

STATE TRAPPING REPORT CARD:

MONTANA



Leaderboard position: Joint 21st place of 23

Score: 8/100

Scoring Criteria	Status	Potential Score	State Score
Body-gripping trapping prohibited for recreational and commercial purposes	No	25	0
Body-gripping trapping prohibited for government agencies or other purposes	No	15	0
Leghold trap prohibited	No	8	0
Conibear trap prohibited	No	8	0
Snares prohibited	No	8	0
Bait prohibited	No	6	0
Restriction on number of traps	No	6	0
Bobcat trapping prohibited	No	5	0
Bear trapping prohibited	Yes	5	5
Otter trapping prohibited	No	5	0
Mandatory 24-hour check time (land)	No	2	0
Mandatory 24-hour check time (water)	No	2	0
Trapper license required	Yes	1	1
Trapper report required	No	1	0
Trap ID required	Yes	1	1
Trapper education required	No	1	0
Non-targeted animals reported	Yes	1	1
		100	8

2019/2020 Trapping Season Data	Response
Number of trapping licenses issued	Resident trapper general 6007 Landowner trapping 108 Nonresident trapping 23 Resident youth trapping 35
Number of staff members with responsibility to monitor/enforce trapping regulations	112 Peace Officers
Number of complaints received about alleged illegal trapping	71
Number of times legal action was taken to control illegal trapping	24 citations for trapping violations issued
Number of animals unintentionally trapped	No response provided

State National Wildlife Refuges Allowing Trapping		
Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge	Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge	Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED:

- Introduce mandatory record-keeping, including trapper reports.
- Make trapping licensing and enforcement data easily accessible and publicly available.
- Work with USFWS to end trapping on refuges and other public land.

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Implement ban on leghold traps.
- Implement ban on Conibear traps.
- Implement ban on snares.

MEDIUM-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Implement ban on trapping for recreational purposes.
- Implement ban on trapping for commercial purposes.

LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Implement ban on government agency body-gripping trapping in favor of humane and non-lethal control methods.

STATE LEADERBOARD

State	Score	Position
California	85	1st (Joint)
Hawaii	85	1st (Joint)
Colorado	41	2nd
Rhode Island	38	3rd (Joint)
Washington	38	3rd (Joint)
Massachusetts	36	4th
Oklahoma	33	5th
Alabama	26	6th (Joint)
Arizona	26	6th (Joint)
Florida	26	6th (Joint)
Connecticut	25	7th (Joint)
New Jersey	25	7th (Joint)
Maryland	22	8th
New York	20	9th
Michigan	19	10th
Vermont	18	11th (Joint)
West Virginia	18	11th (Joint)
Delaware	17	12th (Joint)
Ohio	17	12th (Joint)
New Hampshire	16	13th (Joint)
New Mexico	16	13th (Joint)
Indiana	15	14th
Nebraska	14	15th
Tennessee	13	16th (Joint)
Utah	13	16th (Joint)

State	Score	Position
Alaska	12	17th (Joint)
Georgia	12	17th (Joint)
Illinois	12	17th (Joint)
Kansas	12	17th (Joint)
Kentucky	12	17th (Joint)
Wyoming	12	17th (Joint)
South Dakota	11	18th
Idaho	10	19th (Joint)
Louisiana	10	19th (Joint)
Minnesota	10	19th (Joint)
South Carolina	10	19th (Joint)
Wisconsin	10	19th (Joint)
Arkansas	9	20th (Joint)
Iowa	9	20th (Joint)
Missouri	9	20th (Joint)
Nevada	9	20th (Joint)
North Carolina	9	20th (Joint)
Oregon	9	20th (Joint)
Virginia	9	20th (Joint)
Mississippi	8	21st (Joint)
Montana	8	21st (Joint)
Pennsylvania	8	21st (Joint)
North Dakota	7	22nd
Maine	6	23rd (Joint)
Texas	6	23rd (Joint)

NOTES ON SCORING

Scores are weighted towards measures that make a tangible impact on animal welfare or those that meaningfully limit the number of animal deaths. For example, statewide prohibition of recreational and commercial trapping dramatically reduces the number of traps laid and thus limits animal suffering and death. For this reason, a high score is given if this measure is met. Mid-range scores are given for prohibition of particular types of cruel traps (such as leghold, Conibear, or snare traps) as these measures may significantly reduce suffering. Lower scores are given for administrative measures such as mandatory record-keeping. While these are important factors for oversight and accountability, having them in place does not mitigate or reduce suffering or death directly. A perfect score of 100 would be achieved if all body-gripping trapping activities are prohibited within the state. No state scored 100 in 2021.