

FOOTLOOSE MONTANA

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

March 2008

www.footloosemontana.org

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It is official: Footloose Montana is an IRS approved 501 (c)-(3) organization!!!

We did it! Last September 2007, we applied for nonprofit status, and 6 months later, we got it!

This means on our part, detailed accounting practices including tracking of our income and expenses and on your part, donating – donating – donating to Footloose Montana. Your donation is deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Footloose Montana declined participating in trapping advisory committee

On February 12, our executive director and one board member attended a meeting, organized by Mack Long, the Regional Supervisor of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) in Missoula. Attendees included several FWP officials, two trappers, including the former president of the Montana Trapper Association (MTA), a representative of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, a former legislator and someone from the public. The motivation for FWP to call this meeting was increasing anger and disapproval by members of the public about trapping on public lands, apparent by an endless stream of letters to the local newspapers. According to Mack Long, the plan is for the trapping advisory committee to meet five times and come up with recommendations regarding potential changes in the trapping regulations for the next FWP commissioners meeting, which is scheduled in June.

After the first meeting, the board of directors of Footloose Montana informed FWP that we have no intention of participating in any further meetings. The goal of the trapping advisory committee is to come up with a set of recommendations for potential changes of the trapping regulations. This goal is incompatible with our mission: to promote trap-free public lands for people, pets and wildlife. Footloose Montana strongly believes that trapping on public lands has to end. Here are two reasons why:

- Cruelty against animals—whether wild or domesticated, whether targeted or nontargeted. Trappers dominate public lands while members of the public worry that their companion animals may be the next victims to be injured or killed by traps and snares.
- Commercialization of our wildlife—Trappers benefit financially from killing “furbearers,” wildlife that belongs to all of us. Trapping, the only use of wildlife that is commercialized, allows a trapper to pay \$28 for a “furbearer killing license” and then make \$385 from the fur of a dead bobcat!

Call for volunteers: “Footloose Fun Run” on May 17

Before you strap on your running shoes and come to our next fundraiser, please help us prepare the May 17 “Footloose Fun Run” by volunteering some time and energy. We cannot reveal the secrets of the event quite yet, only that the Fun Run route will be in the greater Rattlesnake/North Hills area because after the run, we’ll

all meet and have even more fun at the Ten Spoon Winery! Stay tuned and definitely mark your calendar for this event!

If you would like to help get this event underway, we would welcome you wholeheartedly! Either e-mail us at info@footloosemontana.org or call Jerry at 829-3618 and let us know that you would like to volunteer. Become part of a fun group—help make the “Footloose Fun Run” more fun than anyone can stand!

Footloose presentation at the MACA conference in Helena, April 11

Once again, we're heading east to spread our message. Our executive director, Anja Heister, together with several Footloose Montana members, will give a presentation to educate others about recreational and commercial trapping on public lands. The presentation will be at 6:15 p.m., at the Montana Animal Care Association (MACA) conference, at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel, in Helena, April 11. For more information on MACA and the conference, visit their website at:

<http://www.montanaanimalcareassociation.org/>

Coming up: Footloose Montana at the Montana Companion Animal Network event at the Senior Center in Hamilton, April 19

The Montana Companion Animal Network has invited Footloose Montana to join them in April for an event to promote “Prevention of Animal Cruelty” month. We will be there (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) to answer questions about recreational and commercial trapping on public lands and to demonstrate a mini-trap-release workshop if attendees are interested.

Montana Companion Animal Network (MTCAN) was founded just recently to prevent the overcrowding of companion animals in shelters, to educate our communities on the responsibilities of pet ownership and to assist Montana animal shelters and sanctuaries in their missions of finding enough homes for rescued pets. For more information on MTCAN programs and the conference, visit their website at: www.mtcn.org

Coming up: Footloose Montana supports Earth Day at Caras Park, April 20

Please stop by our table on Earth Day, April 20, between noon and 5 p.m. and say hello. Bring friends and family and support us by recruiting more members. If you help five people sign up as new members, we'll give you a fabulous Footloose Montana T-shirt or a hat as a token of appreciation!

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