



**FWP TRACKING SUMMARY**  
**2021 LEGISLATION**  
 Updated May 24, 2021

The following are bills FWP is tracking that pertain, in most instances, to the FWP resources we are responsible for managing in trust for the citizens of Montana.

You may access information on any bill by visiting the Legislative home page at <http://leg.mt.gov> . If you have specific questions about legislation, call Greg Lemon, Helena, 444-4038.

*\* Bills that were Tabled in Committee, Missed Transmittal date, etc.*

***Signed by Governor/Became Law***

BILL #	SPONSOR	SUMMARY AND STATUS
HB 12	Hopkins	An act appropriating money from the Historic Preservation Grant program account to the Dept. of Commerce for historic preservation projects. Signed by Governor 5/12/21
HB 40	Curdy	Revising laws on mandatory decontamination of vessels with ballast or bladders. Allows the Department with a little more flexibility in establishing criteria for vessel decontamination. Signed by Governor 4/1/21
*HB 42	Duram	Clarify AIS management authority laws. Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal 3/2/21
*HB 44	Custer	Revise funding for Game Warden's and Peace Officers' Retirement System (GWORS). Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 45	Putnam	Revise come home to hunt license requirements. Requiring a nonresident to have both taken a Montana Hunter Safety Course and previously purchased a resident hunting license to obtain a license to hunt with a resident sponsor or family member at a discount. Signed by Governor 2/23/21
HB 47	McKamey	Providing requirements for emergency rules under Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA). Signed by Governor 4/16/21
HB 48	Gist	Remove occupation from hunting/fishing license application requirements. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
HB 49	Bedey	Revise recording fees to support county and state land information accounts. Signed by Governor 4/15/21
HB 54	Seekins-Crowe	Revise who qualifies to accompany non-resident youth combination license hunters to include stepparent or legal guardian. Signed by Governor 2/26/21

HB 93	Walsh	Allows the Department of Agriculture to establish noxious weed seed free certification program. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
HB 102	Berglee	Generally revise gun laws. Includes providing locations where concealed weapons may be carried and exceptions; prohibits the Montana University System and Board of Regents from infringing on Constitutional Rights and providing exceptions. Signed by Governor 2/18/21
HB 108	Loge	Revise trespass laws related to failing to obtain landowner permission for hunting or hunt furbearers. Define 'hunt'. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
*HB 110	Tenenbaum	Revising laws related to obstruction of a peace officer or public servant. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 114	Dunwell	Revise privacy in communication exception laws. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 119	Loge	Requiring FW Commission approval of certain landowner elk licenses or permits. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
HB 120	Loge	Revising laws related to bonus points. Allowing only persons eligible to hunt to apply for bonus points. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
*HB 124	Mitchell	Suffering wildlife protection act. Died in Standing Committee 4/29/21
HB 130	Bedey	Generally revise laws related to alternative project delivery contracts. Signed by Governor 3/31/21
HB 131	Bedey	Generally revise state cabin leasing laws. Signed by Governor 5/3/21
HB 138	Fielder	Revising what constitutes a trapping or snaring offense and revises tagging requirements. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
HB 144	Fielder	Revise laws for preserving authority of sheriffs, constables and peace officers who does not assist a state or local health officer. Signed by Governor 3/26/21
*HB 147	France	Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund and grant program. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 148	Reksten	Revise property reappraisal cycle for class three (agricultural) and four (residential) property. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 152	Duram	Requiring drain plugs to be disengaged to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species within aquatic invasive species management areas. Signed by Governor 4/14/21
*HB 160	Kerns	Allows certain resident disabled veterans and members of the armed forces to receive free hunting and fishing licenses and provides eligibility documentation requirements. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 163	Fielder	Would increase the number of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners from five to seven. Signed by Governor 4/16/21
*HB 202	Loge	Would limit the take of grizzly bear, antlered moose, ram mountain sheep (with an exception for unlimited license to be 7-year wait) and mountain goat to once in a person's lifetime. Died in Standing Committee 4/29/21
HB 224	Fielder	Allows for the snaring of wolves by licensed trappers. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
HB 225	Fielder	Would expand wolf trapping season to open the first Monday after Thanksgiving and close March 15 of the following year. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
*HB 241	Read	Requires the Fish & Wildlife Commission to allow hunting by nontribal members on fee lands within the exterior boundaries of a reservation. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 242	Hinkle	Would establish a muzzleloader Heritage hunting season; separate from the archery only and general seasons. Amended. Signed by Governor 4/15/21
HB 260	Berglee	Revises the nonresident fishing license fees. Creates a 1-day nonresident fishing license for \$14 and creates a 5-day nonresident fishing license for \$56. Replaces the current 2-day and 10-day nonresident fishing licenses. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*HB 281	Gunderson	Revises bicycle laws and revises the definition of an electric bicycle. Would reclassify them as not an off-highway vehicle. Died in Process 4/29/21

HB 302	Kassmier	Requires authorization of the Board of County Commissioners and meet certain conditions before releasing wild buffalo or wild bison into a county. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
HB 305	Berglee	Revises laws related to roadside menageries, wildlife menageries, wildlife sanctuaries and zoos, also revises revocation provisions of the operating permit. Signed by Governor 4/16/21
HB 306	Funk	Would provide an exemption for certain types of recreational and tourism transportation. Including but not limited to fishing access sites, boat ramps and docks, state parks, etc. Signed by Governor 4/16/21
*HB 311	Weatherwax	An act revising and clarifying laws related to transfer and importation of wild buffalo and wild bison. Clarifying state jurisdiction related to wild buffalo or wild bison transfers to Indian tribes. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 312	Weatherwax	Allows wild buffalo or wild bison to be quarantined on an Indian Reservation without brucellosis-free certification. Clarifies state jurisdiction to wild buffalo or wild bison transfers to a tribal entity's reservation. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 317	Marshall	Would prohibit state employee travel expenses or other expenses to conventions, meetings or gatherings be paid by any public funds. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 318	Holmlund	Clarify the definition of bison. Signed by Governor 5/14/21
*HB 326	Usher	Revises bicycle laws, distinguishing bicycles from off-highway vehicles and mopeds. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 352	Hinkle	Revises laws relating to the purchase of conservation easements. Requires public access as part of a conservation easement that uses public funds and revises the type of land where a subdivision is restricted. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 353	Gunderson	Would authorize the department to issue a replacement license, permit or tag from an animal that has been determined to be unfit for human consumption. The replacement license or permit could be issued for the same license year or the next license year. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
*HB 367	Fielder	Would amend the Montana Constitution to protect the rights of Montana Citizens to hunt, fish, trap and harvest wild fish and wildlife. Establishes that hunting, fishing and trapping are the preferred manner of managing wild fish and wildlife. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 382	Curdy	Prohibits the use of exploding targets on state lands and waters during times of dangerous fire conditions and defines 'exploding targets'. Signed by Governor 5/14/21
*HB 410	Olsen	Creates state policy on pollinators. Requires noxious weed management programs for certain state lands to seed or plant native plants friendly to animal pollinators, prohibits use of some insecticides and to reimburse persons for damage to apiaries. Creates a specialty license plate to fund the pollinator special revenue account. Department of Agriculture would administer the program to reimburse for losses and damages to apiaries and authorize funds to county weed districts for pollinator habitat. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 417	Kassmier	Prohibits the Fish and Wildlife Commission from limiting the number of permits available in hunting districts where population numbers are over objective. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 418	Gunderson	Establish the public lands access act. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 468	Fielder	Authorizes the use of dogs while hunting black bears and establishes a training season. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*HB 505	Galt	Would establish a landowner-sponsored nonresident elk-only combination. Allows a person who obtains a Class A-5 elk tag or an equivalent nonresident elk tag may, at the time of issuance, indicate that the person will only use the tag to hunt antlerless elk between Aug. 15 and Feb. 15 on private land in hunting districts where the elk populations are above the sustainable population. Would allow the license holder, using this option, to purchase a single bonus point and receive an additional five elk species bonus points for a total of six elk species bonus points each year the person exercises this option. Died in Process 4/29/21

*HB 523	France	Revises laws related to the use of snare traps on public lands. Requires the use of relaxing snare traps. Prohibits the use of snare traps at certain times of the year and providing penalties. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HB 524	France	Revises laws related to the use of snare traps on public lands. Requires the use of relaxing snare traps. Requiring snare traps to be marked, provides for rulemaking authority, and providing penalties. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 637	Berglee	An act generally revising laws related to FWP. Revising: game warden authority; laws related to class d-4 nonresident hound licenses; the calculation of preference points for party applicants; revising restrictions on when special bear and mountain lion licenses may be used; clarifying when apprentice hunters may receive their certificate; laws related to shooting preserves; clarifying the classification of wolves; laws related to unlawful use of boats, equipment, and vehicles while hunting; laws related to harassment of game birds and game animals; allows nonresident landowners to hunt and pursue mountain lions on the landowner's property and adjacent public land without a license, laws related to unlawful hunting within a municipality; and turkey tagging offenses. Signed by Governor 5/14/21
HB 647	Galloway	Revises laws related to hunting and fishing licenses for NR College Students. Authorizing the sale of certain licenses at resident-equivalent prices. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*HB 652	Loge	Would revise the conservation license. Requires purchase of a conservation license for certain land use and decreasing its price. Could require unspent search and rescue funds to revert to the general license account. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 678	Bartel	Implementing the provisions of HB 2. Provides for segregation of surcharges that were mandatory from donations. Signed by Governor 5/14/21
*HB 697	Kassmier	Reimburse landowners for crop damage by wildlife. Died in Process 4/29/21
*HJ 18	Farris-Olsen	A joint resolution of the Senate and House of the State of Montana urging federal and state agencies in Wyoming to stop feeding elk on winter range. Died in Process 4/29/21
HJ 27	Holmlund	Legislative request for an interim study on funding options for Montana's conservation districts. Became Law 5/6/21
*HJ 33	France	Interim study to reduce inadvertent dog trapping. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
*SB 2	Cohenour	Clarifying the dissemination of information related to fish and wildlife. Requires notice of penalties for misuse of the information received. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 26	Gillespie	Clarify use of tribal agreements for livestock producers within reservations. Signed by Governor 2/23/21
SB 27	Gillespie	Allow multipliers for reimbursement for loss of livestock. Signed by Governor 2/23/21
*SB 37	Welborn	Permit exemption for Berkeley Pit water. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 38	Gauthier	Revised motorized trail program laws. Expands uses of the summer motorized recreational trail grant funds. Renaming the snowmobile trail pass as the Winter Trail Pass, purchase requirements and revenue distribution. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
*SB 40	Ellis	Revise membership of the Montana Invasive Species Council to include Department of Livestock and Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3). Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 52	Ellsworth	Revised lodging facility use tax and sales tax on lodging and rental cars. Signed by Governor 5/17/21
SB 57	Pomnichowski	Revising laws related to reports to the Legislature. Signed by Governor 4/20/21

SB 60	Flowers	Requiring trapper education for most residents who can't provide proof of purchasing a trapping license in three prior years. Would direct the department to provide trapper education courses and certification procedures, would also meet the required certification to trap wolves. Creates a resident license to hunt bobcat, wolverine and Canada lynx within the state at the times and in the manner provided by law and the regulations. Signed by Governor 04/08/21
SB 61	Flowers	Allow free fishing on Mother's Day weekend. Signed by Governor 2/23/21
SB 62	B.Brown	Revise unlawful killing, capturing or possession of a game fish, bird, animal or fur-bearing animal. Signed by Governor 3/23/21
SB 63	Ankney	Clarifying Land Board authority to establish wind and solar development ground lease for state trust lands. Signed by Governor 5/7/21
SB 67	Fitzpatrick	Revise laws pertaining to law enforcement. Clarifying that only local health officers may request assistance of law enforcement and removing the potential penalty if law enforcement fails to assist. Signed by Governor 3/8/21
*SB 71	Regier	Remove penalties for law enforcement re: health officer assistance. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
*SB 73	Regier	Provide for local distribution of lodging sales tax revenue. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 87	Ankney	Revise coal-fired power/water-right owner legal responsibilities. Signed by Governor 5/10/21
SB 98	Gillespie	Revising laws related to grizzly bear take in defense of persons and livestock. Signed by Governor 5/12/21
*SB 105	Cohenour	Revise penalties for criminal trespass while collecting or attempting to collect antlers/sheds/horns. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
*SB 111	Molnar	Revises conditional hunting permits for disabled persons. Creates a Permit to Hunt with a Crossbow during any season in which archery hunting is allowed. Establishing certification, fee, hunter survey and reporting provisions. Also eliminates the requirement that a person certified with the Permit to Hunt From a Vehicle would not be required to have an able bodied companion to assist them while hunting. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 115	Regier	Would require certain land acquisitions or easements, of [100 acres or \$100,000 or more] Amended to: 500 acres or \$1 million in value, by FWP be approved by the Board of Land Commissioners. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
SB 116	Ankney	Would add an Elk B option to landowner preference drawing, eliminates A-7 antlerless elk license. Signed by Governor 05/17/21
*SB 143	Ellsworth	Would reserve a percentage of nonresident deer and elk combination licenses for hunting with an outfitter. Nonresidents would apply from Jan. 1 – March 30. Any unsold licenses would go into the regular nonresident combination drawing. Would remove the required yearly consumer price index increase currently established for the nonresident combination licenses. Changes the deadline to purchase nonresident preference points from Sept. 30 Dec. 31 of that license year. Modifies the landowner sponsored criteria, requirements and percentage of licenses that are available. Died in process 4/29/21
*SB 153	Welborn	Would transfer administration of Fishing Access Sites and Wildlife Management Areas for recreational and commercial use to the State Parks and Recreation Board. Died in process 4/29/21
SB 161		Allow certain Subdivisions to qualify for an expedited review. Signed by Governor 4/11/21
SB 174	Hertz	Revises laws related to the review and approval of a subdivision, provides additional conditions for subdivision regulations. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*SB 176	Molnar	Generally revise laws related to coal, coal tax, and coal-fired unit remediation. Died in process 4/29/21
*SB 208	Cohenour	Allowing limited drawing refunds to be donated to the Hunters Against Hunger account. Died in standing committee 4/29/21

SB 219	Howard	Would provide for the release of a mobile phone location to law enforcement of a public safety answering point in an emergency. Signed by Governor 5/3/21
SB 220	Cohenour	Revises assault laws; provides that the crime of assault on a peace officer or judicial officer includes assault with what appears to be a weapon. Signed by Governor 5/10/21
*SB 229	Ellis	Provides for a deadline for government agencies to respond to a request for information and allows a person to recover costs and attorney fees for enforcement of the deadline to respond. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 230	Lang	Would transfer a percentage of compensatory mitigation deposits from the sage grouse stewardship account to the state general fund to repay the initial cost of implementing the Montana Greater Sage Grouse Stewardship Act and establishing a transfer limit. Signed by Governor 4/23/21
SB 249	Lang	Revises laws related to funding of the Montana Greater Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act. Authorizes a cost sharing agreement between the departments of FWP and DNRC. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*SB 255	Flowers	Would create revenue for bison management. Establishes a wild bison auction license. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
*SB 256	Flowers	Would provide that the owner of a locked gate on a public road that prevents access to the public land may be prosecuted for harassment. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 267	Brown	Allows for reimbursement of costs incurred while harvesting wolves. Signed by Governor 4/23/21
SB 275	Welborn	Generally revises the Board of Outfitters and outfitting laws and enforcement. Terminates the current board membership, revises membership and duties. Also has implications of river-use days that an outfitter may operate on a specific waterway. Signed by Governor 4/22/21
*SB 306	Lang	Revises the membership of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Provides transition provisions for appointments to the commission. Vetoed by Governor 5/14/21
SB 314	Brown	Would revise laws related to the harvest of wolves, rulemaking authority and providing Legislative intent. The commission would establish hunting and trapping season with the intent to reduce wolf populations to a sustainable level, but not less than the 15 breeding pairs. Allows for the harvest of an unlimited number of wolves by the holder of a single wolf hunting or wolf trapping license. Would allow for wolf hunting on private lands to be done at night using night vision scopes or artificial light. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
SB 327	Ellsworth	Prohibiting regulations for wasting of game birds that are more restrictive than federal regulations. Signed by Governor 5/17/21
SB 337	Lang	Revises laws related to relocation of grizzly bears. Would limit where and if a grizzly bear can be relocated. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
SB 360	Lang	Requires the department to take steps to improve and enhance fishing opportunities for fish species of greatest importance. Signed by Governor 4/30/21
*SB 382	Manzella	Repeals hydroelectric AIS fees. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SB 384	Esp	Revises laws related to AIS hydroelectric fees. Signed by Governor 5/17/21
*SB 393	Keenan	Revises laws related to public's right to know and participate. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
SJ 6	Ellis	Urges the Federal Government to simplify and reduce the costs of stream restoration projects while maintaining the safety of structures in floods. Became Law 4/26/21

SJ 18	Gillespie	A joint resolution of the Senate and House requesting Montana's congressional delegation work to return management of Montana's recovered grizzly bear populations to the state of Montana and initiate further review of Montana's grizzly bear population that meet the criteria. Became Law 5/5/21
SR 59	Hinebauch	Confirm Governor's appointee for Director of FWP, Hank Warsech. Became Law 2/17/21
SR 60	Hinebauch	Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Parks and Recreation. Became Law 2/23/21
*SR 61	Hinebauch	Confirm Governor's appointees to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Died in process 4/29/21
SR 88	Hinebauch	Confirm and consenting to the appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission made by the Governor. Became Law 4/23/21

## HUMAN RESOURCES / LEGAL

BILL #	SPONSOR	SUMMARY AND STATUS
HB 13	Dooling	State Employee Pay Plan. Signed by Governor 4/11/21
*HB 59	Hamilton	Revise funding provisions in PERS. Died in process 4/29/21
HB 64	Moore	Authorize the Securities Uniform Whistleblower Act. Provides for protections of whistleblowers, and procedures for whistleblowers award payments. Signed by Governor 3/25/21
HB 76	Frazer	Revise Montana VEBA provisions. Signed by Governor 4/1/21
*HB 78	Marcer	Require certain employees to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Died in Process 4/29/21
HB 81	Hamilton	Generally revise laws on administration of MPERA retirement systems. Signed by Governor 4/11/21
HB 95	Tschida	Revise ethics laws related to confidentiality. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
*HB 97	McKamey	Revise ethics laws regarding application to boards and commissions. Vetoed by Governor 4/08/21
*HB 135	Gunderson	Provide for interim committee review of agency rules prior to adoption. Died in process 4/29/21
HB 358	Mercer	Revises laws related to privacy and the public right to know. Revises disclosure requirements for the compromise and settlement of claims against the state. Signed by Governor 5/14/21
*HB 531	Hinkle	Revises Government Liability Law. Allows certain persons deprived of rights by public employees to sue. Prohibits qualified immunity as a defense, allowing attorney fees. Died in process 4/29/21
*HB 683	Mercer	Revises the distribution of recreational marijuana revenue for public pension payments and provides for specific distributions to various pension trust funds. Died in standing committee 4/29/21
*HJ 2	Beard	Revenue estimating resolution. Died in process 4/29/21
SB 1	Kary	Revise lobbying laws to update terminology and conform lobbying definition. Signed by Governor 2/23/21
SB 13	Cohenour	Revise DNRC adjudication benchmarks. Signed by Governor 4/8/21
SB 20	Cohenour	Clarifying use of river basin councils. Signed by Governor 4/23/21
SB 55	Cohenour	Revise the Process for Water Right Ownership Updates. Signed by Governor 4/20/21
SB 56	Ellsworth	Make MDT, FWP employee grievance procedures same as for other state employees. Signed by Governor 3/8/21
SB 69	Fitzpatrick	Revise settlement laws. Signed by Governor 3/23/21

SB 82	Fitzpatrick	Revise MAPA to allow for a tie breaking process in interim committees. Signed by Governor 3/31/21
*SB 89	Regier	Revise laws related to collection of union dues. Died in process 4/29/21

### APPROPRIATIONS/MONEY

BILL #	SPONSOR	SUMMARY AND STATUS
HB 2	Jones	General Appropriations Act. Signed by Governor 5/20/21
HB 4	Bartel	Appropriations by Budget Amendment. Signed by Governor 5/12/21
HB 5	Jones	Long-Range Building Appropriations. Signed by Governor 5/12/21
SJ 1	C Smith	Senate Joint Resolution on the joint rules. Became Law 5/5/21
SR 1	C Smith	Senate Resolution on the Senate rules. Became Law 1/19/21