

# FOOTLOOSE MONTANA

Promoting trap-free public lands for people, pets & wildlife

April 2008

[www.footloosemontana.org](http://www.footloosemontana.org)

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## **NEW YORK - HERE WE COME! TRAPPING AND FOOTLOOSE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES ON APRIL 30!**

The East Coast, well, the entire nation, got a taste of what's going on regarding trapping in Montana and Footloose Montana. On Wednesday, April 30, the New York Times printed an article about trapping-related issues on Montana's public lands and the efforts of our group to raise awareness and to ban recreational and commercial trapping on our citizen-owned landscape. Go to [www.newyorktimes.com](http://www.newyorktimes.com) to read the article or paste in the link below:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/30traps.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/30/us/30traps.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1)

Unfortunately, this story barely touches the ugly reality of trapping. Add your two cents. **Please write letters to the Times to express your opinions on trapping: [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com).**

## **ONLINE DONATION OPTION FINALLY ON OUR WEBSITE!**

Many of you have told us that we need to get an online donation option on our website so that people, too busy to write a check, can support us. Well, you can support us now by donating online. Click on "Join us" and then use PayPal. Thank you, and pass the word.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF FOOTLOOSE TABLE AT THE MISSOULA FARMERS MARKET**

How do we know when spring has finally arrived? It is here when the Farmers Market season starts. We will have a Footloose Montana table at the Clark Fork riverside market at Caras Park, beginning on Saturday, May 3. Come and visit us or even better, let us know if you'd like to staff a table and have some fun while talking with people about trapping and selling our beautiful Footloose Montana merchandise – shirts and hats. If you have time on a Saturday to help out for a couple of hours or so, please contact us at [info@footloosemontana.org](mailto:info@footloosemontana.org). As a volunteer, you will get one of the shirts or a hat yourself!

## **GREAT NEWS – MINNESOTA TRAPPING PROGRAM HALTED TO SAVE ENDANGERED LYNX**

A judge ruled March 31 that Minnesota's state trapping program violates the Endangered Species Act by allowing the use of traps and snares that catch, injure, and kill Canada lynx. Since the species was listed as a threatened species in 2000, there have been 13 reports in Minnesota of these beautiful, secretive predators being caught in traps set for other species--with at least five trapped lynx dying as a consequence.

Lynx, which are extremely susceptible to trapping, are also at risk from many other threats, particularly habitat destruction due to logging. Monday's ruling, the result of a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and others, declares that Minnesota must take all action necessary to ensure that no more lynx are trapped within core lynx habitat.

Read about the case in the *Star Tribune*: <http://www.startribune.com/local/17160541.html>

## **DENALI WOLVES WITH SNARES AROUND THEIR NECKS**

As if life for Alaskan wolves wasn't already hard enough, they now have to deal with snares around their necks. Two wolves, trapped this winter on state land outside of Denali National Park, were observed recently with tight snares fastened around their necks. These devices tighten slowly as the animal struggles to get free and eventually strangling an animal unfortunate enough to step into the trap. One wolf apparently suffers from a neck wound where the snare has cut deep into the muscle while the other wolf's head is so swollen that he looks like a bear. The article in the Anchorage Daily News reported that the area at the park's northeast boundary is traditional wintering grounds for caribou, moose and sheep and hungry wolves head there in the winter. "As many as 19 wolves have been trapped there, including four radio-collared wolves." A wildlife biologist stated "They just go right in that area and unbeknownst to them... the trappers are waiting and they are caught."

Denali park biologists have been unsuccessful so far in their attempts to track the wolves to remove the snares. To read the entire article, follow the link to Anchorage Daily News at:

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/386288.html>

## **PLEASE SEND LETTERS AGAINST TRAPPING ON PUBLIC LANDS TO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS IN MONTANA**

With the official Furbearer Trapping Season winding down (though trapping occurs year-round), the letter-writing enthusiasm usually decreases as well. However, we really need to keep the issue in the media and with your help, we can do it. The Missoulian, who has reliably been printing letters to the editor and guest columns composed by a few proponents and many opponents of recreational and commercial trapping on public lands, has changed its policies and now publishes the continued influx of letters online instead of in the paper.

However, if a letter proves to be of extraordinary content and adds a new spin on the issue, the Missoulian will likely print it. If you decide to write a letter against trapping on public lands, please send it to all Montana's main daily papers and please send one copy to [info@footloosemontana.org](mailto:info@footloosemontana.org). You can simply go to their homepages and then to Opinion. Or save this information for direct route to submitting your letters:

MISSOULA: Missoula Independent—[www.missoulanews.com](http://www.missoulanews.com)

The Missoulian: [oped@missoulian.com](mailto:oped@missoulian.com)

KALISPELL: [www.dailyinterlake.com/submit\\_letter/](http://www.dailyinterlake.com/submit_letter/)

HELENA: [www.helenair.com/ltoe](http://www.helenair.com/ltoe)

BILLINGS: [www.billingsgazette.net/info/?h/letters](http://www.billingsgazette.net/info/?h/letters)

BOZEMAN: [nehli@dailychronicle.com](mailto:nehli@dailychronicle.com)

(You can also post a discussion topic at <http://bozemantalks.com>)

BUTTE: [roberta.stauffer@Lee.Net](mailto:roberta.stauffer@Lee.Net)

We thank you for helping make Montana's public lands safe for people, pets and wildlife!

For a compassionate and footloose 2008,  
Your friends at Footloose Montana