

Private working lands comprise nearly 65% of Montana’s 93 million acres play a critical role in securing future energy, water, food, and fiber for an ever-expanding human population. They are also more essential than ever in stabilizing land use, fighting climate change, and providing invaluable ecosystem services (wildlife habitat, water quality, soil health, etc.); making them an integral part to what makes Montana special, including clean air and water, connected open spaces, abundant wildlife. Thus, maintaining and conserving rural working lands is an absolute necessity if society cares about ecosystem values and quality recreational experiences, but so too is proper land management and stewardship. Wildlife and recreation should not be a by-product of land management practices, nor should it be a liability concern either. Rather they should be assets and planned products.

The MSU Wildlife Management Program responds to immediate needs within local areas and proactively anticipates future challenges and opportunities at local, state, regional, and national levels. Educational programs are based on the latest research information. The program vigorously strives to maintain the highest standards of objectivity and professional credibility. Five major audiences are targeted: 1) county/reservation Extension faculty, 2) range livestock producers, 3) government agency personnel, 4) smaller acreage landowners, and 5) youth and the urban public.

Extension Topic Areas & Programs

- Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction
 - *Large Carnivores*
 - *Wildlife Disease*
 - *Resource Competition*
- Wildlife Management
 - *Wildlife Monitoring Techniques*
 - *Wildlife Habitat Management*
 - *Wildlife Damage*
 - *Feral Swine*
- Public Benefit of Private Lands
 - *Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide*
 - *Landowner / Hunter Relations*
- Livestock Relationships with Wildlife
- Role of Hunting in Conservation
- Youth Education and 4-H

Current Applied Research Ideas

- Improving Wildlife Detection, Monitoring, and Estimation
- Human-Wildlife Conflict
 - *Exploring New Technology to Reduce Wildlife Conflict*
 - *Indirect Effects on Livestock Cohabiting with Carnivores*
- Land Enhancement for Wildlife and Livestock
 - *Prescribed Fire*
 - *Invasive and Encroachment Control*
 - *Migration Friendly Fencing*
 - *Pest Management*
- Private Lands Public Wildlife
 - *Land Ownership, Trends, and Values*
 - *Exploring Ways to Make Wildlife Assets*

Contact Information

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Helpful Links for Wildlife-related Information

MSU Wildlife Extension Program:

- <https://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/wildlife/index.html>

Vertebrate Pest Management:

- Publications: <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/Vertebrate-Pests>
- Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZjuOhPrQ07tiLsIF04Ccag>

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks:

- Wildlife Habitat Programs <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/>
- Montana Landowner Information (programs, conflict damage, etc.): <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/landowners/>
- Living With Wildlife Resources: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/>
- Wildlife Diseases and Research <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/diseasesAndResearch/>

USDA APHIS:

- Pest and Diseases: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases>
- Feral Swine: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/operational-activities/feral-swine/feral-swine-home>

USDA NRCS:

- Fact Sheets (guides, programs, conservation planning, etc.): https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/newsroom/factsheets/NRCS144P2_057910/
- Farm Bill: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/programs/farbill/>
- Financial Assistance: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/programs/financial/>
- Easements: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/programs/easements/>

Montana DNRC Publications:

- Publications: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/public-interest/publications>

US Forest Service

- Landowner Resource: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landowner-resources>

Western Landowners Alliance

- Stewardship Resources (tabs for Forest and Range, Water, Wildlife, Economics, and Energy): <https://westernlandowners.org/stewardship/>