



Mammals of Montana

The Treasure State is rich in mammal species, thanks to environmental diversity ranging from high mountains to open plains. More than 100 types of mammals live in Montana all or part of each year. In this photo essay, we excerpt information from

the comprehensive *Mammals of Montana* field guide, published by Mountain Press Publishing Company, based in Missoula. The guide won an Honor Award in this year's Montana Book Award competition for books published in 2012. Please see page 48 for more information about the guide.

Book author: Kerry R. Foresman; photos by Alexander V. Badyaev unless otherwise noted



The red fox has a dense winter pelt. This species is often found along forest edges and riparian zones.



Top: White-tailed deer are alert to what's going on around them. If they feel threatened, they may flee with their tails flagged.

Right: The bobcat has a distinctive color pattern. The Lewis and Clark Expedition provided one of the first descriptions of the species.





Top: A group of young female elk pass northwestern Montana's Mission Mountains as the ungulates migrate to a lower-elevation winter range. **Right:** A mountain goat can detect movement from a distance of more than 2,600 feet. **Below:** Grizzly cubs grow rapidly after weighing just 1.1 pounds at birth.



MILO BURCHAM (MOUNTAIN GOAT)



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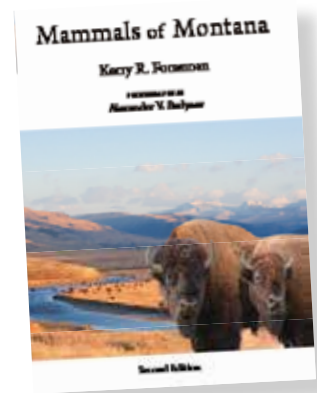


Top: Mountain lions prefer wooded habitats. Juveniles such as those shown here stay with their mother for up to two years. **Center:** Northern flying squirrels glide 300 feet for every 100 feet they drop. **Right:** The antlers on a male Montana moose can weigh nearly 90 pounds. They are used for defense during mating-related fights in the fall.



MILO BURCHAM

These two columns are an ad.



Mammals of Montana, second edition, was written by University of Montana biology professor Kerry R. Foresman, and features more than 500 photographs taken by biologists during fieldwork and by professional photographers who specialize in capturing wildlife on film. Many of the photos were taken by Alexander V. Badyaev, an evolutionary-biology professor at the University of Arizona. Badyaev, whose work includes field-ecology projects in Montana, has won international and national awards for his photography.

The photos and text for the book were determined based on creating a guide that would appeal to “everyone who enjoys Montana’s outdoors,” including armchair travelers and wildlife enthusiasts, notes Foresman, who has been teaching mammalogy at the university since 1984.

The book offers a user-friendly presentation of information such as each species’ distinguishing characteristics; life history, including behavior and reproduction; habitat; and conservation status. Distribution maps are also included.

“These animals are fascinating to observe, and it is challenging but rewarding to photograph such amazing creatures when I’m engaged in studying them,” says Badyaev. “We still have much to learn about the animals that inhabit the rugged yet breathtaking terrain of places such as Big Sky Country.”

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