

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2017 Legislative Bill Tracker

No.	Bill Title/Sponsor	Summary	Status	Position
HB 2	General appropriations act, Nancy Ballance	The state operating budget that includes the FWP budget	Hearing Senate Finance and Claims 8 a.m. 3/28/17 Room 317	Support
HB 5	Long range building appropriations, Jim Keane	Capital improvements budget that includes Habitat Montana and other access programs	Passed the Senate on third reading	Support
HB 69	Extend sunset for paddlefish caviar program, Virginia Court	Bill would extend the sunset for the state's caviar program for paddlefish, a simple extension of current law	Tabled in committee	Support
HB 96	Revise free elk license/permit for landowner providing free public elk hunting, Zach Brown	Bill would extend the current program to give landowners one tag for immediate family in exchange for granting four public hunters access to nonresident landowners	Died on House floor in second reading	Oppose
HB 97	Increase block management landowner payment cap, Denley Loge	Bill would increase from \$12,000 to \$15,000 the amount a landowner can receive for participating in the block management program	Transmitted to governor	Support
HB 98	Revising predatory animal definitions, Janet Ellis	Bill would reclassify striped skunks as a predatory animal and remove the ambiguous term civet cat from state law	Amended version died in third reading on floor of House	
HB 108	Allocate wild buffalo licenses to tribes for traditional purposes, Bridget Smith	Bill would allow additional buffalo licenses for certain Native American tribes	Signed by governor	Support
HB 128	Revise waiting period for bighorn sheep licenses, Ray Shaw	Bill would eliminate the seven year wait to apply for bighorn licenses when one is harvested as part of a special management hunt	Signed by governor	Support
HB 150	Clarify FWP residency for armed forces member, spouse and dependent, Kerry White	Bill would clarify that the spouse of a Montana resident serving in another state is a resident for licenses	Chapter number assigned	Support
HB 151	Appropriation for shooting range development program, Nancy Ballance	Bill would mandate \$350,000 annually for shooting range grants and jeopardize \$20 million in federal wildlife funds by causing a diversion	Tabled in committee	Oppose
HB 164	Revise distribution of base hunting license, Kelly Flynn	Bill would reallocate some funds from the general license account to the hunter access account	Tabled in committee	Support with amendments



HB 166	Revising laws related to donation of game meat for nonprofit meal distribution, Jeremy Trebas	Measure would allow nonprofit organizations to serve cooked game meat in hot meals	Chapter number assigned	Support
HB 204	Generally revise laws relating to fishing access maintenance, Alan Redfield	Bill would create a sticker for a fee to maintain fishing access sites	Tabled in committee	Oppose
HB 211	Require sage grouse population report, Brad Hamlett	FWP would be required to produce an annual population estimate under this bill.	Chapter number assigned	
HB 214	Generally revise laws relating to Fort Peck Hatchery, Bob Brown	Will would lift the 750,000 fish limit on production at the hatchery	Chapter number assigned	Support
HB 228	Provide funding for sage grouse stewardship, Jim Keane	Will would allocate funding to continue the Montana sage grouse conservation program	Returned from enrolling	Support
HB 289	Revise outfitter assistant laws, Tom Jacobson	Measure would add some standards for the use of outfitter assistants	Transmitted to governor	
HB 305	Revise county bounty laws for predators, Bill Harris	Bill would allow counties to pay bounties for predators legally killed including coyotes and wolves	Chapter number assigned	Oppose
HB 311	Provide veteran preference for certain block management areas on Veterans Day, Rae Peppers	Bill would give veterans preference over other hunters on some block management areas on Nov. 11 each year	Signed by governor	Support
HB 315	Revise nonresident hunting and fishing license laws, Jeff Essmann	Bill would reduce hunting and fishing license fees for some relatives of residents	Tabled in House FWP	Oppose
HB 318	Revise nonresident college student hunting license fee, Steve Lavin	Bill would reduce the price of a big game combination hunting license for nonresident college students to \$120	Tabled in House FWP	Oppose
HB 324	Revise laws related to state parks administration, Brad Hamlett	Bill would change the way state parks administration is run by letting board hire director, among other changes	Transmitted to governor	Oppose
HB 367	Create voluntary hunter check off for predator management, Becky Beard	Bill would create a program where hunters could donate money to go to USDA Wildlife Services	Returned with governor's proposed amendments	
HB 419	Revise requirements for sale or transfer of wild bison, Willis Curdy	Bill would allow wild bison to be transported to a quarantine facility	Tabled in committee	Support
HB 434	Create Montana wildlife habitat improvement act, Kelly Flynn	Bill would set up program to put dollars toward habitat enhancement and improvements	Conference committee appointed	Oppose
HB 437	Establish youth only hunting season, Steve Lavin	Bill would set up a four day hunting season for youth only	Tabled in committee	Oppose

HB 454	Revising the administration of state parks and related recreation programs, Kerry White	Bill would revamp how the state parks program and other recreation programs are run	Failed second reading in House	Oppose
HB 540	Generally revise laws related to aquatic invasive species, Mark Noland	Bill would revamp the program to prevent aquatic invasives	Tabled in House NR	
HB 551	Clarity what type of firearms are included in hunter education instruction, Bob Brown	Bill would set guidelines for the guns used in hunter education programs	Tabled in committee	
HB 568	Revise laws related to nonresident hunting, Kerry White	Bill would increase to a guaranteed 10 percent nonresident permits and licenses	Failed second reading in House	Oppose
HB 575	Revise laws related to fishing access sites and wildlife management areas, Denley Loge	Bill would create a \$15 pass to use fishing access sites and wildlife management areas	Tabled in House FWP	Support
HB 587	Provide for certified prescribed burning, Ray Shaw	Bill would set up a process for prescribed burns that are certified	Tabled in House NR	
HB 597	Create voluntary fee to fund public access easements, Alan Doane	The public could make voluntary contributions to fund staff to acquire access easements to reach public land under this bill	3rd reading concurred	Support
HB 622	Revise laws related to aquatic invasive species, Mike Cuffe	Bill would set up a council to manage efforts to combat AIS in Montana	Sent to enrolling	Support
HB 623	Revise laws related to bonus points, Kerry White	Bill would allow hunters to buy bonus points without applying for the license in any given year	Sent to enrolling	Support
HB 651	Revise laws related to public access projects, Matt Regier	Bill would divert Habitat Montana funds to be used for access instead of habitat projects and give state Land Board power over allocating funds for projects	Failed second reading	Oppose
HJ 9	Resolution releasing certain wilderness study areas, Kerry White	A resolution that calls on Congress to release from wilderness consideration hundreds of thousands of acres of public land	2nd reading Senate amendments concurred	Oppose
HJ 15	Resolution urging delisting of the grizzly bear, Steve Gunderson	Resolution bypasses U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and urges a Congressional delisting of grizzly bears	Returned from enrolling	Oppose
SB 49	Revise license laws for hunting/fishing by nonresident relatives of residents, Duane Ankney	A PLPW bill that would make the Coming Home to Hunt and Nonresident Relative special licenses more uniform	Tabled in committee	
SB 50	Allow digital carcass tags, JP Pomnichowski	Bill would allow digital tags for big game	Chapter number assigned	Support

SB 51	Revise laws related to fish pond licenses, Tom Facey	A bill to require fish pond stockers to prove where their fish come from	Tabled in House FWP committee	Support
SB 52	Clarify additional penalties for hunting with artificial light, Jill Cohenour	Bill would strengthen penalties for hunters who illegally use artificial light when hunting	Chapter number assigned	Support
SB 73	Revise laws related to livestock loss, Pat Connell	Bill would extend the sunset on the livestock loss program and allow funding for loss prevention work	3rd reading passed as amended	Support
SB 74	Authorize FW commission to require barbless hooks in catch and release waters, Pat Connell	The FW Commission would gain the authority to require barbless hooks under this bill	Tabled in committee	Oppose
SB 84	Extend the paddlefish roe donation program, Steve Hinebauch	A companion bill to the FWP proposal that would extend the program for 10 years rather than 2 years	Chapter number assigned	Support
SB 91	Clarify what constitutes as shooting from a vehicle for hunting purposes, Jed Hinkle	This measure would make changes to the law as far as what defines shooting from a vehicle	Chapter number assigned	Oppose
SB 110	Allowing funds in wolf management account to be used for management activities, Mike Phillips	Bill would give FWP more discretion to use wolf management funds for biologists, population surveys and other management	Tabled in Senate FG	Support
SB 111	Provide that it is unlawful to feed wild turkeys, Keith Regier	Bill places a ban of feeding of wild turkeys	3rd reading passed	Support
SB 119	Revise laws related to certain nonresident hunting license fees, Jed Hinkle	Bill would add additional license combination types for certain nonresidents	3rd reading passed an amended by House	Oppose
SB 171	Prohibit restriction of certain deer permits, Cary Smith	Bill would allow hunters who draw a special permit for one district to still hunt deer statewide	Tabled in committee	Oppose
SB 172	Prohibit sale of hunting and fishing license sales if child support owed, Mike Lang	People who are delinquent on child support payments would be ineligible for hunting and fishing licenses under this bill	Passed House Judiciary	Support
SB 173	Prohibit use of certain urine cover scents from out of state, Jill Cohoneur	Bill would bar use of urine scents from some states	Passed House FWP committee	Support
SB 183	Repeal the sunset on the hunters against hunger program, Jeff Welborn	The sunset on the Hunters Against Hunger program would be removed under this bill	Passed House FWP committee	Support
SB 185	Authorize transfer of game to licensed outfitter for inspection purposes, Doug Kary	A hunter could transfer his or her animal to a licensed outfitter for inspection by FWP	Tabled in House FWP	Oppose

SB 186	Establish elk habitat program and advisory council, Jill Cohoneur	Bill would use Habitat Montana funds to create an advisory council for management of elk	Missed deadline for general bill transmittal	
SB 187	Prohibit importing certain animal body parts from chronic wasting disease states, Jill Cohoneur	Animal parts from states known to have chronic wasting disease could not be brought into Montana under this bill	Returned to House with amendments	Support
SB 213	Clarify Smith River corridor funding, Jill Cohoneur	Bill would revamp funding source to manage Smith River	Signed by president	
SB 214	Allow limited spearfishing of game fish, Jill Cohoneur	Spear fishing would be legalized for some species under this bill	Tabled in committee	
SB 218	Revise apprentice hunter program, Mark Blasdel	Bill would tighten regulations on apprentice hunter program and encourage students to attend hunter education	Passed House FWP	Support
SB 225	Allow lighted nocks on arrows while big game hunting, Doug Kary	Lighted nocks would be allowed under this bill	Tabled in Committee	Oppose
SB 236	Constitutional referendum on the right to hunt, fish and trap, Jennifer Fielder	Measure would put to voters a constitutional referendum on the 2018 ballot	Died on House floor in second reading	Oppose
SB 237	Revise laws related to hunter apparel, Jennifer Fielder	Bill would allow blaze pink as legal for hunting apparel	Tabled in Senate FG	
SB 262	Revise laws governing public road access, Edie McClafferty	A person wanting to gate a road would have to prove first that it's not a public road before county commissioners under this bill	Tabled in Senate Highways and Transportation	Support
SB 284	Generally revise laws related to sage grouse, Mike Lang	Bill would make changes to sage grouse management	Signed by president	
SB 363	Generally revise aquatic invasive species laws, Chas Vincent	Bill would established funding mechanism through several sources to fund efforts to combat AIS	Free conference committee appointed	Support
SJ 8	Joint Resolution urging Wyoming to discontinue artificial feeding of elk, Mike Phillips	This resolution would urge Wyoming to stop its feeding program for elk on 23 feedgrounds	Tabled in committee	Support
SJ 9	Interim study regarding chronic wasting disease and ungulate populations, Mike Phillips	Study bill would conduct a thorough analysis of the threat of chronic wasting disease	Passed House FWP	Support
SR 16	Confirm Governor's appointee to Board of Outfitters, Ed Buttrey	Board of Outfitters confirmation for Robin Cunningham	Denied in Senate	Support
SR 17	Confirm Governor's appointee to Board of Outfitters, Ed Buttrey	Board of Outfitters confirmation for Rob Arnaud	Filed with Secretary of State	

SJ 19	Resolution requesting removal of brucella abortus from federal list, Mike Phillips	Bill would request that federal government remove brucella abortus from list of bio agents to further better research	Passed House Agriculture	Support
SR 45	Confirm Governor's appointee for director of FWP	Resolution to confirm Martha Williams	Resolution adopted	Support
SR 64	Confirm Governor's appointees to Fish and Wildlife Commission	Resolution to confirm four Fish and Wildlife Commission members	Amended resolution adopted to approve two commissioners	Support

