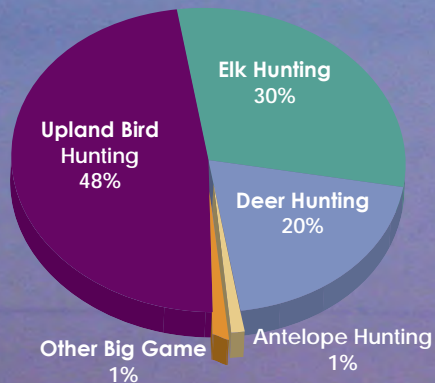


## The Economics of Hunting and Fishing on the Rocky Mountain Front:

Hunters and Anglers provide approximately 11 million dollars in economic benefit to the communities along the Rocky Mountain Front. Hunting and fishing are only second to Agriculture along the Front as primary economic drivers. This economy is built on intact public and private land, and the ability to reasonably access areas where the wildlife live.



By dollars:

Upland Bird Hunting - \$4.83 million  
 Elk Hunting - \$3.01 million  
 Deer Hunting - \$1.93 million  
 Antelope Hunting - \$146 thousand  
 Other Big Game - \$ 75,091 thousand

The reason that the Front has such a vibrant hunting economy development in the face of increased pressure from wolves, grizzly bears and other predators is the solid foundation of intact habitats. The Roadless characteristic of the Front, the public and private land conservation, and the ability for game species to survive and outlast all predators, man included, have kept the Rocky Mountain Front a hunter's paradise.

## Sportsmen Endorsements

Montana Chapter, Wild Sheep Foundation  
 National Wild Sheep Foundation  
 Montana Chapter, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
 National Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
 Montana Chapter, The Wildlife Society  
 Montana Wildlife Federation  
 Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 Hellgate Hunters and Anglers  
 Helena Hunters and Anglers Association  
 Libby Rod and Gun Club  
 Anaconda Sportsmen's Club  
 Big Sky Upland Bird Association  
 Montana River Action  
 Great Falls Archery Club

To find out more about the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act, and how conserving this Big Country will help conserve Big Game, visit [www.savethefront.org](http://www.savethefront.org).

Background photo: Gene Sentz

# THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

BIG COUNTRY FOR BIG GAME

The Rocky Mountain Front is Montana's Big Game Factory. For over 100 years, Montanans have worked to ensure that this iconic landscape continues to produce elk, deer and bighorn sheep.



When it comes to keeping the Front the way it is, Hunters and Anglers have been at the vanguard for over 120 years. The conservation efforts along the Front have been utilized across North America, and have set the standard on how to manage wildlife and wild lands.

Today, that ethic has produced:

- **The second largest migratory herd of Elk in the United States**
- **Bighorn sheep herds that are source herds for transplants**
- **Source populations for Montana's Mountain Goat herds**
- **Trophy class Mountain Mule Deer**
- **Abundant Black Bear and Mountain Lion populations**
- **Incredible Hunter Opportunity**

## Sportsmen Conservation Heritage

**1913 – Montana Legislature designates the Sun River Game Preserve in an attempt to stop the downward spiral of game populations in Montana. This effort was led by Montana sportsmen and landowners.**

**1947 – Local Rancher Carl Malone and Great Falls Banker / Montana Wildlife Federation member, Tom Messalt make the down payment on the Sun River Wildlife Management Area because the state of Montana was about to lose the opportunity to purchase the area.**

**1976 – FWP acquires Ear Mountain Wildlife Management Area and adds some of the best winter mule deer habitat along the Front to the public estate.**

**1979 – Montana FWP acquires the Blackleaf Wildlife Management Area to help conserve grizzly bears and black bears. Today, the Blackleaf is a trophy area for big bull elk.**

**2005 – Using both hunter dollars and other sources of funding, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service begin their Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area initiative. This program has helped conserve almost 100,000 acres of private land along the Front.**

**2007 – Senator Max Baucus introduces and passes the Rocky Mountain Front Oil and Gas withdrawal act.**

**2009 - The Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front unveils the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act.**

**The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act keeps our access to the public lands just as it is now. Motorized access will be maintained and the wilderness additions ensure our backcountry hunting areas stay pristine, just as they have since Lewis & Clark first hunted here two centuries ago.**

**Elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep and mountain goats all require big country in order to thrive. That's why the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act is the best insurance policy in an ever changing world. Maintaining these roadless lands and migration corridors as well as conserving the winter and summer habitats means more wildlife for all to enjoy.**

**For hunters and anglers, it means abundant game species and clean, cold water for our fisheries. It means opportunity.**



**The front is rough, old country. It takes effort to hunt here. It takes miles on your mules and your boots, and a lot of sweat but the reward is worth it.**

Photo: Gene Sentz