

# Montana Big Game Records

## Body Size

Weights are frequently used to describe large animals. They are usually qualified with a statement that the weight was: live, whole, hog dressed, skinned, or with the head off. Also, weights may be determined by a guess, experienced estimate, or a scale.

Several variables are known to influence skeletal development and consequently affect the skull size, tusks, muscle tissue, fat deposits, gross size of the animal, annual replacement of antlers, and increments of horns. Extremely large antlers or horns do not necessarily correspond with an exceptionally large body size. If the antler development is not outstanding, the body condition or size is a preferred description.

This section provides a listing of some of the largest weights on record for the various Montana big game species. As such, the standards require verification and the use of a certified scale. Whole weight is either from a live animal or a dead and uncut animal; dressed weight is an animal with head, skin and feet attached and the complete viscera removed.

Future records should include sex, date killed, location taken, hunter name, and observer names for the scale weight.



### Greatest Weights (in pounds) for Montana Big Game

Species	Whole Dressed	
Bear, Black	505	
Bear, Grizzly	1,102	
Lion, Mountain	176	
American Elk	1,010	810
Deer, Mule	453	340
Deer, Whitetailed	375	275
Shiras "Wyoming" Moose	1,117	840
Pronghorn	160	121
Bison	1,555	
Rocky Mountain Goat	310	212
Sheep, Bighorn	302	222