

Montana Wildlife Federation Resolution on Trapping

Whereas, the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) recognizes and acknowledges that hunters, anglers, and trappers, collectively with a common vision, helped conserve and restore Montana's remnant fish and wildlife resources that once again enrich this Montana's mountains, plains and free flowing rivers and lakes;

Whereas, the MWF recognizes that the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has the responsibility to manage the state's fish and wildlife on behalf of all the people of Montana, whether or not they hunt, fish, or trap;

Whereas, as people increasingly recreate non-consumptively on public lands, conflicts between trapping and other types of public recreation are increasing and potentially may create efforts to curtail or eliminate trapping; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest to resolve conflicts in a manner that best ensures that all members of the public can enjoy their outdoor pursuits on appropriate public and private lands with minimal conflicts with others; now therefore, be it

Resolved that the Montana Wildlife Federation:

1. Recognizes that outdoor recreational experiences produce and nurture the motivation and knowledge that empowers individuals to become advocates for wildlife and habitat conservation.

2. Is committed to preserving carefully managed consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor recreation as fundamental parts of the Montana lifestyle and American heritage.

3. Expects FWP and sportsmen and sportswomen, including trappers, to do all in their power to neutralize the arguments of critics of trapping by:

- ensuring that trapping is done sustainably based on scientifically sound data on the numbers and distribution of species taken by trapping to prevent population declines or range reduction.
- requiring educational programs and/or certification regarding the appropriate and ethical use of equipment, techniques, and methods to trap species to reduce the injury or mortality of non-target animals.
- working with public land management agencies and private landowners to identify areas or times where trapping may conflict with or be unsafe to the public or non-target animals such as dogs, and clearly identifying such areas in regulations, with signs, and public notices.

Adopted: April 27, 2024, at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Montana Wildlife Federation