



October 2016 Special Edition

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President's Message

Man, what a roller coaster ride in this election. We've been working hard as your chapter board, working with the MWPLA to fight I-177. We have produced and distributed 500 yard signs and even help with some rack cards. I would like to promote you to

GET OUT AN VOTE!!!

Many of you already have but for those who haven't please read and understand what you are voting for, you have a lot to lose in this election cycle. I am primarily talking on I-177, but also all the other offices that are up for grabs. I think, and I know you have heard it said, that your vote counts so much this year. No matter which candidates win or lose I definitely

see much change coming down the road, so **get out of the woods and make sure you vote on November 8th**

VOTE

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTIONS IN OUR NATIONS HISTORY, OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ARE AT STAKE AND CERTAINLY OUR RIGHTS TO OWN AND BEAR ARMS IS AT A

CRITICAL POINT IN OUR COUNTRIES HISTORY. GET OUT AND VOTE, MAKE SURE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE VOTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.



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Back Cover Gianforte on I-177

2016 Season Dates

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	
These dates are provided only as a general reference. Check current regulations for specific dates. Visit our website @ http://fwp.mt.gov	
2016 Big Game Seasons	
Antelope	900 series Aug 15-Nov 13
archery	Sept 8-Oct 7
general	Oct 8-Nov 13
Bighorn Sheep	Sept 3-Sept 14
archery	Sept 15-Nov 27
general	Nov 15-Feb 15, 2017
Black bear	spring Apr 15 - Varies
	(May 31 - June 15)
fall archery	Oct 22-Nov 27
fall	Sept 15-Nov 27
Deer & Elk	Sept 3-Oct 16
archery	Sept 3-Oct 16
youth, step only	Oct 20-Oct 21
two-day hunt	Oct 22-Nov 27
general	Sept 15-Nov 27
backcountry - HD's 150, 151, 280, 316*	Sept 3-Sept 14
archery	Sept 15-Nov 27
Elk Shoulder Seasons -	
Could occur before and after the archery and general seasons. Check website for details.	
Moose	Sept 15-Nov 27
Mountain Goat	Sept 15-Nov 27
Mountain Lion	Sept 3-Oct 16
archery	Sept 3-Oct 16
fall	Oct 22-Nov 27
spring	Dec 1-Apr 14, 2017
Wolf	Sept 3-Oct 16
archery	Sept 3-Oct 16
fall	Oct 22-Nov 27
spring	Dec 1-Apr 14, 2017
Wolf	Sept 3-Oct 16
archery	Sept 3-Oct 16
fall	Oct 22-Nov 27
spring	Dec 1-Apr 14, 2017

2016 Upland Game Birds Seasons	
These dates are provided only as a general reference. Check current regulations for specific dates. Visit our website @ http://fwp.mt.gov	
Mountain Grouse	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Partridge	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Phoeasant	Oct 8-Jan 1, 2017
Sage Grouse	Sept 1-Sept 30
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
Turkey	spring Apr 9-May 15
	fall Sept 1-Jan 1, 2017
2016 Montana Fishing Seasons	
Lakes	Open entire year
Rivers** and streams	Nov -30
3rd Saturday in May	Nov -30
**Some rivers are open entire year - check the fishing regulations	
2016 Montana Furbeater Seasons	
For general reference only	
Trapping District 1, 2 & 3	Nov 1 - April 15, 2017
Bobcat	Dec 1 - Feb 15, 2017*
Trapping Districts 4, 5, 6 & 7	Sept 1 - May 31, 2017
Bobcat	Dec 1 - March 1, 2017*
Portion of Trapping District 6	Nov 1 - March 1, 2017*
Swift Fox	Nov 1 - March 1, 2017*
Fisher, Marten, Wolverine	Dec 1 - Feb 15, 2017*
Mink, Muskrat, Otter	Nov 1 - April 15, 2017*

2016 Application/Purchase Deadlines	
Big Game	June 1
Antelope	June 1
Bighorn Sheep	May 2
Black Bear	May 2
hunting	Apr 14*
fall	Aug 31*
Deer & Elk	special permits Mar 15
special permits	June 1
special permits	May 2
Moose	May 2
Mountain Goat	May 2
Mountain Lion	general license Aug 31*
special limited entry	Aug 11*
Super Tags	Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bear, Deer, Elk, Moose, Mountain Goat and Mountain Lion June 30
general license	June 30
*see species-specific regulations for license purchase restrictions.	
Upland Game, Migratory and Wetlands	
Migratory Birds	July 26
Cranes	July 26
Swans	July 26
Turkey	March 3
spring	March 3
fall	July 26
Turn in Poachers - 1-800-847-8686	

Contacts - FWP State Headquarters and Regional and Area Resource Offices	
State Headquarters 1420 East Sixth Ave PO Box 203701 Helena, MT 59620 406-444-2535	Region 4 4600 Grant Springs Rd Great Falls, MT 59405 406-454-2640
Region 1 439 W Mendota Rd Kalispell, MT 59901 406-752-5501	Lewistown Area Res Office (JARO) 215 W Astor Cr PO Box 938 Lewistown, MT 59457 406-638-4688
Region 2 3201 Spurgeon Rd Missoula, MT 59804 406-542-8589	Region 3 2300 Lake Elmo Cr Billings, MT 59106 406-247-2640
Region 3 1400 South 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59716 406-994-4042	Region 6 1 Airport Rd Glasgow, MT 59230 406-228-3700
Helena Area Res Office (JARO) 930 Custer Ave W Helena, MT 59620 406-495-3250	Harve Area Res Office (JARO) 2155 Hwy 2 East Havre, MT 59501 406-266-6177
Butte Area Res Office (JARO) 1920 Meadbrook Ln Butte, MT 59701 406-494-1553	Region 7 352 194 Business Loop PO Box 1633 Miles City, MT 59301 406-234-9500



NEVER GIVE UP

BY Rob Hammond

We all know, regardless of what hobbies we enjoy, they are all expensive, both in time and money. Hunting is no different! Most of us, when we decide to book a hunting trip, will then spend hours researching outfitters, calling references, and booking airlines, all to insure that the chosen trip will meet our expectations of adventure and fun! Working, and saving, and planning, sometimes for years, is part of the process, and truly, makes the trip worthwhile. However, sometimes, all of the planning and research fails to yield a trip that meets our expectations, and often, through no fault of either the hunter or the outfitter. It is in these moments that the hunter has a responsibility, and really, an obligation, to rationally discuss concerns with the outfitter, with the intent of reaching a mutually agreed upon resolution.

The following story illustrates this point.

I booked a Stone Sheep hunt in northern British Columbia. After ‘puddle jumping’ from one plane to another, followed by a thirty-mile horseback ride, I finally arrived at hunting camp. The excitement of getting started the next morning kept me awake all night. Twelve days later, exhausted from waking up before dark, going to bed after dark, spending two nights on a cliff, all day hiking, and enduring punishing weather systems, I still had not even seen a single, legal ram. My guide and I were exhausted physically, emotionally, and mentally, which made the thirty mile ride back to the main lodge, all the more brutal. After we arrived back at the main lodge, the outfitter/owner and I discussed my options to return the following year. I reminded the owner of a conversation we had, prior to making the deposit on the hunt, in which he said, “if you’ll hunt hard everyday, go where we tell you to go, do what we tell you to do, I promise you’ll get your sheep.” He gave me his word that I would get a sheep, and I had kept my word in meeting his expectations, so we made arrangements for me to return the following year, with a price point that we both felt was fair.

When it was time to make arrangements for the return trip, I contacted the outfitter. You can imagine my disappointment, and confusion, when the outfitter had no intention of honoring our agreement. His ‘new’ offer was not even close to our original agreement (the price had changed exponentially), which forced me to have to decline his offer. Every year, for the next seven years, I would see this outfitter at his booth at the Safari Club International convention, I still had hope that he would honor our agreement. He would always say hello and pretend we were friends, ask about my family, and engage in small talk. This year when I saw him, I had finally had enough. I reminded him of our discussion, of his promise, and I reminded him he gave me his word. That conversation ended exactly as the previous six years had, and with a few other choices words and my request that he stop any pretensions of friendship. Six months later, the outfitter called me. He apologized, and said “it’s time to make things right.” He invited me back to do another hunt, based on our original agreement. Because I had to save the money to do the hunt, he allowed me to set the dates for the following year, and as the picture illustrates, the second trip was successful!! Not only did I have an amazing adventure, I gained a lifelong friend, which is proof that persistence, in doing the right thing, is worth the effort.



YOUR CLUBS MONEY AT WORK, AWLS PROGRAM, Crystal Williamson

I want to thank the SCI Chapter for an amazing experience at the AWLS camp this summer. I attended in early June with a teacher from Bozeman and thirty-one teachers from eleven other states. I have to be honest and admit, as a teacher, I was not looking forward to giving up eight days of my summer to sit in a classroom! However, I would not trade my time and experiences at AWLS for anything. As a matter of fact, my only regret is that I was not able to attend at the beginning of my teaching career. I know this camp has made me a better teacher. I walked away with amazing resources, lesson plans, experiences and a network of amazing teachers and instructors from all over the U.S. to glean from.

For those who are unfamiliar with AWLS, I'd like to give a quick summary of this great experience. The first day began with two outdoor activities. After a brief time in the classroom we took a scenic walk, not far from the Tetons, where we discussed habitat, water rights, Wyoming wildlife and the affects of man on nature. Next, we participated in outdoor survival skills such as how to: use bear spray, build a fire "without matches", collect and purify water and build shelter. I might add the outdoor survival skills was taught by a retired Green Beret. Education doesn't get much better than that!

Throughout the week we learned about types of firearms and their ammunition such as shotguns, hand guns, and rifles. As the week progressed we became proficient in firearm safety and finished the week with numerous shooting competitions. Such a blast!

I must add I've been hunting with my dad since the age of eight. I completed hunter's education early in life and have even been blessed with the opportunity to hunt Africa, but the knowledge I gained from AWLS with regards to firearms, firearm safety and ammunition was top notch! I wish every hunter had that quality/caliber of education. No pun intended. Okay, maybe!

It was amazing to see those teachers who had never handled firearms, and might have even been opposed to them, warm up to the idea of their use and actually ENJOY the experience of competitive shooting! This too was taught by an expert instructor in his field making even the beginners feel safe and well informed.

During the week we were also introduced to archery, we were given many opportunities to practice and became certified instructors with NASP. I hope to begin a program in my school.

These only scratch the surface of the experience. We traveled to and toured the Elk Refuge where we discussed it's pros and cons on elk population. We went to the Green River where Wyoming has spent 19 million dollars in an effort to restore the 6,000 year migration route of the pronghorn antelope and to prevent the loss of wildlife on major high-ways. While there, we were given an amazing description of fur trade in U.S. history as we viewed the upper Green River Rendezvous Site where Jim Bridger and many others helped bring the west to the east as they traded fur and supplies with the natives. What an extraordinary place to stand and hear the story be retold by a history major.

In the same area we interviewed spokespersons from the oil and natural gas industry, BLM, and Wyoming Wildlife Department to discuss how drilling and restoration projects have affected the wildlife especially the sage grouse breeding grounds. We learned about a project created by local high school students to help restore the declining grouse population. It's actually working!

I could go on and on AND ON about all of the wonderful things I learned, but I'll close here with a description of a day in stream ecology. On this particular day we put on our hip waders, gathered up our nets and buckets, and meandered down to the river. There we stirred up the rocks, put out our nets and caught critters, lots of them. We collected numerous species of larvae and water insects. We took them back to the cabin where we learned to identify each of them, learned what they might become in the way of flies and inspected many under magnification. Again what a blast!

That, however, was not the end. We then went into the classroom where we identified the types of flies and insects eaten by trout and salmon. We were taught about stream ecology, trout, invasive trout, and fly fishing. Yes, we learned how to fly fish from professional fly fishermen who had just returned from a global competition in Ireland. We then spent an hour learning how to make our own flies.

I didn't even get to share about throwing tomahawks, rafting the Snake River, the fantastic food, or an evening spent with an incredible man who's spent over 40 years as a park ranger in Yellowstone. Oh, the stories he can tell! My heart wells up with excitement every time I think on these experiences which I believe is the point of the AWLS camp. We were encouraged as teachers to get our students outside, teach them the things we learned, and create a love for the outdoors.

Please know your donations to educating this teacher was well spent. I hope many other teachers will go in the future.

It is my hope to create many of these experiences for my students. Who knows, maybe in the future, together we can create an outdoor classroom for Gallatin County where all students can share in a love for the outdoors and God's wonderful creation!

Sincerely,

Crystal Williamson



During the 2015 season on a ridge just south of Bozeman, I had a day of hunting wolves that I will never forget. I cut the track at first light that was less than 24 hours old and spent the next five and a half hours walking the track on a timber side hill, zig-zagging back and forth on the finger ridges. I must have climbed over 4,000 feet that day. When I finally stopped - out of pure exhaustion - the tracks were less than two hours old. I never saw the wolves that day, but I was out there hunting with them and it was one of the most awesome days that I've ever had in the woods.

Every sportsman in Montana has a similar story -- maybe it's trout fishing in the Madison, filling your bull tag in the Flathead or bagging a six point buck in the hills of eastern Montana -- hunters know that even if you don't come home with anything to put in your freezer at the end of the day, there's a deep satisfaction that comes with being outside and a connection with the land in a part of your soul that can't be touched unless you're with nature.

Montana's great outdoors and the incredible access that we have to it adds tremendously to our way of life here. We get to wake up every day and look at God's creation right outside our doors. As an avid sportsman, I know that hunting and fishing are an important part of our way of life here and must be preserved.

Hunting is part of how I fell in love with Montana and some of the most treasured memories for Susan and I raising our four children here has been adventures in the outdoors with the kids while they were growing up. I know how important it is for families to continue to be able to share these moments with future generations. This means pushing back against attempts by extreme environmental groups and misguided individuals who are trying to tie up public lands and limit outdoor recreation.

An important example of this is I-177 which is on the Montana ballot this year. We must stop this misguided endeavour in its tracks. Not only will it prohibit trapping on public land, it sets in motion a precedent which puts the future of hunting and public land access in Montana in jeopardy. This legislation is nothing more than an attempt by extreme groups to lock up land with no regard to the damage it will cause to Montana's wildlife populations, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen and private landowners. I believe in the benefits of trapping to protect and control wildlife populations, and as a lifetime member of the Montana Trapping Association I will be a strong voice for Montana's sportsmen as your Governor.

The most important thing that I can do in Helena for Montana's sportsmen community is to make sure there is solid leadership in Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP). We have to make sure that leadership balances the interest of sportsmen and private landowners while being good stewards of our great outdoors.

We can all agree that we want healthy public lands, healthy wildlife herds and robust hunting access, but also know that this must be balanced with personal property right and farm and ranch operations. Hunting, trapping and fishing is a key part of our way of life in Montana, and Lesley Robinson and I will work hard in Helena to preserve it.

Greg Gianforte

**VOTE
NO ON
I-177**

**BAD FOR WILDLIFE
BAD FOR MONTANA**

CALENDER OF FUTURE EVENTS

DECEMBER 1, 2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY

APRIL 29, 2017 FUND RAISER

FEBRUARY 24, 2018 FUND RAISER



**CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 1, 2016
LAND OF MAGIC STEAK-
HOUSE**

**WE CAN ONLY ACCOMADATE 80 PEOPLE
SO GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN EARLY
ON OUR SOUTHWEST MONTANA
SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
WEBSITE. COME AND SHARE THE
HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND SHARE YOUR
HUNTING STORIES OF THE FALL 2016
SEASON.**