



Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife  
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January 17, 2013

Chairman Welborn and members of the FWP Committee,

My name is Keith Kubista; I am the President of MT Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

I am here today in support of House Bill No. 150.

This bill is all about increasing public harvest opportunities for wolves. It is also intended to reduce the wolf population and increase wildlife populations that are struggling where the presence of high wolf populations exist.

Wolves are difficult to hunt, and they learn faster than law and season structure can adjust to.

Since the wolf is classified as a species in need of management, not a big game animal or furbearer and has a lower resource value we need to create more incentives for public hunting.

The opportunities for public harvest of wolves needs to expand especially since there are no government control actions for wildlife by the department such as exist in Alaska and Idaho.

If passed this bill would likely increase big game license sales and hunting opportunity that has been lost to an excessive wolf population.

What we have learned about wolves is they are very adaptive, resilient highly intelligent animals that require a different approach to how we conduct public harvest opportunities.

Wolf reproductive success makes it hard to lower their population. It takes consistent annual harvest to reduce wolf populations. With the current incremental approach one thing is for certain, Montana's wolf population has continued to increase.

Please consider House Bill No. 150 as a way to reverse this trend.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Kubista

President

Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife