



May 2023

**Montana Household**

«FIRST» «LAST»

«ADDRESS1»

«ADDRESS2»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»-«ZIP4»

Dear Montana Household,

We need your help!

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is conducting a survey of Montana households regarding Montana's wolf management. Enclosed you will find a survey questionnaire. To ensure that this survey represents all Montanans, we are requesting that **one person in the household (18 years of age or older) who has had the MOST RECENT BIRTHDAY** complete this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible using the pre-paid, self-addressed envelope provided. Participation by your household is very important and it should take no more than 10 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire.

This is a unique opportunity for your household to provide information, insight and comments which will be used by FWP to help manage wolves in the state. Of course, this questionnaire is *voluntary and responses to the survey will remain anonymous*. Your name and contact information will never in any way be released or associated with your household's responses to the questionnaire in the reporting of survey results. The survey questionnaire has an identification number so we can check your household off the mailing list when the questionnaire is completed and returned by someone in your household.

If you have any questions about this survey, please feel free to contact Mike Lewis by phone (406) 444-4308 or by email [mlewis@mt.gov](mailto:mlewis@mt.gov) .

Thank you for your help.

Hank Worsch  
Director  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Dr. Alexander L. Metcalf  
W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation  
University of Montana



To ensure this survey represents all Montanans, we are requesting that one person in the household (18 years of age or older) who has had the MOST RECENT BIRTHDAY complete this questionnaire and return it as soon as possible using the pre-paid, self-addressed envelope provided.

Are you the person aged 18 or older in the household who has had the most recent birthday?

- NO..... **Please have the person in your household (18 years of age or older) who has had the most recent birthday complete this survey.**
- YES, please continue

1. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (circle **ONLY one** number for each statement below)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think wolves are beautiful animals	1	2	3	4	5
I think wolves pose a safety risk to people I care about	1	2	3	4	5
I think wolves are important for ecosystem health	1	2	3	4	5
Wolves negatively affect my economic well-being	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy knowing that wolves exist in Montana, even if I never see one	1	2	3	4	5
Wolves are a burden I'd rather not deal with	1	2	3	4	5

2. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (circle **ONLY one** number for each statement below)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree
I think wolves can positively contribute to the outdoor economy in Montana	1	2	3	4	5
Wolves limit my recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
I am concerned about wolves damaging things I care about	1	2	3	4	5
I think wolves have a right to exist in Montana	1	2	3	4	5
I feel my personal safety is threatened by wolves	1	2	3	4	5

3. On a scale from 1 (very intolerant) to 5 (very tolerant), how tolerant are you with wolves being on the Montana landscape? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very Intolerant	Intolerant	Neither	Tolerant	Very Tolerant
1	2	3	4	5

(OVER)

4. On a scale from 1 (much too low) to 5 (much too high), what is your opinion regarding Montana’s wolf population right now? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Much too <u>Low</u>	Too <u>Low</u>	About the <u>Right Size</u>	Too <u>High</u>	Much too <u>High</u>
1	2	3	4	5

The following information is relevant to the **WOLF HUNTING** regulations in Montana:

- Using wildlife biologists, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission monitors population numbers of many species, including wolves. This information is used to set specific annual hunting regulations and ensure that wildlife populations are not adversely impacted.
- With this information, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission approved the following regulations for the 2022-23 WOLF HUNTING season:
  - A license is required to legally hunt a wolf.
  - Quotas are used to limit the number of wolves that can be harvested in any trapping district or wolf management unit.
  - All licensed wolf hunters are required to report their harvest of a wolf within 24 hours of the time of harvest by calling a toll-free telephone number.
  - Wolf hunters are encouraged to avoid harvesting wolves with radio collars. Collared wolves provide wildlife biologists with important information.
  - Wolf hunting is not allowed during the wolf denning season (generally after April 1).
  - Electronic calls can be used for wolf hunting. Baiting is also legal for the hunting of wolves, though restrictions apply to the Lynx Protection Zone. Night hunting with artificial lights is also legal for wolves on private lands. However, it is illegal to hunt wolves with dogs.
  - For hunter safety reasons, all licensed wolf hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of hunter orange (fluorescent) material above the waist, visible at all times—during times when wolf hunting season overlaps with the general rifle season for deer and elk.
  - The maximum hunting and trapping bag limit is 20 wolves per person during the 2022-23 season. Persons may take up to 10 wolves via hunting and 10 wolves via trapping (maximum harvest of 20 wolves per person).
  - Those licensed wolf hunters who legally harvest a wolf and choose to retain the skull and hide are required to personally present the skull and hide (with evidence of sex naturally attached) to a designated FWP employee within ten days after harvest. There is no requirement to possess any part of a harvested wolf.

5. Overall, on a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the 2022-23 Montana wolf **HUNTING** regulations listed above? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	Very <u>Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

6. On a scale from 1 (very intolerant) to 5 (very tolerant), how tolerant are you with wolf **HUNTING** in Montana? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Intolerant</u>	<u>Intolerant</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Tolerant</u>	Very <u>Tolerant</u>
1	2	3	4	5

7. Based on Montana’s experience with a wolf hunting season during the past five years, has your tolerance of wolf **HUNTING** in the state changed over time?

- [ ] NO
- [ ] YES.....If yes, how has your tolerance changed? (check **ONLY one**)
- [ ] I am more tolerant of wolf hunting now
- [ ] I am less tolerant of wolf hunting now

8. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (circle **ONLY one** number for each statement below)

	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Agree</u>	Strongly <u>Agree</u>
Hunting wolves makes them more wary of humans	1	2	3	4	5
NOT hunting wolves makes them more comfortable around humans	1	2	3	4	5

The following information is relevant to the **WOLF TRAPPING** regulations in Montana:

- Using wildlife biologists, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission monitors population numbers of many species, including wolves. This information is used to set specific annual trapping regulations and ensure that wildlife populations are not adversely impacted.
- With this information, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission approved the following regulations for the 2022-23 WOLF TRAPPING season:
  - A trapping license is required to legally trap a wolf, and wolf trappers must have proof of completing a Montana or Idaho wolf trapper certification class.
  - Quotas are used to limit the number of wolves that can be harvested in any trapping district or wolf management unit.
  - All licensed wolf trappers are required to report their harvest of a wolf within 24 hours of the time of harvest by calling a toll-free telephone number.
  - Wolf trappers are encouraged to avoid harvesting wolves with radio collars. Collared wolves provide wildlife biologists with important information.
  - Wolf trapping is not allowed during the wolf denning season (generally after April 1).
  - To avoid the non-target capture of grizzly bears, wolf trapping within occupied grizzly bear habitat has a floating start date dependent on den entry of collared bears.
  - Foothold traps and snares are legal methods during the wolf trapping season, though snaring is not permitted on public lands within the Lynx Protection Zone. The inside jaw spread of foothold traps must not exceed nine inches. A minimum trap pan tension setting of 10 pounds is required in most regions of the state to help avoid the non-target capture of smaller species. No trap may be set within 30 feet of an exposed carcass or bait that is visible from above. Wolf snares must be equipped with a loop stop that will close to a loop no smaller than 2.5 inches in diameter, have a breakaway device rated at 1,000 lbs. or less installed on the loop end, and must be placed such that the bottom of the snare loop is at least 18 inches above the surface. Power-assisted (spring-loaded) snare locks are prohibited on wolf snares on public lands. Body Gripping traps may NOT be used to take wolves. Traps and snares are required to be visually checked at least once every 48 hours.
  - A 150-foot setback is required for wolf traps and snares along open roads and hiking trails on public federal and state lands, though there are exceptions. While most areas of the state require a 500-foot setback for high recreational use trails and roads, no setbacks are required in several areas in Trapping District 1. On publicly owned lands, foothold traps and snares are prohibited within 1,000 feet of a designated campground, recreation site, or marked trailhead that is accessible by highway vehicle. Foothold traps are also prohibited within 1,000 feet of an occupied dwelling without written notification of the occupant.
  - The maximum hunting and trapping bag limit is 20 wolves per person during the 2022-23 season. Persons may take up to 10 wolves via hunting and 10 wolves via trapping (maximum harvest of 20 wolves per person).
  - Those licensed wolf trappers who legally harvest a wolf and choose to retain the skull and hide are required to personally present the skull and hide (with evidence of sex naturally attached) to a designated FWP employee within ten days after harvest. There is no requirement to possess any part of a harvested wolf.

9. Overall, on a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with the 2022-23 Montana wolf **TRAPPING** regulations listed above? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	Very <u>Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

(OVER)

10. On a scale from 1 (very intolerant) to 5 (very tolerant), how tolerant are you with wolf **TRAPPING** in Montana? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Very Intolerant</u>	<u>Intolerant</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Tolerant</u>	<u>Very Tolerant</u>
1	2	3	4	5

11. Based on Montana’s experience with a wolf trapping season during the past five years, has your tolerance of wolf **TRAPPING** in the state changed over time?

- NO
- YES.....If yes, how has your tolerance changed? (check **ONLY one**)
- I am more tolerant of wolf trapping now
- I am less tolerant of wolf trapping now

12. On a scale from 1 (much too short) to 5 (much too long), what is your opinion regarding the length of the Montana wolf **HUNTING** season (September 3 – March 15)? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Much too Short</u>	<u>Too Short</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Too Long</u>	<u>Much too Long</u>
1	2	3	4	5

13. On a scale from 1 (much too short) to 5 (much too long), what is your opinion regarding the length of the Montana wolf **TRAPPING** season (November 28 – March 15, with a floating start date in occupied grizzly bear habitat)? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Much too Short</u>	<u>Too Short</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Too Long</u>	<u>Much too Long</u>
1	2	3	4	5

14. On a scale from 1 (way too few) to 5 (way too many), what is your opinion regarding the bag limit (e.g., 20 wolves per person—10 by trapping, 10 by hunting) for the Montana wolf **HUNTING/TRAPPING** season? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Way too Few</u>	<u>Too Few</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Too Many</u>	<u>Way too Many</u>
1	2	3	4	5

15. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree that wolf populations should be controlled when they... (circle **ONLY one** number for each item below)

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
...threaten big game populations	1	2	3	4	5
...are sighted near human development	1	2	3	4	5
...threaten livestock	1	2	3	4	5
...threaten pets	1	2	3	4	5
...threaten people	1	2	3	4	5

16. Some people take actions to prevent or respond to conflicts with wolves. On a scale from 1 (very unacceptable) to 5 (very acceptable), how acceptable do you find the following potential actions that people might take? (circle **ONLY one** number for each potential action below)

	Very <u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Unacceptable</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>	Very <u>Acceptable</u>
Preventative non-lethal actions (e.g., flagging/fladry, fencing, guard dogs, range riders)	1	2	3	4	5
Preventative lethal actions (e.g., removing wolves in areas with high livestock presence or potential for conflicts, before they attack livestock)	1	2	3	4	5
Lethal removal of wolves after they attack livestock, to prevent future conflicts (even if non-lethal efforts have not yet been attempted)	1	2	3	4	5
Lethal removal as a last resort (e.g., removing wolves after they attack livestock, but only after non-lethal efforts have been exhausted)	1	2	3	4	5

17. Have you ever had any interactions with wolves (e.g., seen tracks, heard a wolf howl, watched wolves, had wolves damage property, know of others who have had property damaged by wolves, etc.)?

NO

YES.....If yes, this next question has two parts:

a. What interactions have you had with wolves? (check **ALL that apply below**)

- I have seen wolf tracks at least once
- I have heard a wolf howl at least once
- I have watched wolves from afar at least once
- I have seen wolves very close to my home
- Wolves have damaged my property at least once
- I know people who have had their property damaged by wolves at least once
- I have had an interaction with wolves that made me fear for my safety
- I have had an interaction with wolves that I enjoyed.

b. On a scale from 1 (very negative) to 5 (very positive), overall, how would you rate the interactions you've had with wolves? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Negative</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Positive</u>	Very <u>Positive</u>
1	2	3	4	5

18. On a scale from 1 (very infrequently) to 5 (very frequently), how much have you interacted with FWP in the past on WOLF related wildlife issues in Montana? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Infrequently</u>	<u>Infrequently</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Frequently</u>	Very <u>Frequently</u>
1	2	3	4	5

19. On a scale from 1 (very infrequently) to 5 (very frequently), how much have you interacted with FWP in the past on NON-WOLF related issues in Montana? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Infrequently</u>	<u>Infrequently</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Frequently</u>	Very <u>Frequently</u>
1	2	3	4	5

(OVER)

20. Did you closely follow the season setting process for the 2022-23 Montana wolf hunting/trapping seasons? ..... [ ] NO [ ] YES

21. Did you actively participate in the formal process the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission used to authorize the 2022-23 Montana wolf hunt/trapping seasons? Active participation includes providing comments via email, the Internet, letter, or in-person at Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission meetings. .... [ ] NO [ ] YES

22. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (circle **ONLY one** number for each statement below)

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
The average citizen can have an influence on wolf management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
I have very little ability to protect my interests regarding wolf management	1	2	3	4	5
I have the opportunity to provide input on wolf management decisions	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife agencies listen to my input	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife agencies respect my way of life	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife management is controlled by people who live outside of Montana	1	2	3	4	5

23. Prior to receiving this survey, were you aware of the following?...

Montana laws allow wolves to be legally harvested during official hunting/trapping seasons authorized by the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission as long as there is a viable population of wolves in the state..... [ ] NO [ ] YES

The Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission accepts comments from the public (via email, the Internet, letters, and in-person at Commission meetings) as part of its process to consider whether or not to authorize a wolf hunting/trapping season in Montana each year..... [ ] NO [ ] YES

Dates and times of Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission meetings are identified on FWP’s Website and in public press releases sent out by the agency..... [ ] NO [ ] YES

24. Overall, on a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with wolf management in Montana? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Very Satisfied</u>
1	2	3	4	5

25. On a scale from 1 (very low confidence) to 5 (very high confidence), how confident are you with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park’s ability to manage wolves in the state? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

<u>Very Low Confidence</u>	<u>Low Confidence</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>High Confidence</u>	<u>Very High Confidence</u>
1	2	3	4	5



26. Based on Montana’s experience in managing wolves during the past five years, has your confidence in Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park’s ability to manage wolves in the state changed over time?

NO

YES.....If yes, how has your confidence changed? (**check ONLY one**)

I am more confident in FWP’s ability to manage wolves now

I am less confident in FWP’s ability to manage wolves now

27. Below are several statements representing different ways people think about fish and wildlife. On a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 7 (strongly agree), to what extent do you agree or disagree with each statement. (**circle ONLY one number for each statement below**)

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Moderately Disagree</u>	<u>Slightly Disagree</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Slightly Agree</u>	<u>Moderately Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
Humans should manage fish and wildlife populations so that humans benefit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Animals should have rights similar to the rights of humans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I view all living things as part of one big family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunting does not respect the lives of animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I feel a strong emotional bond with animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The needs of humans should take priority over fish and wildlife protection	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I care about animals as much as I do other people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fish and wildlife are on earth primarily for people to use	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunting is cruel and inhumane to the animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
We should strive for a world where humans and fish and wildlife can live side by side without fear	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I value the sense of companionship I receive from animals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wildlife are like my family and I want to protect them	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
People who want to hunt should be provided the opportunity to do so	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

28. Do you hunt in Montana?  NO  YES

29. For the 2022-23 season, did you purchase a Montana **WOLF HUNTING** license?  NO  YES

(OVER)

30. On a scale from 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (very likely), how likely are you to purchase a Montana **WOLF HUNTING** license in the future? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Unlikely</u>	<u>Unlikely</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Likely</u>	Very <u>Likely</u>
1	2	3	4	5

31. For the 2022-23 season, did you purchase a Montana **TRAPPING** license to trap wolves? [ ] NO [ ] YES

32. On a scale from 1 (very unlikely) to 5 (very likely), how likely are you to purchase a Montana **TRAPPING** license to trap wolves in the future? (circle **ONLY one** number below)

Very <u>Unlikely</u>	<u>Unlikely</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Likely</u>	Very <u>Likely</u>
1	2	3	4	5

33. For the 2022-23 season, did you purchase a license to hunt deer and/or elk in Montana? [ ] NO [ ] YES

34. Do you personally own 160 or more acres of land in Montana? [ ] NO [ ] YES

35. Does anyone in your immediate household, including yourself, raise livestock on any property in Montana?

[ ] NO

[ ] YES.....If yes, which of the following BEST DESCRIBES this livestock operation? (check only one)

[ ] Livestock producer in Montana

[ ] Livestock primarily raised in Montana as a hobby and/or for personal consumption

36. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_ (age in years)

37. Are you? [ ] Female [ ] Male

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

**Please return your completed survey using the enclosed postage paid envelope.**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Human Dimensions Program, Wildlife Division  
1420 East Sixth Avenue, P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, Montana 50620-0701



**MONTANA FWP**