

STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

MT DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

PO BOX 202001
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2001
(406) 444-7323/FAX (406) 444-1929
livemail@mt.gov



ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION (406) 444-2976
BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (406) 444-2045
CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION (406) 444-4994
EXECUTIVE OFFICE (406) 444-9321

AERIAL HUNTING PERMIT: PILOT APPLICATION

Form with fields for Pilot Name, Phone Number, Mailing address, Email (optional), City, State, Zip, Counties of Flight, Pilot Certificate Number, Montana Pilot ID #, and MT Pilot ID Issue Date.

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Table with 4 columns: N Number, Aircraft Registration Decal Number, Make, Model Horsepower, and Registered Owner.

Please initial that you have met each of the following requirements:

- I possess a current pilot license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with a private pilot's license as a minimum rating;
I have at least 200 total flying hours;
I have met FAA and AD, DOT requirements for aircraft and pilots.

This application is for the sole purpose of aiding in the protection of livestock depredation in Montana by hunting coyotes and/or fox from aircraft. Aerial hunting permits expire on February 1st and must be renewed annually.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing information is true and correct: (a) that he/she has read the statutes of Montana and the United States and the Department of Livestock's administrative rules governing aerial hunting to prevent livestock depredation and agrees to abide by them; (b) that the owner, lessee, or administrator of the lands over which this permit is sought has given written permission for applicant to conduct aerial hunting on said lands, and (c) the aircraft identified above is/are the only aircraft the applicant intends to use for aerial hunting.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application checklist:

- Complete application,
\$50 fee (make checks payable to MT Dept of Livestock),
Current copy of Montana DOT-AD pilot and aircraft registration,
At least one livestock producer hunt request enclosed (or on file).

Contact Leslie Doely with questions: (406) 444-5609/(406) 465-9319 or livpredator.control@mt.gov.

MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED 2025

TITLE 81. LIVESTOCK

CHAPTER 7. PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

PART 5. AERIAL HUNTING OF PREDATORY ANIMALS

81-7-501. Aerial hunting prohibited -- exceptions. (1) Except as provided in [81-7-505](#), a person, except an employee of the state, its subdivisions, or the federal government who is acting within the scope of the person's employment, may not engage in the aerial hunting of predatory animals, as defined in [81-7-101](#), without first obtaining a permit from the department of livestock. The permit must specify the species of predatory animals to be hunted and the geographic areas over which aerial hunting may take place.

(2) A person issued a permit as required by this section may not engage in aerial hunting of predatory animals in violation of the terms of the permit, the rules promulgated by the board of livestock, or the terms of this part.

81-7-502. Rulemaking authority. The department of livestock may adopt rules to effectuate the purposes of this part and to implement and conduct the aerial hunting permit system provided for by this part.

81-7-504. Duration of permit -- fee. The department of livestock shall establish a fee for the permit, and each permit shall be valid for a period set by the department not to exceed 3 years. Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the state special revenue fund to the credit of the department for expenses incurred administering the aerial hunting of predators permit system. The department may not use more than \$2,500 in fees collected for administrative expenses. Fees collected in excess of \$2,500 for administrative expenses must be deposited in the predatory animal special revenue account established in [81-7-106](#).

81-7-505. Resident landowners authorized to aerially hunt over their own lands without permit -- conditions. Any landowner having residence and domicile in Montana may engage in the aerial hunting of predatory animals, as defined in [81-7-101](#), over that person's own land without a permit, provided the landowner annually notifies the department in writing that the landowner will be engaged in aerial hunting and gives an adequate description of the location of the land over which the landowner will aerially hunt. Aerial hunting must be in accordance with all rules of the department of livestock.

81-7-506. Prohibition against harassing livestock. While engaged in flying an aircraft, no person, whether or not lawfully authorized to aerially hunt, may knowingly harass, injure, or attempt to injure any livestock except with the express permission of the owner of that livestock.

81-7-511. Penalty -- revocation of permit. Any person convicted of violating a provision of this part is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000. In addition, the permit, if any, of such person must be revoked for such period as the court may determine.

81-7-512. Enforcement. (1) Investigations of violations of this part, arrests, and seizures may be made by any peace officer, or agent of the department designated by the department.

(2) To enforce this part, the department may enter into agreement with federal agencies with predatory animal control. Such agreements may allow the federal agency to assist in investigations, arrests, and seizures.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF MONTANA SUBCHAPTER 32.22.1 AERIAL HUNTING

32.22.101 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. This chapter provides a system for the issuance of aerial hunting permits to protect livestock from predatory animals, and establishes the duties of permittees under the provisions of Chapter 704, Laws of Montana 1979.
2. These rules are:
 - a. not to interfere with the needs of livestock producers protecting their livestock from predation; but are
 - b. to assist in the prevention and/or reduction of livestock loss from predatory animals; and
 - c. to protect landowners, administrators, or lessees who do not wish aerial hunting over land under their ownership, management, or control.

32.22.102 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

1. Applicants for an aerial hunting permit must complete an aerial hunting application form prior to January 31 and submit with the appropriate fee. After January 31, applicants may apply under the same guidelines with no proration of fee.
 - a. Application forms are available from the Department of Livestock, P.O. Box 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001 or at www.liv.mt.gov.
2. Applicants must provide a current certification from the Montana Aeronautics Division, Department of Transportation (AD, DOT) as proof of having met the following requirements:
 - a. possessing a current pilot license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with a private pilot's license as a minimum rating;
 - b. having at least 200 total flying hours;
 - c. having met FAA and AD, DOT requirements for aircraft and pilots.
3. The department may refuse to issue a permit, or revoke an existing permit, if the permit application contains false information.
4. Montana aerial hunting permits are not required under the following:
 - a. Individuals have contracted with U.S.D.A, A.P.H.I.S., Wildlife Services to provide aerial hunting services in Montana.
 - b. Said contractors must obtain a permit and comply with MDOL rules when engaging in any aerial hunting not performed under the W.S. contract.

32.22.103 DURATION OF PERMITS

1. Aerial hunting permits will be valid for a 12-month period from February 1 through January 31.
 - a. Permittees must renew their permit each year;
 - b. permittees must be in compliance with the rules of the department, and state and federal law;
 - c. renewal will be denied if noncompliance is not corrected prior to the renewal date.
2. Fees will not be prorated for applicants applying for less than the 12-month permit year.

32.22.104 RESTRICTIONS UPON USE OF PERMIT

1. A permittee may engage in aerial hunting only over areas authorized by the Department of Livestock.
 - a. The permittee must:
 - i. show that livestock depredation has occurred or is likely to occur in the area requested in the application or an adjacent area; and
 - ii. provide a signed authorization for aerial hunting from the landowner, administrator, lessee, or their agent.
2. Only coyotes and/or foxes may be hunted as set forth in the permit.
 - a. Hunting or harassment of any other animal will result in revocation of the permit.
 - b. Aerial hunting of coyotes and/or foxes may occur only for the protection of livestock, domestic animals, or human life.
 - c. A permit may be modified to allow the aerial hunting of other predatory animals not protected by federal law only under extraordinary circumstances.
3. Use of an aircraft in aerial hunting is prohibited until the permittee has notified the department of that use and has provided adequate aircraft identification.

32.22.105 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. All permittees shall file semi-annual reports with the Department of Livestock on forms supplied by the department.
 - a. The reports are due within 30 days after June 30 and December 31 of each year.
2. The department may request other information or reports as needed.

32.22.106 REVOCATION, SUSPENSION, OR MODIFICATION OF PERMIT

1. Failure to comply with the rules or statutes governing aerial hunting will result in suspension or revocation of the permit.
2. The department shall close an aerial hunting area upon receipt of written request from the landowner, administrator or lessee, or their agent.
3. Landowners, administrators, or lessees may also direct the department to modify certain permits while allowing other permits to remain in effect over land under their control.