

FOOTLOOSE MONTANA

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

January 2008

www.footloosemontana.org

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FOOTLOOSE TV COMMERCIAL IS A HOT SPOT ON YOUTUBE!

Our spot “**Don’t let this happen to your dog!**” has generated a lot of interest from the 2,598 viewers as of Jan. 30, 2008. Our spot on the dangers that traps pose for companion animals was rated as the month’s “7th Most Talked About” video in the non-profit/activism category! If you haven’t already, please check out our spot at <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3Kg2X5NKLhQ> or go to www.YouTube.com and enter Footloose Montana in the search box.

CALL FOR DONATIONS TO KEEP THE TV COMMERCIAL ON THE AIR!

To produce a TV commercial and purchase airtime to run it isn’t cheap, but the more exposure the issue of trapping gets statewide, the more people become informed about the dangers of traps strewn across our public lands. Our commercial continues to air on KECI-TV, Channel 13, in Missoula/Bitterroot Valley. In February, our commercial will also air on the following stations: KTVM-TV, Channels 6 and 42, in Butte and Bozeman and KCFW-TV, Channel 9, in Kalispell.

Please help keep the TV commercial “**Don’t let this happen to your dog!**” on the air by donating to Footloose Montana. You can designate your donation specifically to the TV commercial and help us cover the costs for additional TV time. We are working on an online donation option but in the meantime, please send a check to: Footloose Montana, P.O. Box 1089, Florence, MT 59833. Your support is very appreciated. THANK YOU!

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR PHONE SERVICE AND EARN A BONUS FOR FOOTLOOSE MONTANA!

Essen Communications Corporation has been servicing Montana since 1996. They offer local phone lines, high-speed internet lines, and long distance service at outstanding rates. In most cases, you can transfer your current service for free and keep your same phone number. Call Nicole at (406) 642-3333. **When you mention Footloose Montana while ordering local phone service, we receive a \$25 signing bonus!**

FOOTLOOSE MONTANA OFFERS \$500 REWARD IN GOLDEN EAGLE CASE

An example against the indiscriminate nature of traps is the recent case of a Golden Eagle whose leg got caught in a Conibear trap. The unfortunate raptor dragged the trap around for several days before being rescued by an FWP official near Clinton. Tragically, the raptor’s leg was injured beyond rehabilitation so this otherwise healthy adult male Golden Eagle had to be

ethanized. Though the exact original location where the trap was set is unknown, this device was set illegally because a trapper ID tag **which is required by law** was not attached to the trap. Golden and bald eagles are federally protected species. Though FWP does not track the number of protected species or other “non-targeted” species that are caught in traps, it is estimated that 15 eagles are killed in region 2 of Western Montana each year, with trapping being one of the causes. Footloose Montana has offered a reward of \$500, The Humane Society of the United States has posted an award of \$2,500 and the Montana Trapper Association has increased their reward to \$300 for information leading to the conviction of the person who trapped the Golden Eagle. Contact the FWP poaching hotline at 1-800-TIP-MONT if you have any information pertaining to this case or other trapping violations.

WHERE THE TRAPS ARE: INCIDENTS OF TRAPPED COMPANION DOGS

Footloose is the only organization in Montana that tracks trap incidents involving companion animals. In January, we received six trap reports from people whose dogs got caught in traps or snares. Fortunately, no dogs died in these traps but some of them suffered major injuries including toes that had to be amputated, which left their guardians with expensive vet bills. Our heart goes out to people who have their peaceful winter experiences on public lands ruined by potentially lethal traps—devices designed to kill furbearers—that end up injuring companion animals. Before heading outdoors for your winter fun, check out our updated trap location map at www.footloosemontana.org and if you have any trap incidents to share, please contact us at info@footloosemontana.org.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED TRAPPING SEASON FOR WOLVES!

Montana wildlife managers are in the process of setting a wolf hunting and trapping season, slated to begin next fall. This is likely to include a hunting/trapping quote of 130 wolves—one-third of Montana’s wolf population! Please send a comment about your opposition to the proposed trapping season for wolves.

Click [here](#) to comment by Feb 4th.

Please use this [survey form](#) to comment by Feb 4th.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=GhCruZuZBg1BMFfhs7uV1A_3d_3d]

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