BC FUR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- In British Columbia, some 3,500 trappers actively manage 17 furbearing animal species, following standards, legislation and regulations developed by Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. About half of the province’s trappers are Aboriginal.
- The Fur Management Program includes:
  - The BC Trappers Association’s (BCTA) Trapper Education Program courses for new and experienced trappers.
  - The “Furbearer Management Guidelines” available for muskrat, beaver, mink, marten, fisher, weasel, wolverine, otter, bobcat, lynx, fox, coyote and black bear.
- These guidelines outline the role that trappers can play in the wise management of these species. The guidelines can be found on the Wildlife and Habitat Branch website at www.gov.bc.ca/hunting.

Regulating Harvest

- In general, appropriate trapping seasons have been developed by considering a variety of criteria including pelt primeness, relative vulnerability of age and sex classes to harvesting, abundance and capture technology.
- The registered trapline system continues to be the primary system for setting harvest guidelines and managing furbearing animals. Harvest levels are guided by species management strategies, with furbearers being divided into three classes:
  - Class 1 Species - can be managed on individual traplines. This class includes beaver, fox, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, squirrel and weasel.
  - Class 2 Species - move between and among traplines and thus are not manageable on individual traplines. Harvests will be regulated regionally, in consultation with local trappers. This class includes lynx, bobcat, wolverine, fisher and otter.
  - Class 3 Species - also move between and among traplines, but generally are not vulnerable to over-trapping. This class includes the wolf and coyote. Trappers will be encouraged to trap these species, especially in areas of chronic animal damage control problems.

DEFINITIONS

- egg trap - means a holding device set in a manner to capture a raccoon by a front paw.
- foot snare - means a device designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the foot or leg.
- furbearing animal or furbearer - means any fox, beaver, marten, fisher, Canada lynx, bobcat, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel (excluding ground squirrels), weasel, wolverine, wolf, coyote and black bear.
- killing snare - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the neck.
- killing trap - means a trap or trapset that is designed to kill an animal.
- leghold trap - means a trap or device, other than a snare, which is set in such a way as to capture the animal for which it is set by the leg or foot.
- modified leghold trap - means a trap which has a minimum space of 5 mm between the jaws of the trap when in the closed position, or has manufactured pads of a rubber-like substance fastened to the trap jaws, or has lamination of the trap jaws to increase the surface area of the jaw face.
- trapping - means the act of setting or placing a trap in an operative condition or killing by the use of a firearm.

GENERAL REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

Checking Traps

- A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap commits an offence unless that person examines the holding or non-killing traps he or she has set on a trapline at least once every 72 hours, the egg trap(s) he or she has set for raccoons at least once every 24 hours, and killing traps or killing snares that he or she has set on the trapline at least once every 14 days.

- A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap on private property commits an offence unless that person examines the holding or non-killing traps he or she has set on private property at least once every 72 hours.

Use of Firearms

- It is an offence to trap wildlife using a firearm from one hour after sunset on any day until one hour before sunrise on the day following, unless using a firearm to kill a furbearing animal caught in a trap on a registered trapline.

Trapping Near A Dwelling Or On Private Property

- It is an offence to trap within 200 metres of a dwelling, unless you use:
  - a Conibear trap not larger than size #330 or equivalent, or
  - leghold traps not larger than size #2, or
  - submarine traps.

Removal of Fur Bearer Hides

- It is an offence to kill fur bearers and fail to remove the hide or the edible portions to the person’s normal dwelling place or to a meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. A person who kills wildlife is exempted from the requirement to remove the hide if that person transfers possession of the hide to another person who complies with the requirement.

North River Trapping Supplies

Quality Trapping Supplies and NAFA Receiving Depot
Traps, Knives, Fur Handling, Nuisance Wildlife Control

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1.250.365.6327 Castlegar, BC
THE AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

On June 1, 1999, the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS, or the “Agreement”) came into effect. Signed by the Government of Canada, the European Community, and the Government of the Russian Federation, the Agreement serves to protect Canada’s access to the European fur market and thus protects the wild fur industry in Canada.

The AIHTS sets performance thresholds on traps for specific species. Those traps that meet the performance thresholds are then eligible for certification.

In order to comply with the Agreement, BC has made numerous regulatory changes and will make further regulatory changes to ensure that only certified traps will be legal for those species listed in the AIHTS.

WHAT DOES THE AGREEMENT MEAN FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA’S TRAPPERS?

The Agreement applies to most furbearers trapped in B.C., including beaver; bobcat, coyote, ermine, fisher, lynx, marten, muskrat, otter; raccoon and wolf for the following purposes:

1. for wildlife management purposes, including wildlife conflict control;
2. to obtain furs, skins or meat;
3. for conservation purposes.

Since the 2007/2008 trapping season, a person using killing traps for beaver; fisher; marten, raccoon and muskrat and restraining traps for lynx has been required, by law, to use only species-specific traps included in BC’s trapping regulations which have been certified under the Agreement. See page 94 for the list of traps. As additional traps are tested and certified for these species they will be added to this list of legal traps – traps for these species are not legal until they have been added to BC’s regulations.

If no certified trap is available for a given species after June 2007, current trap types and/or models will be allowed for the given species until a reasonable number of traps have been certified through the aforementioned process.

Please consult the Ministry’s website at www.gov.bc.ca/hunting or the Fur Institute of Canada website at www.fur.ca for a list of killing traps currently certified for lynx, weasel and river otter. Notice is being given now of these intended regulation changes to allow trappers sufficient time to acquire certified traps for these species.

Since 1999, the Province of British Columbia has been moving towards meeting its obligations under the Agreement. The implementation of the Agreement allows trappers to continue to market their furs internationally, and will ensure Canada continues to play a leading role in the research, development and implementation of humane trapping methods to effectively manage our fur resource.

For more information on the Agreement and to see an updated list of traps currently meeting the standards of the Agreement, please visit the Fur Institute of Canada’s website at www.fur.ca.

Use of Road-Kill Wildlife

- Trappers may pick up and transport any dead mule deer; white-tailed deer; elk, moose, black bear; or any wildlife listed in Schedules B or C (see the “What is Wildlife?” section for current schedules) if:
  - the wildlife is dead as a result of colliding with a motor vehicle, other than a motor vehicle operated by the trapper;
  - the meat of the wildlife is unfit for human consumption;
  - the carcass of the wildlife is to be used only by the trapper; and

(ii) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper’s licence or licence exemption; and

d) at the time of possession and transportation, the trapper has, on his or her person, the trapper’s current trapping licence or proof of the trapper’s licence exemption.

- Trappers who pick up road-kill wildlife to use as bait must, within 30 days of picking up the road kill, complete a “Trapper Road Kill Possession Report Form” (available at any regional office, Service BC office, or on the Ministry website: www.gov.bc.ca/hunting and submit it to the address shown on the form.

- Trappers must retain a copy of every completed Trapper Road Kill Possession Report Form for at least 2 years after the date of pick up of the road kill described on the form.

Bait for traplines

Trappers may keep the carcass of a Beaver, Coyote, Ermine, Fox, Marmot (except Vancouver Island Marmots), Mink, Mole, Muskrat, Prairie dog, River Otter; Squirrel (ground, flying, Douglas, red), or wildlife described in Schedules B or C.
TRAPPING REGULATIONS

(see the “What is Wildlife?” section for current schedules) trapped out of season if:

(a) the wildlife carcass is to be used only by the trapper, and
   (i) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper’s licence or licence exemption, and
   (b) at the time of possession and transport, the trapper has, on his or her person,
      (i) his or her current trapping licence or proof of licence exemption, and
      (ii) a permit issued under section 2 (c) (i) of the Permit Regulation, BC Reg. 253/2000, permitting him or her to
          trap that wildlife during the closed season.

Collared, Implanted or Ear-tagged Furbearing Animals

Several furbearing animal research projects are under way within the province. Please report the harvest of any collared, implanted or ear-tagged animal and return collars or implants to the nearest Ministry regional office. Radio collars and implants are property of the Crown and must be returned.

Trapline Cabins

Trappers must register their trapline cabins that are on Crown land. Cabin applications may take six months or more to process. Contact the Ministry regional office in the area of the trapline for more information. See below for more information on trapline cabins in parks.

Ecological Reserves, Provincial Parks, & Recreation Areas

Trapping within ecological reserves is prohibited.

Registered trapline tenure within Provincial Parks is subject to the provisions of the Park Act and its regulations. Trappers are required to obtain a Park or Resource Use Permit to trap that part of their trapline occurring within a Provincial Park or Recreation Area. This permit can be obtained from FrontCounter BC (see page 24).

Trapline cabins in Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas also require authorization by a Park Use or a Resource Use Permit.

TRAPLINE REGISTRATION USE & RELINQUISHMENT

It is an offence to set a trap for, hunt, kill, take or capture a furbearing animal in any area of the province unless you are the registered holder of the trapline for that area or are authorized by regulation or permit.

Registration of a trapline on Crown land may only be granted to a person 19 years of age or older who is a citizen of Canada or has the status of a permanent resident of Canada.

No more than one trapline shall be registered to a person unless traplines are adjoining, and a fur management plan is approved by the Regional Manager.

Registration of a trapline does not:

- give the holder of a trapline any proprietary rights in wildlife, or
- restrict the rights of another person to hunt or capture wildlife where authorized by regulation or permit.

The boundaries of a trapline are defined by the Regional Manager.

The relinquishment or transfer of a trapline must be approved by the Regional Manager.

No person shall continue to hold a registered trapline unless he or she:

- carries on active trapping on his or her registered trapline to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager, or
- obtains permission from the Regional Manager to temporarily discontinue the use of his or her registered trapline for a period not exceeding two years, or
- uses or causes the use of his or her trapline by a licensed trapper or a person exempted from holding a licence.

A person fails to use a trapline where, within a year, that person fails to take from the trapline furbearing animals of a value of $200; or 50 pelts, except where it is unreasonable for that value of animals or number of pelts to be taken from the trapline.

The Province reserves the right to remove nuisance animals from Crown land, whether or not the Crown land in question is under a trapline registration.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS AND INFORMATION

The Assigned Trapper Number (ATN) is required by the Fur Trapper when accepting, exporting and selling fur. It is also required when paying fur royalties. Please remember to write your ATN on a slip of paper or letter when shipping your fur to a fur trader. This will prevent delays in getting your furs to market and cash returns to you. Fur traders cannot ship or sell fur without recording your ATN.

You are reminded that, under Sections 247 and 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada, it is an offence for anyone to wilfully cause, or permit to be caused, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal or injury to a person.

As approved humane traps become available, trapping regulations restricting or prohibiting the use of certain other traps in the capture of various animals will be brought into effect. Please see the notice on page 91.

A person who knowingly damages or interferes with a lawfully-set trap commits an offence.

It is an offence to have live wildlife in your personal possession except under a licence or permit or as provided by regulation. A trapping licence does NOT authorize the possession of live wildlife.

Any raw fur or skin of a furbearing animal shipped out of the province for commercial purposes must be accompanied by an Export Permit.

When trapping near recreational areas or communities, trappers should evaluate whether lethal traps are necessary at the site. It is important to remember that the landscape is utilized by a number of different user groups and that the safety of non-target species is vital to good trapline management. Warning signs should be used to inform people of trapping activities.

COMPULSORY REPORTING & INSPECTION

In order to better record the harvest of furbearing animals, the Wildlife and Habitat Branch requires that certain species be reported or submitted to a Ministry office. The information gathered is critical to the management of these populations, and trapper compliance is needed to ensure that seasons are properly set. Please review the following requirements and keep accurate records pertaining to them.

Compulsory Reporting

Trappers must, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season, report the harvest of:

- fisher in all MUs, other than region 3, when trapped in a fisher open season;
- wolverine in regions 3, 5, 6 and 7;
- lynx in region 8;
- bobcat in MUs 1-14 and 1-15, and in regions 2 and 8; and
- wolf in regions 1 and 2.

Compulsory reporting forms are available at any Ministry regional office and www.gov.bc.ca/hunting. Reporting may be done by mail (to the address on the form), phone or in person.

When reporting, please give the following information:

- name, address and Assigned Trapper Number (top of licence),
- location and date of kill,
- type of trap and set used,
- number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
- the sex and age class of the animal.
Compulsory Inspecting

- Trappers must submit a carcass and pelt of the following to a Ministry office, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season:
  - furbearers that are killed incidentally in areas with no open season; and
  - fisher in all MUs when trapped outside a fisher open season.

These animals cannot be reclaimed by the trapper and may be donated by the Province to the Trapper Education Program.

- Trappers must submit the following to a compulsory inspection center within 15 days following the end of the trapping season:
  - fisher in region 3;
  - wolf in region 4;
  - wolverine in regions 1, 2, 4 and 8;
  - weasel in region 1 and MUs 6-12 and 6-13, and a long-tailed weasel in MUs 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-18 and 2-19;
  - lynx in MUs 1-14 and 1-15, regions 2 and 4; and
  - bobcat in region 4.

- Trappers must provide the following to the compulsory inspection center:
  - entire carcass of the animal and the pelt,
  - name, address and Assigned Trapper Number (top right corner of licence),
  - location and date of kill,
  - type of trap and set used, and
  - number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed.

Licence and Registration Fees

- Applications for trapping licences are available at www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca.
- Applications for trapping licences are available at the Ministry of Environment or at a FrontCounter BC location.
- The Minister of Finance), money order or
- The Minister of Finance), money order or
- credit card to any FrontCounter BC location

- Applications for trapping licences are available at the Ministry of Environment or at a FrontCounter BC location.
- The Minister of Finance), money order or
- credit card to any FrontCounter BC location

FUR ROYALTY REGULATIONS

- Royalty must be paid by a person to keep the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal (not raised in captivity) lawfully taken under their TRAPPING licence, unless that person sells the pelt or skin to a licensed fur trader.
- Royalty fee payments may be submitted by mail or courier with cheque (payable to The Minister of Finance), money order or
- credit card to any FrontCounter BC location (see page 24).
- If the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal was lawfully taken under a person’s HUNTING licence, a royalty does not need to be paid, unless that person intends to offer the pelt or skin for sale.

Fur Royalties

- Royalty payments for pelts/skins is set at 3% of the average price paid at auction for the pelt or skin of the particular species over the preceding three years.
- Royalty values vary from year to year, and generally range from between $0.25 to $10 per pelt, depending on the species.
- Because royalties vary from year to year, they are not included in this two year synopsis. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/hunting for the current year fur royalties.

TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM

- British Columbia is committed to regulating humane traps as they become available and ensuring that trappers are educated in the use of humane traps. All trappers have a responsibility to ensure they are trained and use the most humane traps available, that furbearing animals in their trapping areas are managed wisely, and pelts are handled professionally.
- A trapper must be a member of the BC Trappers Association (BCTA) to keep a fur royalty licence.
- A trapper must be a member of the BC Trappers Association (BCTA) to keep a fur royalty licence.
- It is an offence to trap unless you have completed a Trapper Education Program (TEP) approved by the Director of the Wildlife and Habitat Branch. Approved TEP courses are 3 days in length.
- The cost of the TEP course is $390.00.
- The BC Trapper Education Manual is available from the BCTA (who produced and published it) at TEP courses for $35.00.
- Trappers are encouraged to help provide this data by ensuring all fishers taken are compulsory reported or inspected in a timely manner.
- To minimize incidental capture of fish in marginal areas and to enhance populations, marten boxes can be modified by making them longer and the entry hole ≤2½” in diameter (see diagram below).

INFORMATION WANTED

- Fishers are blue-listed in B.C., but trapping seasons are open in areas of the province that can support a harvest. All fishers trapped during an open season must be Compulsory Reported, and those incidentally trapped in areas or at times with no open season must be Compulsory Inspected (see Compulsory Reporting/Inspection requirements, page 92). Fisher populations will continue to be assessed as new data becomes available.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT FISHERS

- Fishers are blue-listed in B.C., but trapping seasons are open in areas of the province that can support a harvest. All fishers trapped during an open season must be Compulsory Reported, and those incidentally trapped in areas or at times with no open season must be Compulsory Inspected (see Compulsory Reporting/Inspection requirements, page 92). Fisher populations will continue to be assessed as new data becomes available.

About Weasels

- Fishers are blue-listed in B.C., but trapping seasons are open in areas of the province that can support a harvest. All fishers trapped during an open season must be Compulsory Reported, and those incidentally trapped in areas or at times with no open season must be Compulsory Inspected (see Compulsory Reporting/Inspection requirements, page 92). Fisher populations will continue to be assessed as new data becomes available.

Population Enhancement

- Establish food sites for fishers by hanging carcasses in trees to reduce competition by other land predators.
- Finish marten trapping early in the season to reduce incidental capture of adult female fishers.
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<td>Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), with 2 coil springs</td>
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<td>Oneida Victor #5 equipped with at least 8 mm thick, non-offset steel jaws, 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate</td>
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TRAPPING REGULATIONS

TRAPPING METHODS

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</table>

“X” means that this is a legal trapping method in B.C.

* black bear may not be trapped by placing bait or by using a dead animal or part of it as bait.

1. For solidly-fastened leghold traps designed to trap wolves, no more than 60 cm of chain between the trap and the point to which it is fastened may be used.
2. A minimum weight of 150 g must be securely attached to all muskrat submerging sets smaller than size #11/2.
3. It is an offence to shoot/kill a black bear, or a wolf not caught in a trap or a snare, with a rifle using a rimfire cartridge, or with a shotgun with a bore size of less than 20 gauge, or using shells of shot size smaller than No. 1 Buck.
4. Refer to the Hunting Methods table, page 16, for firearm and archery requirements for black bear; the Bears section page 9, and the Important Notice for Bear Hunters page 63.
5. Only killing traps certified under the AIHTS may be used see list on page 94.
6. Only leghold restraining traps certified under the AIHTS may be used see page 94.

NOTE: Use of certified bobcat restraining and killing traps will become mandatory in the fall of 2018. Use of certified restraining traps will become mandatory for wolf and beaver (cages) in the fall of 2020.

It’s Unlawful

You should know that it is unlawful to:

- Use a leghold trap which has teeth or other projections on the jaws of the trap.
- Use a killing snare on land, unless the snare is equipped with a locking device, or is designed to catch squirrels or hares, or is a mechanically-powered killing snare.
- Use a snare made of wire heavier than 20 gauge unless licenced or authorized to trap.
- Use a snare made of braided wire unless licenced or authorized to trap.
- Use a trap equipped with a spearing device.
- Use any Conibear trap larger than, but not including, #220 for land sets within any municipality in the Province.
- Use a rat trap unless the bait and trigger are completely covered, with an opening not larger than 4.5 cm wide and 5 cm high.
- Trap with a rifle using a full metal jacketed non-expanding bullet, or a tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullet, or with a shotgun using a tracer or incendiary shot shell.
- Use electronic or recorded calls for trapping furbearing animals other than for trapping wolf, coyote, bobcat or lynx.
- To cause or allow dogs to pursue fur-bearers under the authority of a trapping licence.

Trappers should be aware of the restrictions described in the It’s Unlawful section (page 14) and the Hunting Methods and Restrictions sections (pages 16 and 17).

Modern Humane Trapping Methods

Allan Starkey
Professional Trapper
604-467-3682
Region 2
Member of
B.C. Trappers Association - Lower Mainland Local Trap Collector

Specializing in raising high quality Pheasants and Chukars!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)</th>
<th>SEASON DATES</th>
<th>SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)</th>
<th>SEASON DATES</th>
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<td>MUs 6-12, 6-13</td>
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<td>Quota = 2 black bear in one year</td>
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<td>Regions 4** 5, 6, 8</td>
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<td>** There is no closed season for wolf below 1100 m elevation in MUs 4-2 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-24 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37 and 4-40. Restricted to the use of modified leg hold traps only from Apr 1 - Oct 14.</td>
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<td>** There is no closed season for wolf in MUs 3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-35 to 3-42, restricted to private land only and use of modified leg hold traps only from Apr 1 to Oct 14. Private land is defined as land that is not Crown land and that government does not have a vested interest in. I.e., does not apply to Crown grazing lease.</td>
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** Beavers are dangerous animals and should be treated with respect and caution.

** There is no closed season for wolf in MUs 3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-35 to 3-42, restricted to private land only and use of modified leg hold traps only from Apr 1 to Oct 14. Private land is defined as land that is not Crown land and that government does not have a vested interest in. I.e., does not apply to Crown grazing lease.

** There is no closed season for wolf below 1100 m elevation in MUs 4-2 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-24 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37 and 4-40. Restricted to the use of modified leg hold traps only from Apr 1 to Oct 14. Private land is defined as land that is not Crown land and that government does not have a vested interest in. I.e., does not apply to Crown grazing lease.

Contact information:

KILLS!

Domestic sheep carry disease that are lethal to wild sheep.

If you see them together call 1-877-952-RAPP (7277).

www.wildsheepsociety.com