

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





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MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Dear Director Williams and the Citizens of Montana,

Please find in the following pages, an overview of the Law Enforcement Division's accomplishments over the last year. Not only did 2018 bring significant obstacles and challenges for the division, it also demonstrated the resolve, determination and flexibility of Montana Game Wardens to adapt to and overcome those challenges. This annual report serves to capture and present that information. Our commitment to delivering fair and consistent conservation law enforcement across the state remains strong and is best illustrated by our efforts of clarifying regulations, updating policy and providing game wardens with updated, relevant training. Additionally, the division has successfully implemented a pilot K9 program where trained and certified dogs are used for scent detection purposes. The division has also implemented an electronic tracking process where wardens can efficiently and quickly keep track of daily activities as required by law.

The detection of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Canyon Ferry and Tiber Reservoirs and the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Montana were challenges Game Wardens seamlessly adjusted to with emphasis on AIS detection efforts and CWD surveillance efforts. This critical work will continue to be a challenge as well as a priority for not only for the Enforcement Division but for the entire agency.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Enforcement Division in 2018 however, continued to be the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding of personal services (pay). The 2017 legislature funded the division with 30% P-R funds; as opposed to 3 to 9% in previous years. P-R funds are strictly prohibited from being used for law enforcement duties. As such, Game Warden efforts dedicated to proactive, effective and efficient conservation law enforcement, state parks enforcement, water safety enforcement and criminal investigation of poaching activity in Montana were drastically impacted.

Arguably, one of the most dangerous jobs in law enforcement is that of a Game Warden. We work alone, without close back up, in areas with limited communication and nearly everyone we encounter is armed. Despite the dangers, risks and hazards of protecting our wild resources and the challenges AIS, legislative Pittman-Robertson funding and CWD has presented, Montana's Game Wardens commitment and dedication to the mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks continues strong and unwavering in serving and protecting Montana, The Last Best Place.

Sincerely,

Dave Loewen, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

MONTANA GAME WARDEN



OATH OF OFFICE

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Montana and that I will discharge the duties of my office as a Fish, Wildlife and Parks Game Warden with fidelity (so help me God).

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or

friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession: **Law Enforcement.**



Law Enforcement Division Priorities

OFFICER SAFETY

Our most important resource is our personnel. In 2018, 97 law enforcement officers nationwide were killed in the line of duty, 53 of whom were feloniously killed in the line of duty. The safety of Montana's Game Wardens has been and will continue to be a priority for the agency and the division. An aggressive training program where safety, proficiency, skill and knowledge are a common theme will continue within the division. Training and implementation of best practices and procedures that keep Game Wardens safe while at the same time keeping conservation law enforcement relevant and on the cutting edge of technology will continue to be emphasized as we move forward.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Wildlife crime worldwide continues at an epidemic rate. The mission of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks places the protection and preservation of our wild resources as an agency wide priority and the underlying foundation for the work we do. Through proactive law enforcement and sound professional criminal investigations, Montana's Game Wardens are dedicated to the protection and preservation of Montana's priceless fish, wildlife and parks resources and providing for safe recreational opportunities. Public involvement with resource protection through the promotion and use of TIPMONT will continue to be an emphasis within the law enforcement program.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Public trust, professionalism and conduct are the foundational tenets upon which our Oath of Office and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics are built. As public employees, the Game Wardens of the Enforcement Division are committed to upholding and demonstrating this by continuing to deliver fair, consistent and impartial law enforcement without compromising officer safety or weakening officer discretion.



PARTNERSHIPS

Game Wardens are more often the face and voice representing Fish, Wildlife & Parks in our local communities. Continuing to grow and strengthen existing relationships while developing critical new relationships with sportsmen and women, constituency groups, landowners and all Montanans has been a traditional strength of Montana Game Wardens and will continue as we strive to meet the challenges of an everchanging and evolving landscape.

TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology clearly plays an increasingly important role in nearly all aspects of modern law enforcement. The enforcement division will continue to explore employ and leverage technology to our advantage to streamline administrative tasks, enhance officer safety, collect relevant enforcement data and enable more efficient use of time.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Up-to-date, defensible, enforceable and reliable policy in a 'develop, implement, review and revise cycle' is integral in any law enforcement organization. The enforcement division will continue with consolidating and modernizing existing policy, developing needed policy and purging obsolete policy.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The division will certainly continue to be faced with new and unforeseen challenges while at the same time being tasked with adapting to the AIS, CWD, and PR funding challenges we currently face. Increased public and agency demand on Game Warden time coupled with an ever-changing work environment will require Montana Game Wardens to remain relevant, keep an eye to the future but never lose sight of our past.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Enforcement Division

Dave Loewen

Chief of Enforcement

Ron Jendro

Assistant Chief of Enforcement

Commissioned Headquarters Staff

JD Douglas, Warden Captain

Justin Gibson, Training Sergeant

Phil Kilbreath, Operations Sergeant

Mike Lee, Commercial wildlife permitting

Noncommissioned Headquarters Staff

Chris Fetherston, Admin Supervisor

Loagan Robinson, Admin Specialist

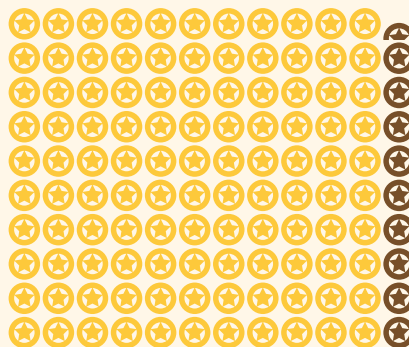
Laura Juvan George, License Fraud Coordinator

Brian Shinn, TIPMONT program

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

- ▶ TIPMONT
- ▶ Recreational Boating Enforcement & Education
- ▶ Special Investigations
- ▶ Commercial Wildlife Permitting
- ▶ Field Training Evaluation Program
- ▶ Statewide training
- ▶ Hiring

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION STATS



Total staff:
119.5

Total commissioned
officers:
110

Average
game warden
time in service:
12.0 years

“Enforce the law without fear or favor.”

—W.F. Scott, Montana's first Game Warden, 1901



Montana Game Warden

FWP MISSION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.



THE BADGE

The badge worn by Montana game wardens is a unique symbol of our profession and our professionalism. It is a symbol of courage, honor, integrity, truth, justice and service.

The badge represents our commitment to selfless service to the people of Montana by the expression of our core values:

- ✪ Public service
- ✪ Public Trust
- ✪ Honoring tradition and heritage
- ✪ Working with landowners
- ✪ Using science
- ✪ Leadership
- ✪ Stewardship
- ✪ Valuing our team

OATH OF OFFICE

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REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A GAME WARDEN

- ▶ Bachelors degree
- ▶ Extensive background investigation
- ▶ Medical evaluation
- ▶ Psychological evaluation
- ▶ Graduation from Montana Law Enforcement Academy
- ▶ Completion of Field Training and Evaluation Program
- ▶ 1 Full year of probation after hire





Region 1

Region 1 Information

Montana FWP Region 1 Headquarters
490 N Meridain Rd
Kalispell MT 59901
406-752-5501

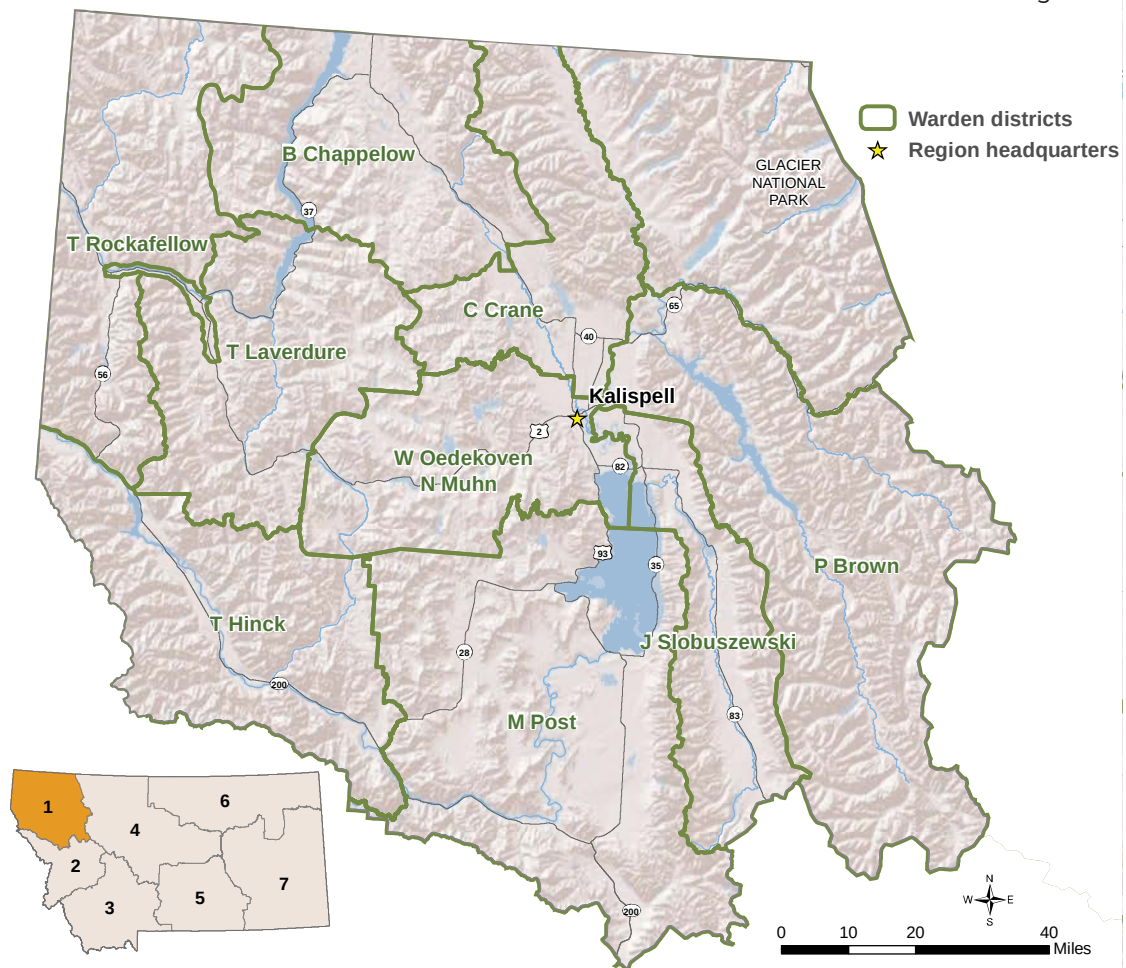
Block Management675,380 acres
Public land 8,446 square miles
Fishing access sites32
State parks42

Game Wardens

Lee Anderson Captain
Jon Obst Sergeant
Nathan Reiner Sergeant
Brian Sommers Investigator

Chuck Bartos Kalispell
Perry Brown Columbia falls
Ben Chappelow Eureka
Chris Crane Whitefish
Troy Hink Plains
Tamie Laverdure Libby
Nathan Muhn Kalispell
Chris Neu Kalispell
Wes Oedekoven Kalispell
Morgan Post Polson
Taylor Rockafellow Troy
Justin Slobuszewski Bigfork

REGION 1



FWP GDS 1/7/2019

Region 2

Region 2 Information

Montana FWP Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula MT 59804
406-542-5500

Block Management559,431 acres
Public land 7,140 square miles
Fishing access sites 73
State parks11

Game Wardens

Joe Jaquith Captain
Dan Curtin Sergeant
Aaron Berg Sergeant
Tom Chianelli Investigator

Terry Althaus Philipsburg
Brad Balis Drummond
Chris Hamilton Missoula
Joe Kambic Deer Lodge/Anaconda
Bill Koppen Seeley Lake
Alex Mattson Superior
Kyle Miller Missoula
Lou Royce Darby
Derek Schott Missoula
Ezra Schwalm Lincoln
Justin Singleterry Stevensville



Region 3

Region 3 Information

Montana FWP Region 3 Headquarters

1400 South 19th Ave

Bozeman MT, 59718

406-994-4042

Block Management 558,142 acres

Public land 10,914 square miles

Fishing access sites 88

State parks 9

Game Wardens

Adam Pankratz Captain

Matt Wemple Sergeant

Coy Cline Sergeant

Justin Hawkaluk Sergeant

Shane Brozovich Ennis

Bill Dawson Boulder

Regan Dean Wisdom

Timothy Fawell Helena

Justin Feddes Bozeman

Ben Gleason Bozeman

Brooke Johnson Helena

Josh Leonard Townsend

Brian Lloyd Bozeman

Andrew Mohr Helena

Robert Phole West Yellowstone

Ryan Picken Sheridan

Rick Schmauch Dillon

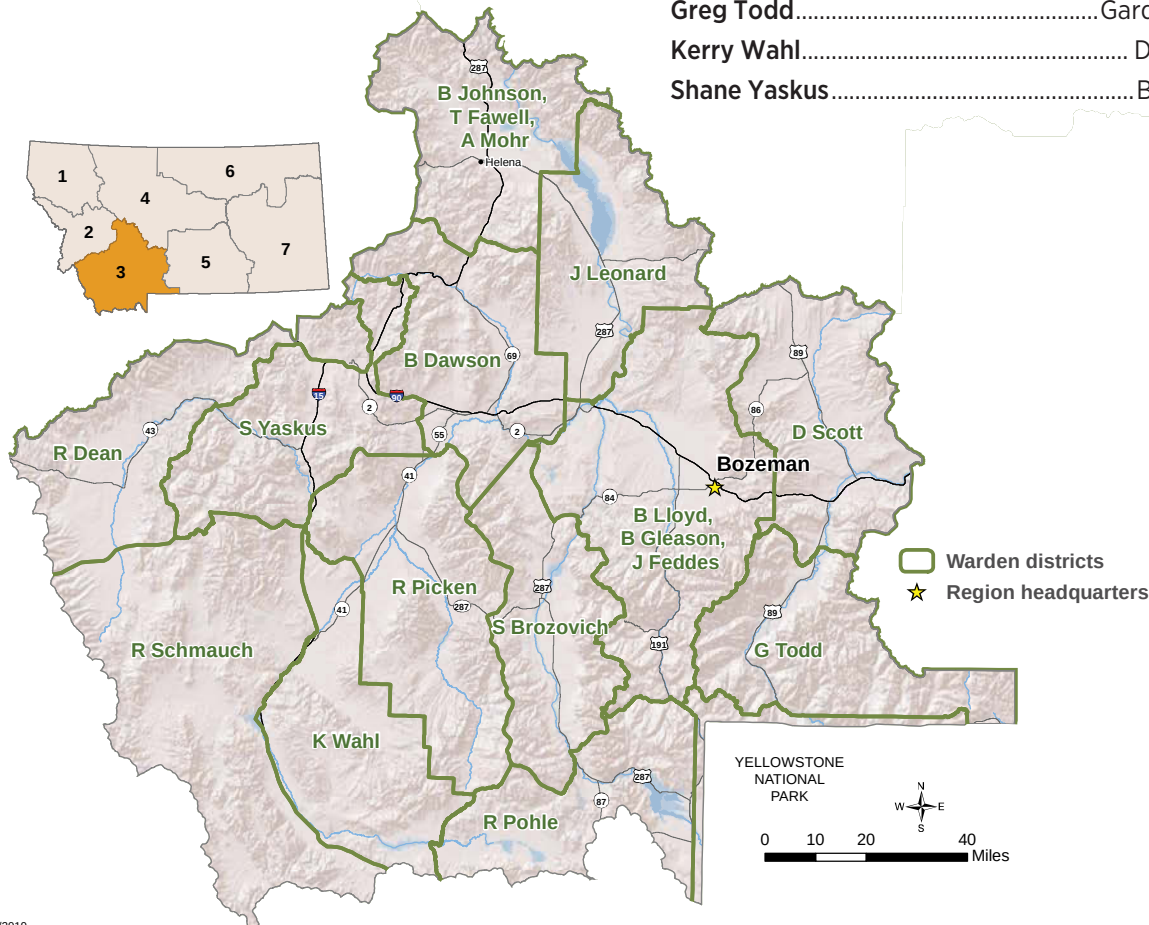
Drew Scott Livingston

Greg Todd Gardiner

Kerry Wahl Dillon

Shane Yaskus Butte

REGION 3



FWP GDS 1/7/2019

Region 4

Region 4 Information

Montana FWP Region 4 Headquarters
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

Block Management1,213,285 acres
Public land7,657 square miles
Fishing access sites55
State parks5

Game Wardens

Dave HollandCaptain
Brett LoganSergeant
Kyle AndersenSergeant
Bryan GolieInvestigator

Shawn BriggsLewistown
Rod DutyChoteau
Trenton FarmerGreat Falls
Trey GackeLewistown
Keith KnightonGreat Falls
Mike KringsConrad
Kqyn KukaGreat Falls
John LesofskiWhite Sulphur Springs
William MillerChester
Brady MurphyAugusta
Zac NorrisStanford
Jim SmolczynskiFort Benton



Region 5

Region 5 Information

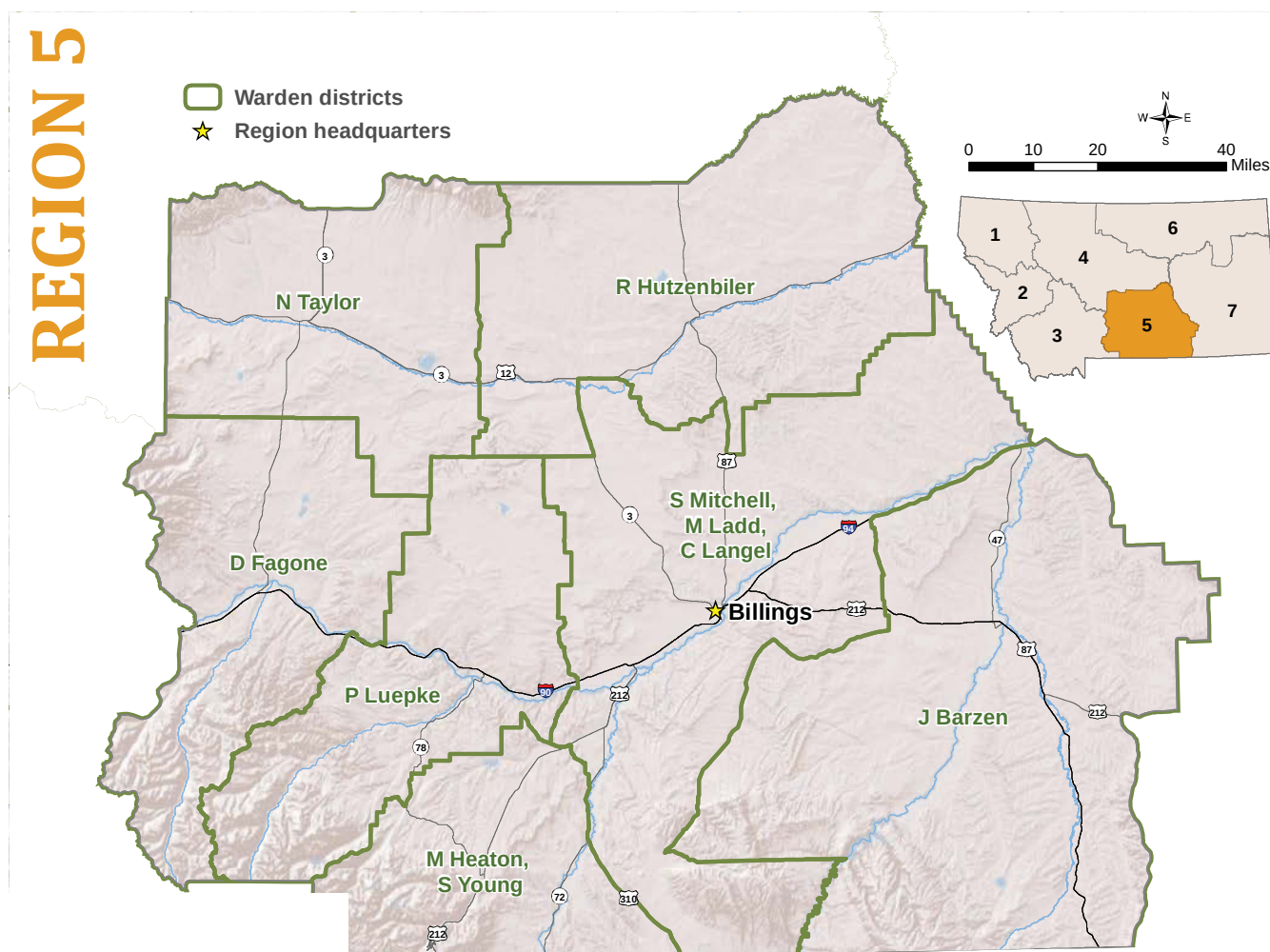
Montana FWP Region 5 Headquarters
2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
406-247-2940

Block Management592,943 acres
Public land3,279 square miles
Fishing access sites47
State parks6

Game Wardens

Harold Guse Captain
Chris Anderson Sergeant
Courtney Tyree Sergeant
Lee Burroughs Investigator

Derek Fagone Big Timber
Matt Heaton Red Lodge
Randy Hutzenbiler Roundup
Matt Ladd Billings
Connor Langel Billings
Paul Luepke Columbus
Skyler Mitchell Billings
Nick Taylor Harlowton



Region 6

Region 6 Information

Montana FWP Region 6 Headquarters
54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 5959230
406-228-3700

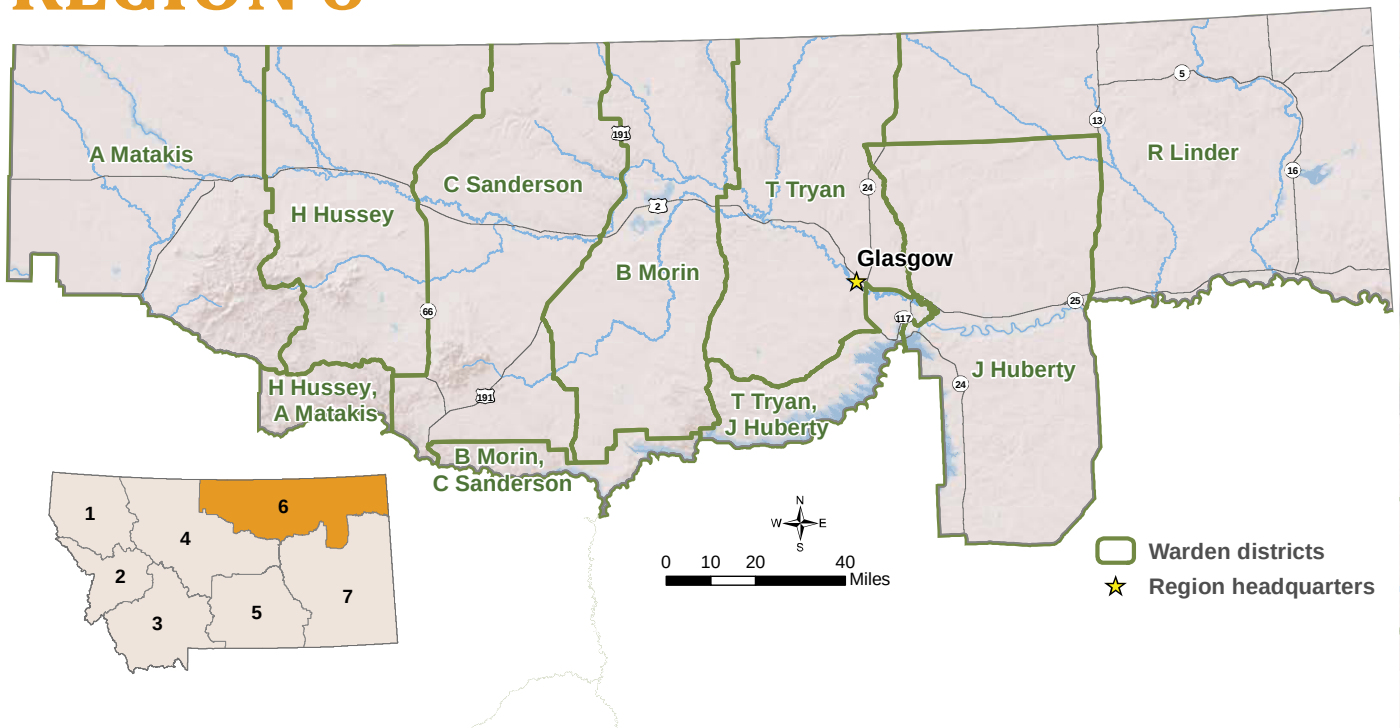
Block Management 1,385,998 acres
Public land 7,335 square miles
Fishing access sites 16
State parks 1

Game Wardens

Ron Howell Captain
Shane Reno Sergeant
Dirk Paulsen Investigator

John Huberty Fort Peck
Ryan Linder Plentywood
Andrew Matakis Havre
Ben Morin Malta East
Chase Sanderson Malta West
Todd Tryan Glasgow

REGION 6



FWP GDS 1/7/2019

Region 7

Region 7 Information

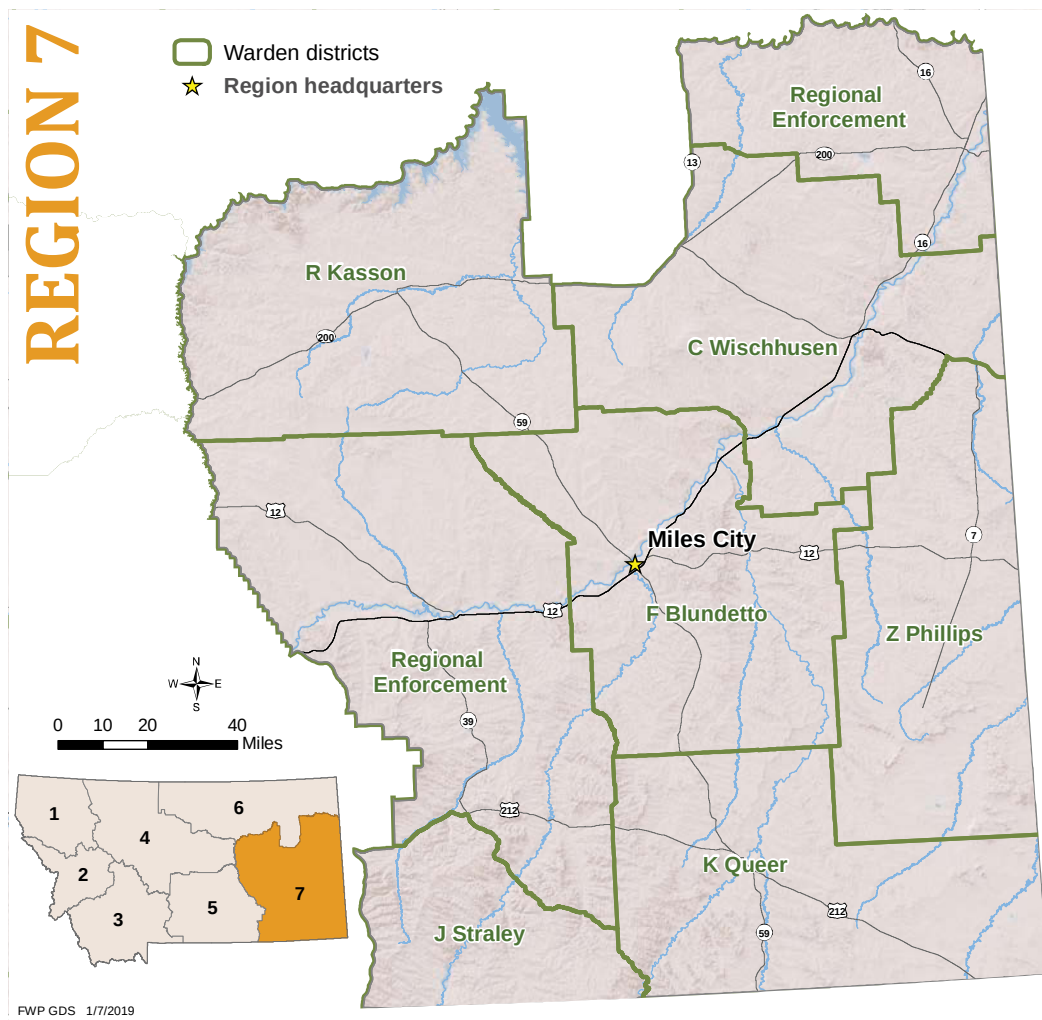
Montana FWP Region 7 Headquarters
 352 I-94 Business Loop
 Miles City, MT 59301
 406-234-0900

Block Management2,197,087 acres
 Public land7,075 square miles
 Fishing access sites21
 State parks4

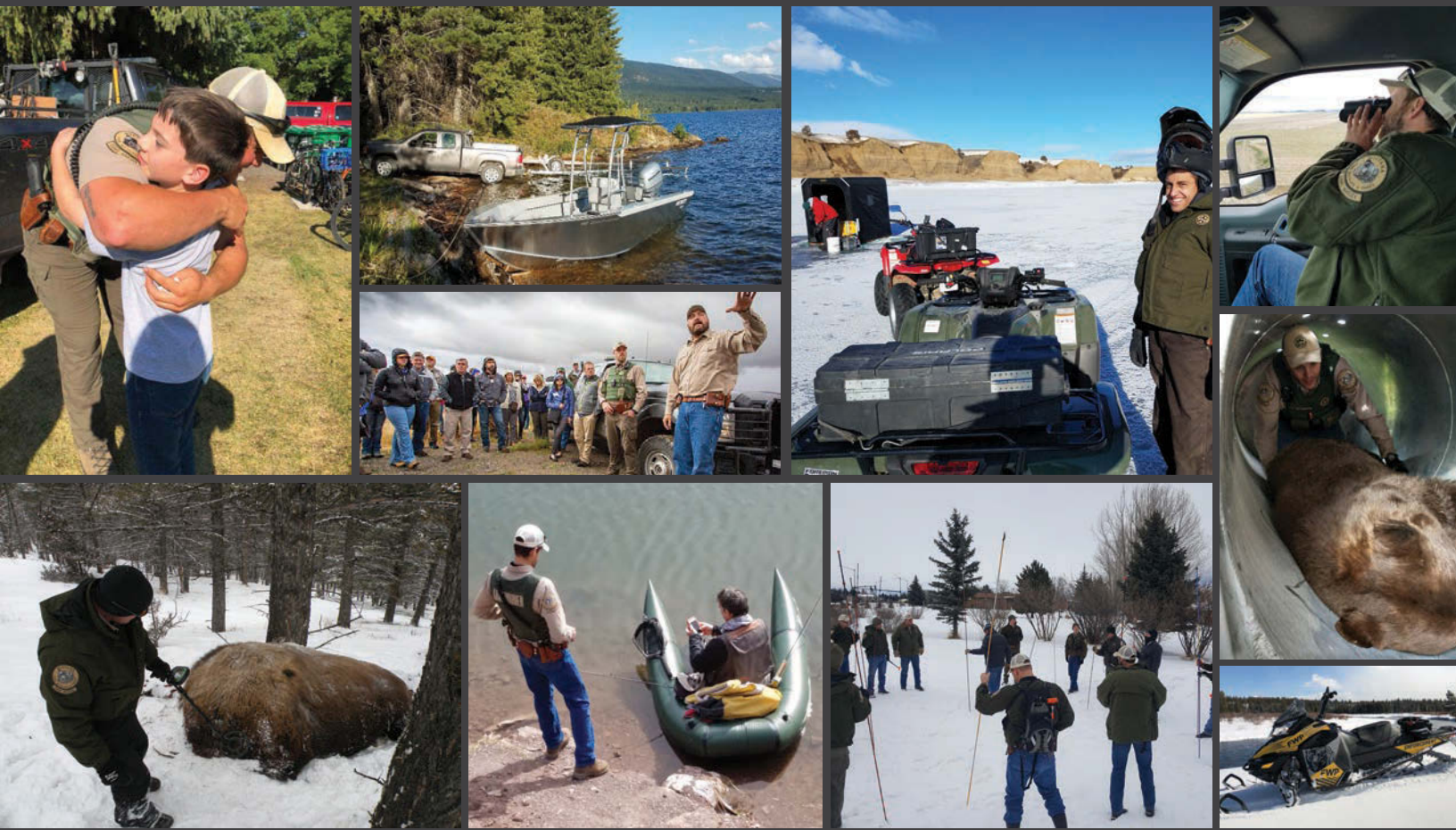
Game Wardens

Jack Austin.....Captain
 Todd Anderson.....Sergeant
 Chris Kerin.....Sergeant
 Steve Marx.....Investigator

Ryan Kasson.....Jordan
 Connor Langel.....Colstrip
 Kyle Queer.....Broadus
 Jordan Straley.....Decker/Tongue
 Cameron Wischhusen.....Glendive
 Zachary Phillips.....Baker



2018 REPORT



Fisheries/Fishing Access Site Enforcement

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating fishing in the state of Montana through the use of effective, professional conservation law enforcement.

The 2017 legislature passed legislation expanding the FWP Aquatic invasive species (AIS) program in response to the discovery of invasive mussels in Montana. This discovery, changed the nature of FWP Warden's summer field work, putting a much larger emphasis on the AIS program. Wardens spend their time enforcing regulations in three main areas:

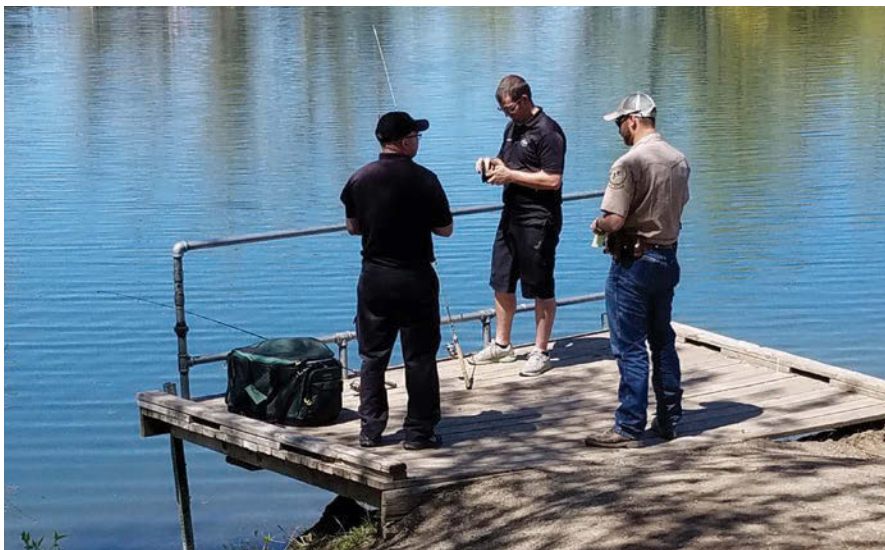
1. Enforcing regulations pertaining to AIS quarantine areas.
2. Enforcing mandatory inspection for traveling watercraft.
3. Enforcing mandatory inspection before launch for out of state boats.

Montana Game Wardens enforce the rules and laws regulating fishing in the state of Montana. Wardens patrol the field, contact anglers, check licenses and ensure compliance.

Additionally, the Fishing Access Site Program is part of the Fisheries Division. Wardens patrol fishing access sites, investigate crimes committed in the sites and insure users are following the regulations.

Fishing Access Sites at-a-glance:

- Montana has 336 fishing access
- Approximately 3.9 million people use a FAS annually. FAS are used for fishing, boating and other recreation
- Approximately 40.7% of FAS users do not purchase a fishing license



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

FAS violations investigated	132
Fishing violations investigated	477
Angler contacts	27,468

AIS CITATIONS AND WARNINGS ISSUED

Violation	Warnings	Citations
Failure To Stop at Invasive Species Management Area Check Station	159	49
Violation of Invasive Species Management Area Regulation	14	5

FISHERIES CITATIONS ISSUED—TOP FIVE

Violation	Citations
Fish Without a License	267
FWP Rule (slot limit, overlimit etc)	66
Closed Season	22
Waste of game fish.....	2
Import salmonid Eggs without permit.....	2

COMPARISON OF ANGLERS CONTACTED AND TOTAL ANGLING CITATIONS DETECTED BETWEEN 2017 AND 2018

	2017	2018
Anglers Contacted	27,836	27,468
Total Fishing Citations.....	472	382

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.

Wildlife Enforcement

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating the take of wildlife in the state of Montana through the use of effective, consistent, and professional conservation law enforcement.

The enforcement division has a variety of tools available to accomplish their wildlife duties.

Wardens routinely patrol large districts contacting hunters/trappers and responding to complaints.

The enforcement division has a corps of dedicated criminal investigators whose duties are to investigate and help prosecute large wildlife crimes.



Photo by: Erik Petersen/Montana Outdoors

FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

Hunting Violations Investigated.....	1,147
Wildlife Investigations.....	732
Urban Wildlife Calls.....	450
Trapping Violations Investigated.....	75
Wildlife Management Area Investigations	29

TOP 10 HUNTING CITATIONS

Violation	Citations
Hunting Without Landowner Permission	273
Commission Rule Violation	263
Hunting Without a License	76
Unlawful Possession of Game	72
Loan And Transfer of License	54
Shooting From the Road	51
Tagging Violations.....	38
Hunting During Closed Season	37
No Hunter Orange	25
Waste of Game	23

COMPARISON OF HUNTERS CONTACTED AND TOTAL HUNTING CITATIONS DETECTED IN 2017 AND 2018

	2017	2018
Hunters Contacted	27,886	34,300
Hunting Citations.....	1,484	1,187



Parks Enforcement

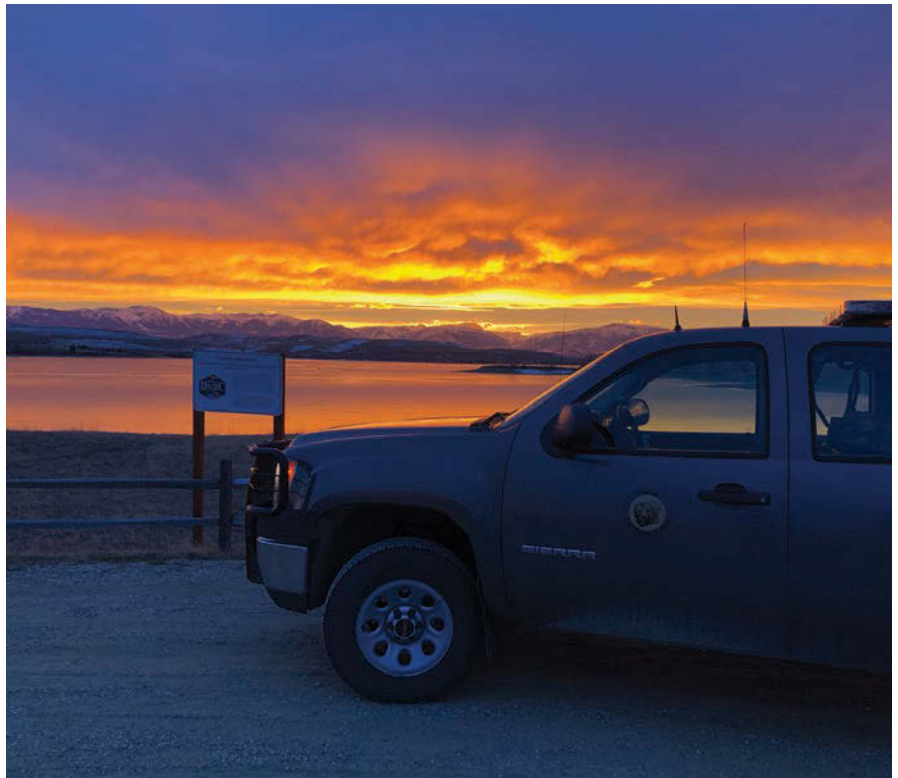
The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Enforcement Division enforces the laws and rules regulating State Parks and Fishing Access Sites in the state of Montana Through the use of effective, professional conservation law enforcement.

Montana State Parks at-a-glance:

- ▶ 55 State Parks in Montana
- ▶ 2.66 Million visitors to Montana's State Parks Annually
- ▶ 4 Parks FTE in FWP Enforcement

State Parks Offer:

- ▶ Water Based Recreation
- ▶ Camping
- ▶ Native American Cultural Heritage sites
- ▶ Historical sites
- ▶ Urban Parks



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

4,261 hours spent performing Park Patrols
11,027 Park users contacted
216 Park cases investigated

TOP 5 STATE PARKS CITATIONS

Violation	Citations
Violation of Park and Department Rules	34
Hunting/Fishing Violations	19
Parks Pass Violation	10
Criminal Mischief	2
Boating Violations	1

COMPARISON OF TOTAL PARKS PATROL HOURS AND PARKS CITATIONS IN 2017 AND 2018

	2017	2018
Parks Patrol Hours	3,412	4,261
Total Citations.....	168	66

Recreational Boating Safety Program

The Objective of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Recreational Boating Safety Program is to save lives, reduce boating accidents, and to protect and enhance recreational boating opportunities for Montanans through the positive use of law enforcement and education.

2018 boating fatalities in Montana:

- ▶ 14 people have died in Montana in 2018
- ▶ 10 in non-motorized boating accidents
- ▶ 4 in motorized accidents (1 accident)

Non motorized boating accidents continue to be the leading type of fatal boating accidents in Montana.

The majority of fatalities were not wearing a life jacket at the time of the accident.

Drowning is the leading cause of death in Montana boat accidents.



FWP WARDEN EFFORTS

Wardens Contacted	13,871 Boaters
Wardens Conducted Boating Safety Patrols	269
Wardens Conducted Public Presentations	22
Wardens Investigated Boating Accidents	25
Montana Fatal Boat Accidents in 2018	13
Boating Calls for Service	49

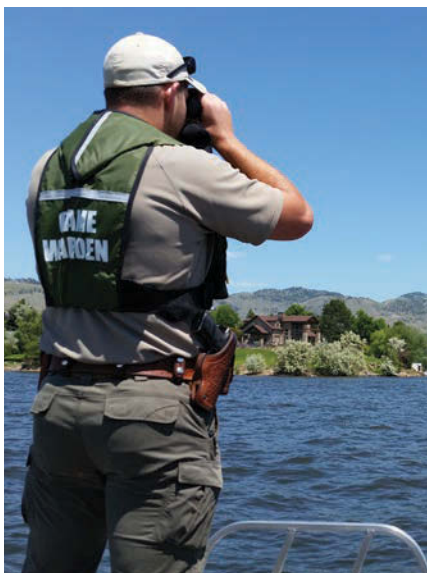
TOP 5 BOATING VIOLATIONS DETECTED

Violation	Citations	Warnings
Insufficient Number of Life Jackets	94	123
Under 12 No Life Jacket	30	7
Registration Violations	34	92
Towing Without an Observer	9	0
Negligent Operation	4	1

COMPARISON OF BOATS CONTACTED AND TOTAL BOATING CITATIONS DETECTED IN 2017 AND 2018

	2017	2018
Boat Contacts	12,235	13,871
Boating Citations	246	192

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.



2018 General Enforcement Efforts

CITATION BY TYPE

Hunting.....	1,187
Fishing	382
Boating safety	192
Residency Violations	74
Park/FAS/WMA.....	126
Aquatic Invasive Species.....	56
Snowmobile	51
Trapping.....	28
State Lands	25
Off-Highway Vehicle	22
Traffic	15
Outfitter/Guide	10
Stream Access.....	8
Alcohol	3
Illegal Introductions	3
Commercial Violations	2
Drug	1



As of July 1, 2017 all captains, sergeants, wardens and investigators are tasked with completing 640 hours of Pitman-Robertson eligible activity each year. P-R funds cannot be used for Law Enforcement Activities.

Pitman Robertson Eligible Activities

Urban Wildlife (bear, bison, deer, elk, lion, moose, other)
 Game Damage Public Meeting
 Hunter Access Division Assist
 Non-enf Training Hunter Education
 Public Contacts PR Admin
 Wildlife Human Attack Investigation

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

Landowners contacted	7,337
Hunters contacted.....	34,225
State land users contacted	1,762
Public assists	200
Commercial inspections conducted	25
Check stations conducted	80
Game damage responses	371
Hunter education classes.....	168
Wildlife/human attack investigations.....	5

TOP TEN CITATIONS BY LOCATION

Private Property	799
US Forest Service.....	268
Lake	223
River	157
DNRC State Lands	152
State Park.....	104
Block Management Area	95
Other	88
Check Station.....	70

TOP 5 CITATIONS ISSUED BY GAME WARDENS

Violation of Commission or Department orders or rules.....	389
Fail to obtain landowner permission for hunting	274
Fishing without a license	271
Insufficient personal flotation devices.....	86
Hunting without a license.....	80

TOP 5 WRITTEN WARNINGS ISSUED BY GAME WARDENS

Violation of Commission or Department orders or rules.....	236
Failure to exhibit license on demand.....	222
Failure to obtain landowner permission to hunt.....	161
Failure to stop at invasive species management area check station.....	159
Improper license.....	120

2018 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WARNINGS VS. CITATIONS

Written Warnings	2,193
Citations	2,194
Total Public Contacts.....	95,013

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings.

REGIONAL PITMAN ROBERTSON EFFORTS FOR 2018

R1..... 9458.7 hours	R2..... 9237.3 hours	R3..... 12757.7 hours
R4..... 9951.6 hours	R5..... 7886.6 hours	R6..... 5994.2 hours
R7..... 6867.6 hours		

Training & MPAT

Training:

Maintaining a workforce of highly trained officers is a priority of the enforcement division. Our wardens attend a variety of mandatory trainings during the year to maintain proficiency in critical skills.

Montana Law Enforcement Academy training:

All Montana Game Wardens must attend and Pass the Montana Law Enforcement Academy within one year of hire. The MLEA provides basic training in law enforcement for all law enforcement officers in the state of Montana. The intensive 12 week course covers a broad range of topics and provides officers a base level of training from which to build upon.

Field Training & Evaluation period:

The Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTO training) is a rigorous and structured training program that all wardens must satisfactorily pass in order to remain employed with FWP. The training consists of 5 steps of on-the-job style training with senior Wardens. With each step comes an increase in expected performance levels and responsibilities of the trainee. Probationary Wardens receive daily, step and overall evaluations grading their performance. This training period teaches the Probationary Warden the basics of how to perform their duties as well as serves as an evaluation period to determine their suitability as a warden.

Firearms:

Firearms training occurs annually. Wardens are required to attend firearms training and pass multiple firearms qualification course throughout the year. These qualifications include day and night pistol, day and night shotgun qualifications and patrol rifle.



TIME SPENT TRAINING IN 2018

Attended in Person.....	4902.54 hours
FTO Training Conducted	1643 hours
Instructor	573.06 hours
Online	200 hours

AVERAGE MPAT TIMES SINCE INCENTIVE STARTED

2016	4:15	2017.....	4:08	2018.....	4:03
------------	------	-----------	------	-----------	------



Defensive Tactics:

All Montana Game Wardens are required by policy to maintain a current defensive tactics certification. This entails 16 hours a year training in defensive Tactics. Defensive tactics teaches Wardens the physical skills needed to safely overcome resistive behavior and defend themselves from use of force assaults.

Professional Development Training:

Wardens are encouraged to attend professional development training throughout their career. These trainings cover a broad spectrum of disciplines within the law enforcement field. Additionally wardens must complete CJIN recertifications as well as internet security training and ethics training.

Mandatory POST Training:

All peace officers in Montana are required to attend a minimum of 20 hours of training bi-annually. Montana Wardens meet and exceed this standard every year.

Police Vehicle Operators Course:

FWP Wardens complete an intensive Police Vehicle Operators course at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy when initially hired. Every five years they have to complete a refresher course on police vehicle operations.

Instructor Disciplines:

The FWP Enforcement Division maintains a cadre of highly trained instructors within its officer rank to facilitate the divisions training needs. Only wardens of the highest professional

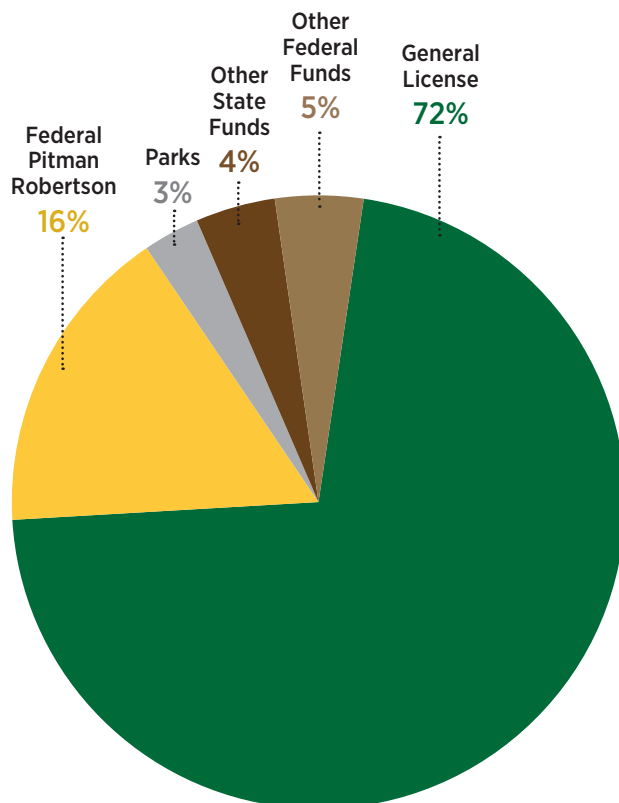
skills are selected to become instructors. FWP maintains qualified instructors for Defensive Tactics, Firearms, Police Vehicle Operations, O. C. Spray, Firearms Armorer, Wildlife Human Attack Investigation, Fitness Coach, and Field Training Officer.

Montana Physical Abilities Test (MPAT):

Physical fitness is extremely important to survive a career in law enforcement. In 2016 a voluntary physical fitness program was implemented to encourage our officers to stay fit. Wardens can take the MPAT for an incentive. A minimum score to pass the MPAT is 6:30, the average score for in service officers statewide is approximately 4:30. FWP wardens have greatly exceeded this minimum.

Budget

2018 Enforcement Division Overall Budget



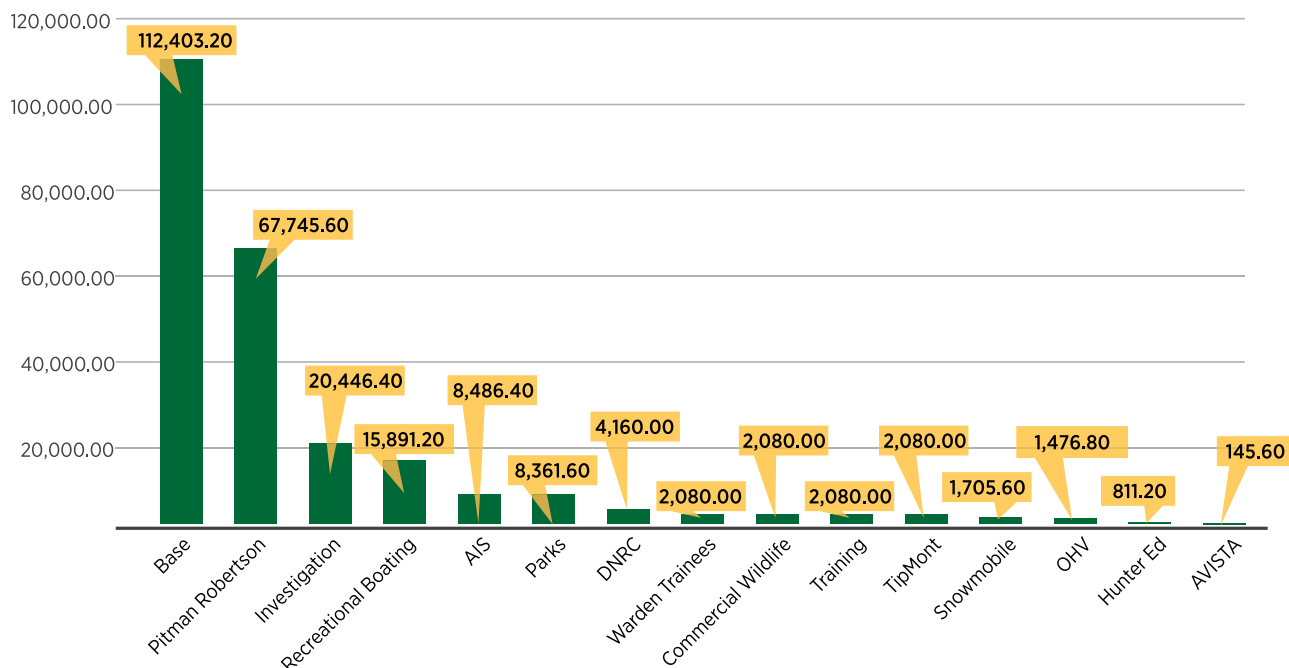
ENFORCEMENT DIVISION FUNDING BY PROGRAM

General License	\$8,568,028
Federal Pitman Robertson	\$1,965,514
State Park.....	\$356,740
Other State Funds.....	\$502,382
Other Federal Funds	\$554,832

ENFORCEMENT DIVISION HOURS BY PROGRAM

Activity	Hours
Base	112,403.2
Pitman Robertson.....	67745.6
Investigation.....	20446.4
Recreational Boating	15891.2
AIS.....	8486.4
State Park.....	8361.6
DNRC State Lands	4160
Warden Trainees.....	2080
Commercial Wildlife	2080
Training	2080
TipMont.....	2080
Snowmobile.....	1705.6
OHV	1476.8
Hunter Ed	811.2
AVISTA	145.6
Total	249,953.60

Enforcement Division Hours by Program



Awards

SHIKAR SAFARI AWARD

The Shikar Safari award, given annually in every state and Canadian province by the Shikar-Safari Club International, honors an officer whose efforts during the year display outstanding performance and achievement. The 2017 Winner was Darby Warden Lou Royce.



Warden Lou Royce

CHIEF'S AWARD

The Chief's award is awarded to the enforcement division employee's who's actions, dedication and hard work distinguish themselves. The 2017 award winners are Dillon Wardens Kerry Wahl and Rich Schmauch.



Warden Rich Schmauch



Warden Kerry Wahl

BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Montana boating officer of the year is awarded to the officer who has displayed excellence in law enforcement in the recreational boating safety program. 2017 winner Warden Skyler Mitchell was stationed at Cooney Lake State Park where he diligently patrolled the waters of Cooney lake detecting multiple violations including several alcohol related violations. Warden Mitchell also participated in boat accident investigation training and advanced marine law enforcement training.



Warden Skyler Mitchell

2018 New Game Warden Hires



William Miller
Chester



Jake Bardzen
Hardin



Cameron Wischhusen
Glendive



Sydney Young
Cooney State Park



Haden Hussey
Chinook

Make the call.



Would you like to wear the badge?

A career as a Montana Game Warden requires:

- ★
Bachelors degree
- ★
Good moral character
- ★
Interest in the outdoors
- ★
Willingness to work anywhere in the state



Contact Warden Training Officer
Justin Gibson at 406-444-4726

