

## **Blackfoot Challenge Carcass Pick-up Program 2022 • The Wildlife Committee**

January 26, 2022

Dear Blackfoot Area Ranchers, Landowners, and Land Managers:

The Blackfoot Challenge, MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, are again offering the **Carcass Pick-Up Program**. Last year, we collected 337 carcasses from 35 ranches. All told we have removed more than 9,651 carcasses off of 110 ranches in the Blackfoot watershed, as well as Powell and Granite Counties.

THANK YOU for all your help getting carcasses off the ranch—as you know, this helps keep bears, wolves, and other critters away from calving areas and home sites. Due to issues of grizzlies being lured into several ranch compounds for livestock carcasses, **it is recommended that after March 15th** carcasses not be stored within the ranch headquarters or near cattle activity. If possible, carcasses should be stored at a minimum of 400 yards from human and livestock activity at an accessible site with good visibility. Be sure to lock up all sheds and barns where grain and other bear attractants are stored.

We continue to have support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the use of a 1998 Ford Shuttle-bed truck. Like in past years, the Challenge hired **Dan Massee**, who is an independent contractor with personal liability insurance, to pick up dead animals on **MONDAYS and THURSDAYS** of each week starting on **February 14th and running through May 19, 2022.**

**Please call Dan Massee (793-5639)** at your earliest convenience if you have a dead animal. And please leave a message on Dan's answering machine if you don't get Dan right away.

Dan will take carcasses to the MT Department of Transportation road kill composting facility at Clearwater Junction. Like last year, MDT has generously agreed to partner with us to accept livestock carcasses at their facility. It would be appreciated if you remove ear tags from carcasses, as it makes the composting process more efficient. Thanks to Pyramid Mountain Lumber for the donation of woodchips!

For folks in Lincoln, Nevada Creek, or the north end of the Drummond Canyon area, please call Dan and he will work out a pick-up time.

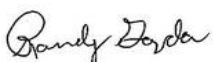
**After May 19th, Jamie Jonkel of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will pick up any dead carcasses at any time throughout the year. Just give Jamie a call: (406) 544-1447.**

Thanks again to those of you who participated in the program last year. Also, a big thank you to all of you who made cash donations—those help us hire Dan and keep the program going each year. We appreciated your help getting carcasses into the truck when you had them loaded in the bucket of your tractors or left calves on round bales for Dan.

We've sent this letter to ranchers in the Ovando, Helmsville, Lincoln, and Potomac areas—if there is anyone we've overlooked, please pass on the word. Any questions, please call the Blackfoot Challenge Wildlife Program Coordinator Eric Graham at (406) 240-3132. You can also call the Blackfoot Challenge's Ovando Office (793-3900).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Randy Gazda, Wildlife Committee Chair, Blackfoot Challenge