

Montana's Wildlife Legacy - Decimation to Restoration

A "Must-Read" for Anyone Who Enjoys and Values Wildlife

Montana's Wildlife Legacy ~ Decimation to Restoration is a historical wildlife book providing the most complete written reference of Montana's wildlife legacy. The book documents how exploitation and technology brought the legendary wildlife resources of Montana to the brink of extermination by the end of the 19th Century. This led to major wildlife restoration and conservation efforts during the 20th Century. Because of these restoration efforts, Montana is again blessed with exceptional wildlife resources early in the 21st Century.

- Restoration successes included big game, waterfowl, furbearers & nongame.
- Pheasants, Hungarian partridge, and wild turkey were successfully introduced and Canada Geese were restored.
- The book is visually appealing with 304 pages printed in full color and over 600 illustrations, maps and historical photographs, many never before published.
- Included are interesting stories provided by numerous individual interviews of Montana's wildlife pioneers and sportsmen.
- Documented for the first time, this is the only complete record of the thousands of Montana's wild animals trapped and transplanted, dating back to the early 1900s.

Montana's Wildlife Legacy Photo Captions & Credits:

1. Montana's Wildlife Legacy Book Cover (©2008 Media Works Publishing)
2. Cliff McBratney, pilot from Augusta, Montana, hazing pronghorn antelope into a trap on the Townsend Flats near Helena. c. 1947 (©2008 Jim McLucas photo collection)
3. Elk in a holding pen at Mammoth, Yellowstone National Park in 1915. Thousands of elk were trapped in or near Yellowstone for transplanting to Montana and beyond as part of the 20th Century's successful wildlife restoration efforts. (©2008 Jim McLucas photo collection)
4. Hunter's camp near Boulder, MT c.1890 (©1909 Montana Fish and Game Biennial Report)
5. Beaver populations were severely reduced in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Restoration efforts in the 1940s were successful and by 1950 beaver had found a home in all major river drainages in the state. (©2008 Robert Cooney photo collection)
6. Bald Eagles were dramatically recovered in Montana from 1980 to 2006. (©2008 Al Harmata photo)
7. Over 9,000 elk were trapped and transplanted in Montana from 1920 to 1999 to restore elk populations in the state. (©2008 Media Works Publishing)
8. A rubber raft was used to float trapped mountain goats 9 miles down the S. Fork of the Flathead River to the Black Bear Airstip for transplanting. c.1950 (©2008 Jim McLucas photo collection)
9. In 1920 there were approximately 3,000 pronghorns left in Montana. Since then almost 4,000 antelope were trapped and transplanted helping to restore their numbers to well over 200,000 in 2008. (©2008 Jim McLucas photo collection)
10. Bighorn sheep transplants from 1922 to 2008 led to historically occupied habitats being repopulated. (©2008 Jim McLucas photo collection)