time state funding in the form of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) in 2001.

☞ Funding has been received annually from the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program. The funding helps states integrate monitoring and management of all fish and wildlife. Funding received in the last five years from these federal grant programs:

WCRP 2001 Funding:	\$852,710
SWG 2002 Funding:	\$1.3 million
SWG 2003 Funding:	\$1.02 million
SWG 2004 Funding:	\$1.07 million
SWG 2005 Funding:	\$1.09 million

☞ Funding must be approved on a year-by-year basis. Conservation groups around the country continue to work with the President and with Congress hoping to secure permanent funding for these types of projects.

Parks Funding Sources

☞ The Parks Division has 21 different operational funding sources, much of which is earmarked for specific uses. The largest sources are:

- 1) License fees apportioned to Fishing Access Sites (12.6 percent);
- 2) Motorboat fuel tax (13.2 percent) for use on areas where motor boating takes place;
- 3) Coal severance tax funds (13.9) used to develop and maintain Parks sites;
- 4) State parks earned revenue (13 percent);
- 5) State accommodations tax (9.3 percent).

☞ Volunteers provide services equal to 25.8 full time employees for a savings of \$863,009 to the Parks Division.

☞ The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (LWCF) established a federal grants program encouraging a full partnership between national, state, and local governments in planning and funding public outdoor recreation projects. FWP administers these matching funds with about half going to local governments and half utilized in the Montana State Park system. No funds were available for the program between 1995 and 1999. In 2005, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$846,745 to Montana. More information is available on the FWP web page at

www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/parks.htm.



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS
10-YEAR LICENSE SALES COMPARISON

LICENSE TYPE	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Res. Conservation	113,262	110,533	113,795	111,995	106,921	100,626	96,721	95,424	94,911	95,066	95,461	92,323	88,937
Disabled Res. Conservation	3,103	3,275	3,641	3,633	3,969	3,753	4,107	4,290	4,324	4,516	4,516	1,194	1,320
Res. Conservation	141,885	145,351	150,550	146,929	140,534	139,864	144,672	146,664	136,612	132,857	121,221	130,483	129,125
Resident TWO DAY FISHING													
Res. Fishing	8,622	9,028	10,112	10,067	8,963	8,073	7,373	7,572	5,453	5,689	1,459	1,549	1,021
Res. Youth Fishing									4,765	4,986	5,449	4,949	4,209
Res. Youth Fishing									4,859	4,986	7,076	389	350
Res. Paddlefish	3,503	4,194	3,237	5,495	5,495	4,930	5,004	5,522	31,623	29,792	5,002	6,380	6,012
Res. Bird	35,623	31,428	33,779	33,053	34,319	34,426	35,533	35,725	12,356	12,356	12,356	30,834	30,075
Res. Turkey									1,356	1,411	1,282	1,674	1,666
Waterfowl Stamp	12,595	10,028	7,485	7,458	8,658	9,093	9,416	10,225	12,356	14,410	17,747	17,545	19,413
Res. Sportsman (who bear)	16,081	16,099	17,792	20,094	21,631	24,064	24,670	25,103	23,458	23,675	18,103	18,103	18,148
Res. Sportsman (who bear)								10,341	11,208	12,482	17,322	17,522	17,486
Res. Sportsman (who bear)								11,927	12,635	13,361	10,702	10,916	11,520
Res. Youth Sportsman	16,877	17,629	16,326	16,510	11,877	11,074	11,103	11,927	3,672	4,613	4,839	4,281	3,866
Res. Free Youth Sportsman													
Elk - Adult	85,895	86,917	87,480	87,244	82,433	77,252	74,844	72,281	68,826	66,965	66,598	64,874	62,399
Elk - Senior Youth Disabled	16,719	17,388	17,856	17,946	17,905	17,240	17,006	17,351	16,704	16,806	19,508	17,688	18,388
Deer A - Adult	121,918	118,700	121,903	117,967	107,689	97,290	92,569	91,606	88,233	87,511	86,883	87,268	87,972
Deer A - Senior Youth, Disab.	25,674	25,526	25,972	25,777	24,524	22,670	21,728	22,167	21,709	22,345	23,685	21,784	22,204
Res. Deer B	72,124	72,690	75,504	73,701	57,605	40,222	35,420	31,351	40,592	45,711	54,000	62,209	67,133
Res. Black Bear	8,367	7,498	7,392	7,134	6,667	6,921	7,490	7,432	6,999	8,077	8,981	7,797	8,419
Res. Mountain Lion	2,038	2,535	2,984	3,056	3,287	4,297	5,421	5,886	5,138	5,116	6,336	6,130	6,335
Res. Moose	703	705	727	750	718	691	654	617	617	619	630	633	630
Res. Sheep	576	550	579	483	497	520	404	374	363	251	293	284	334
Res. Goat	281	257	262	281	272	263	262	271	291	286	303	296	309
Res. Elk A9													
Res. Antelope	58,976	58,419	51,474	48,525	29,526	25,607	26,379	29,255	34,061	38,193	44,405	49,502	7,007
Resident HUNTING ACCESS ENHANCEMENT													
Res. Bonus Point Fee													
Nonres. Conservation	119,910	131,073	146,928	144,631	137,438	138,276	146,840	151,398	138,002	142,869	116,747	131,449	128,790
Nonres. Conservation	25,065	28,318	25,463	24,692	23,335	23,676	25,865	26,431	27,310	27,819	30,375	24,298	23,680
Nonres. Season Fishing	4,278	4,919	4,470	3,809	3,504	3,226	3,802	4,425	3,664	3,793	2,855	1,895	1,585
Nonres. Paddlefish	1,276	1,383	828	1,049	1,292	1,239	1,047	1,263	1,197	754	899	1,003	888
Nonres. 2-Day Fishing	141,141	154,132	180,172	174,187	171,360	173,112	187,579	193,726	173,226	182,561	160,853	130,970	118,794
Nonres. Bird	6,134	6,612	7,050	8,045	9,010	9,485	10,197	10,969	8,256	7,060	5,862	6,951	7,313
Nonres. 3-Day Bird Stamp	100	110	96	122	132	159	159	243	278	285	644	709	605
Nonres. Turkey	2,231	1,892	1,577	1,469	1,896	2,102	2,340	2,403	2,625	2,731	958	862	947
Nonres. Waterfowl Stamp													
Nonres. Big Game Combo-General	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,500	11,500	10,840	10,710	10,715	10,734	10,270	10,430	10,260
Nonres. Big Game Combo-Outfit.	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,500	4,953	4,953	4,919	5,606	4,974	4,359	4,535	4,989
Nonres. Deer Combo-General	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,257
Nonres. Deer Combo-Outfitter	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,114	2,395	1,994	2,143	2,304	2,300	2,148	2,272	2,266
Nonres. Deer Combo-Landowner	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,964
Nonres. Elk Combo-General													
Nonres. Elk Combo-Outfitter													
Nonres. Deer Combo-LO Reissued													
Nonres. Deer Combo-General Reiss													
Nonres. Deer B													
Nonres. Black Bear	15,051	17,180	20,029	21,266	14,002	11,737	8,708	5,320	8,654	5,847	7,859	8,230	7,265
Nonres. Mountain Lion	1,732	1,634	1,771	1,713	1,686	1,614	1,803	2,105	2,017	2,133	962	765	908
Nonres. Moose	177	230	258	301	394	510	519	519	493	421	281	282	314
Nonres. Sheep	19	18	21	19	25	23	22	19	16	25	21	26	17
Nonres. Goat	84	87	72	61	58	77	77	73	75	49	37	31	49
Nonres. Elk B12	12	7	13	12	13	14	17	18	16	24	19	20	22
Nonres. Antelope													
Nonres. Doe/Fawn Antel (Only)	7,555	7,436	5,930	5,960	4,527	4,414	3,709	4,014	3,165	3,667	3,371	3,561	3,709
NR HUNTING ACCESS ENHANCEMENT	7,095	8,188	7,617	7,589	1,707	1,452	553	1,562	1,526	1,852	1,275	2,010	2,781
Nonres. Bonus Point Fee													

*2004 data is License Year to date 01/01/2005



<u>Year</u>	<u>Licensed Hunters</u>	<u>Licensed Anglers</u>	<u>Total</u>
1965	176,520	280,294	456,814
1966	155,334	221,513	376,847
1967	157,693	238,882	396,575
1968	153,506	205,576	359,082
1969	161,051	214,673	375,724
1970	174,014	234,200	408,214
1971	185,594	249,669	435,263
1972	199,648	268,740	468,388
1973	208,528	288,189	496,717
1974	226,510	281,418	507,928
1975	220,876	275,643	496,519
1976	222,878	294,228	517,106
1977	204,298	324,203	528,501
1978	208,341	329,390	537,731
1979	213,677	340,655	554,332
1980	217,410	332,085	549,495
1981	218,753	340,345	559,098
1982	236,487	356,132	592,619
1983	248,427	331,072	579,499
1984	254,255	336,134	590,389
1985	250,376	349,595	599,971
1986	262,802	379,382	642,184
1987	261,780	382,992	644,772
1988	256,238	368,525	624,763
1989	255,333	375,222	630,555
1990	259,356	386,867	646,223
1991	265,727	375,404	641,131
1992	268,286	378,960	647,246
1993	272,032	390,656	662,688
1994	295,151	389,820	684,971
1995	290,775	383,074	673,849
1996	284,697	372,096	656,793
1997	277,711	367,478	645,189
1998	280,382	377,668	658,050
1999	283,815	384,806	668,621
2000	279,727	375,032	654,759
2001	283,815	384,806	668,621
2002	279,727	375,032	654,759
2003	227,365	383,108	610,473
2004	232,276	383,374	615,650

License Types and Prices from 2005

Required Prerequisite			
One or more of these licenses may be required in order to purchase other licenses.			
Type of License	License Specifics	R=Resident NR=Nonresident Cost	Deadline
Conservation - Resident	Resident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license for hunting, fishing and trapping (HFT) purposes. Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and to hunt upland game birds, excluding turkey.	R \$6.25	
Conservation - Nonresident	Nonresident prerequisite for all licenses. Includes the state lands license for hunting, fishing and trapping purposes.	NR \$9.25	
Conservation - Disabled Resident	Residents certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by FWP rules, must purchase this license annually which authorizes fishing, hunting of upland game birds (excluding turkey), the purchase of deer A and elk licenses at one-half price and includes a state lands license for hunting, fishing and trapping (HFT) purposes, warm water fishing license and a state waterfowl license.	R \$6.25	
Bow and Arrow (Archery)	Required for Archery Only Season and/or areas. Specific rules apply to purchase a bow and arrow license.	R \$8 NR \$8	
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	This is an annual fee and will be charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license, including upland game and migratory bird.	R \$2 NR \$10	
State Lands Recreation	Required for recreational use on state school trust lands. The State Lands Recreation License is included in the Montana Conservation License specifically for the purpose of hunting/fishing/ and/or trapping (HFT). All other recreational use on state school trust lands requires the State Lands Recreation License. See Hunter Access section. Youth 12-17 and 60+ pay half price (\$5). Families, up to 5 members living in the same household, pay \$20.	R \$10 NR \$10	

Resident Only

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Deer A	Montana residents 12-14 years of age and 62 years and older, or holders of a disabled resident conservation license may purchase a deer A license at one-half price (\$6.50).	R \$13	
Elk	Montana residents 12-14 years of age and 62 years and older, or holders of a disabled resident conservation license may purchase an elk license for one-half price (\$8.00).	R \$16	
Elk A7 License	General elk license is a required prerequisite. Deadline to apply is June 1. Deadline to exchange general elk license for an A7 license is September 5.	R \$6	Jun 01
Elk A9 License - Limited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a prerequisite. Deadline to apply is June 1.	R \$19	Jun 01
Elk A9 License - Unlimited	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a prerequisite. Purchase at License Providers.	R \$16	
Hound Training License	Allows a Montana resident to train hounds during the hound training season without a mountain lion license. See mountain lion hunting regulations for specifics.	R \$5	
Sportsman's (Including Bear)	Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), deer A, elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Deadline for spring black bear is April 14. Deadline for fall black bear is August 31.	R \$66.25	Apr 14/Aug 31
Sportsman's (Without Bear)	Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland birds, excluding turkey.	R \$56.25	
Youth Combination Sports	Includes conservation, state lands (only HFT), deer A and elk licenses and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Available only to Montana residents 12-17 years of age.	R \$27.25	
Youth Upland Game Bird	Available only to Montana residents 15-17 years of age.	R \$3	

NonResident Only

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 11,500 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	NR \$640.25	Mar 15
Big Game (Elk/Deer) Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), deer A, and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$977.25	Mar 15
Deer Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. 2,300 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	NR \$340.25	Mar 15

These pricing examples are from the year 2005 and do not reflect price increased approved for 2006

License Types and Prices from 2005

NonResident Only (NR)

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Deer Combination Landowner Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT), and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Landowner certificates should be obtained from your landowner sponsor. 2,000 licenses available. Deadline to apply is March 15.	NR \$340.25	Mar 15
Deer Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT) and deer A license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$777.25	Mar 15
Elk Combination (General)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT) and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. This license is included in the 11,500 quota of big game elk/deer combination license. Deadline to apply is March 15.	NR \$590.25	Mar 15
Elk Combination (Outfitter Sponsored)	Nonresidents applying for any other combination license may not apply. Includes a conservation, state lands (only HFT) and elk license and authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds, excluding turkey. Outfitter certificates should be obtained from your outfitter sponsor. All big game hunting with this license must be done with a licensed outfitter. Issued to all valid applicants sponsored by a certified outfitter received by March 15.	NR \$877.25	Mar 15
Elk B12 License	Allows for the taking of a second antlerless elk in designated areas. General elk license a required prerequisite. Some B12 licenses may be purchased at License Providers or Online and some are only available through the drawing with a June 1 application deadline (check your hunting district).	NR \$273	Jun 01
Upland Game Bird 3-Day Preserve	Valid only on state-licensed private Shooting Preserve.	NR \$20	

Resident (R) and NonResident (NR)

Type of License	License Specifics	Cost	Deadline
Antelope	Licenses limited to specific hunting districts. Deadline to apply is June 1.	R \$14 NR \$203	Jun 01
Antelope Multi-region Archery Only	Either-sex archery only license. License limited to specific regions. Must be applicant's first and only choice. Residents may purchase this license at License Providers where the cost is \$11 as the \$3 drawing fee is not required. Deadline to apply/purchase is June 1.	R \$14 NR \$203	Jun 01
Bighorn Sheep	See moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 2.	R \$78 NR \$753	May 02
Black Bear	Licenses purchased after the April 14 deadline are valid only in the fall season. No bear license may be purchased after August 31. Deadline to apply/purchase the spring season license is April 14. Hunters must show proof of having passed a black bear identification test before purchasing a license.	R \$15 NR \$350	Apr 14/Aug 31
Crane	Deadline to apply is August 1.	R \$3 NR \$3	Aug 01
Deer B	Allows hunting of antlerless deer only. License limited to specific hunting district(s). Deadline to apply is June 1.	R \$11 NR \$78	Jun 01
Deer B Antlerless Whitetail, Single Region	Allows hunting of antlerless white-tailed deer only, in one region only. Conservation license and Hunting Access Enhancement Fee are prerequisites. Hunter must designate region upon purchase.	R \$8 NR \$75	
Deer Permits	Must be used with a general deer A license. Deadline to apply is June 1.	R \$3 NR \$3	Jun 01
Elk Permits	Nonresidents must hold a valid big game or elk combination license to apply. Residents must hold a valid elk license to apply. State refund policy does not allow refunds under \$5. If you are unsuccessful for only an elk permit, a refund will not be sent. Deadline to apply is June 1.	R \$6 NR \$6	Jun 01
Montana Migratory Bird License	Residents and nonresidents 12-15 years of age or older or holders of the resident disabled conservation license need only a conservation license; residents 62 or older need a conservation license and a federal stamp, residents 16-61 and nonresidents 16 or older need a conservation license, a Montana migratory bird license and a federal stamp.	R \$5 NR \$50	
Moose	See moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 2.	R \$78 NR \$753	May 02
Mountain Goat	See moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep regulation booklet for details. Deadline to apply is May 2.	R \$78 NR \$753	May 02
Mountain Lion	Deadline to apply/purchase is August 31.	R \$15 NR \$320	Aug 31
Mountain Lion Trophy	Must be purchased after mountain lion kill.	R \$50 NR \$50	
Swan	Deadline to apply is September 9.	R \$3 NR \$3	Sep 09
Turkey	Conservation and upland game bird licenses are prerequisites only for residents. Nonresidents need only a conservation license as a prerequisite. Montana offers both a spring and fall season. The total combined harvest limit of spring and fall season cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter.	R \$5 NR \$115	
Upland Game Bird	Residents 12-14 years of age and 62 or older, or holders of a disabled resident conservation license need only a conservation license to hunt upland game birds, excluding turkey.	R \$6 NR \$110	

These pricing examples are from the year 2005 and do not reflect price increased approved for 2006

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FREQUENTLY USED NUMBERS

FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS	406-444-2535
Block Management	406-444-2602
Conservation Education Division	406-444-4041
Enforcement Division	406-444-2452
Fisheries Division	406-444-2449
Helena Headquarters	406-444-2535
Hunter Education	406-444-4046
Licensing Nonresident – big game & special license drawings	406-444-2950
Licensing Resident & Nonresident – fishing, upland birds, bear, lion	406-444-2535
Parks Division	406-444-3750
Telephone Device for the Deaf	406-444-1200
Wildlife Division	406-444-2612
Foundation	406-444-6759

FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS FOUNDATION

Executive Director, Spencer Hegstad	406-444-6759
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FEDERAL AGENCIES

Bureau of Land Management	406-896-5000
Fish & Wildlife Service	406-449-5225
National Forest	406-329-3511
Tribal Lands	
Blackfeet Reservation	406-338-7276
Crow Reservation	406-638-3752
Flathead Reservation	406-675-2700
Fort Belknap Reservation	406-353-2205
Fort Peck Reservation	406-768-5305
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	406-477-8844
Rocky Boy Reservation	406-395-4207

MONTANA STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture	406-444-3144
Guides & Outfitters	406-841-2373
Hunter Safety Requirements	406-444-3188
Livestock	406-444-2043
State Lands	406-444-2074
Tourism	406-841-2870

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