

Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Seasons by Region

The trapping brochure is no longer in print. These rules apply.

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Koontai, and Shoshone counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 31

Southwest Region: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - Feb 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Clearwater Region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and NezPerce counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Idaho County: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Chamberlin Cr., mainstem of Middle Fk. Clearwater R. from Maggie Cr. upstream, mainstem of Lochsa R., Secesh R. above the Long Gulch Bridge, and mainstem of Selway R; **CLOSED**.

Nez Perce County: All northern tributaries to the Salmon R. downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake R. below the mouth of the Salmon R. excluding the Clearwater River drainage; **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Otter

Mainstem of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Snake R., from Lewiston upstream to Hells Canyon Dam, and the mainstem of the main Salmon R.; **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Beaver

Ada & Boise counties: The Boise River WMA; **CLOSED**.

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lake Cr. (trib. to Fall Cr) but flows into Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Wilson Cr., Little Wilson Cr. and Elk Cr. on Wilson Flat north of Anderson Ranch Dam, Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. in the Danskin Mts. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND all lands within the Boise River WMA; **CLOSED**.

Gem County: Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge; **CLOSED**.

Valley County: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Johnson Cr. upstream from Landmark, S. Fk. Salmon R. upstream from the fish trap near the mouth of Cabin Cr., Bear Valley Cr., and Sulphur Cr.; **CLOSED**.

Washington County: Raft Creek, Dennet Creek, Wolf Creek, Trail Creek, Sumac Creek, Thorn Creek, and Rock Creek on the Rocking M Ranch Conservation easement in Unit 31; **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Fox

Adams County: Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage; **CLOSED**.

Valley County: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

Exceptions: Otter

North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Horseshoe Bend, confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to the confluence with the North Fork Payette R. at Banks, and Boise R. from Lucky Peak Dam to Caldwell; **CLOSED**.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

Magic Valley Region: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties

Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Blaine County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood River above Magic Reservoir Dam, Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); all lands within Little Fish Cr.; **CLOSED**.

Camas County: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Little Smoky Cr. (except Basalt Cr. is open), and Willow Cr.; **CLOSED**.

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lake Cr. (trib. to Fall Cr) but flows into Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Wilson Cr., Little Wilson Cr. and Elk Cr. on Wilson Flat north of Anderson Ranch Dam, Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. in the Danskin Mts. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND all lands within the Boise River WMA; **CLOSED**.

Gooding County: All public lands within the following drainages: Black Canyon Cr., and Thorn Cr.; **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Mink

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, February 15-February 28.

Exceptions: Muskrat

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, February 15-February 28.

Southeast Region: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties

Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Bannock County: Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Cottonwood Cr. drainage, Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr.; **CLOSED**.

Bear Lake County: Pearl Cr. drainage; **CLOSED**.

Bingham County: Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr., Willow Creek drainage and all its' tributaries; **CLOSED**.

Caribou County: Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage; **CLOSED**.

Franklin County: Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages; **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Marten

Bear Lake & Franklin Counties: **CLOSED**

Exceptions: Otter

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs: **CLOSED**

Controlled Beaver Trapping Units

Unit	Season Dates	No. of Beaver
201	October 22 - April 15 That portion of Mink Creek drainage in Bannock County.	10
202	October 22 - April 15 Pebble Creek drainage and Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.	10
203	October 22 - April 15 Pearl Creek in Bear Lake County	5

See page 37 for applying for controlled beaver trapping permits.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

Upper Snake Region: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Bonneville County: All streams on the Tex Creek WMA; Willow Creek and all of its' tributaries; **CLOSED.**

Clark County: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr., Indian Creek and Middle Creek, upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary; **CLOSED.**

Teton County: The following drainages upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Packsaddle Creek, Trail Creek, and Dry Creek including McRenolds Reservoir; **CLOSED.**

Exceptions: Otter

South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to Del Rio Bridge at St. Anthony; **CLOSED.**

Salmon Region: Custer and Lemhi counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Custer County: Marsh Cr. drainage; **CLOSED**

Lemhi County: Dahlonge Cr.; **CLOSED**

Exceptions: Otter

Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, Id.; **CLOSED.**

* Indicates species can also be hunted.
 ^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

River Otter Trapping Quota	
Region	Harvest Quota
Panhandle	30
Clearwater	20
Southwest	30
Magic Valley	30
Southeast	15
Upper Snake	15
Salmon	15
Statewide Total	155

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas (IDAPA 13.01.16.600)

02. Contact or Registration Requirements. Trappers who are trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office:

- Billingsley Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Boise River
- Andrus
- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh
- C.J. Strike
- Carey Lake
- Cartier Slough
- Coeur d'Alene River
- Craig Mountain
- Fort Boise
- Georgetown Summit
- Hagerman
- Market Lake
- McArthur Lake
- Montpelier
- Mud Lake
- Niagara Springs
- Payette
- Portneuf
- Sand Creek
- Snow Peak
- Sterling
- Tex Creek

Attention Marten Trappers!

Trappers are encouraged to set marten traps at least two feet above the ground or snow level to reduce the harvest of female marten.

Bobcat Mandatory Check and Report

Any person taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

- Presenting the pelts of all bobcat taken to a regional office, the McCall office or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report.

To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented during normal working hours - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Pelts must be thawed before they can be checked.**

A fee of \$2 will be charged for each pelt tag. An additional \$1.75 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when pelts are brought in for tagging.

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's).

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat which does not have an official state export tag attached.

River Otter Reporting Requirements

- Pelts must be tagged by Fish and Game personnel at the regional office in the region in which the animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office. Pelts not registered or presented to Fish and Game personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.
- River otter carcasses do not have to be turned in to Fish and Game, except for otters harvested after the season has closed, or otters in excess of the trappers' personal quota of two. Check with the Fish and Game regional office for further information when reporting a harvest.
- No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 72 hours after the close of the season, any raw otter pelt legally harvested in Idaho which does not have an official state export tag attached.

Season Limits:

- A maximum limit of two otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the harvest quota for that region is not exceeded.

Otter Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 72 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 72-hour period provided their personal quota of two has not been

reached. Otters may only be turned in for reporting and tagging within the region where they were harvested.

- Current otter harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish and Game regional office during normal business hours or by calling 1-800-323-4334, 24 hours a day.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified to reduce potential conflicts between user groups.

Beaver Controlled Trapping Permits

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit in possession for that controlled trapping unit.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated and may **not** be used. Fish and Game will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit.

Eligibility: Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

Applications: Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all Fish and Game offices and must be received at the Wildlife Bureau of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked no later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing: Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.

Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Successful Applicants: Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

Revocation of Permits: Any permittee who does not comply with trapping laws, rules, proclamations, or the instructions for the trapping unit may have his or her permit revoked.

Alternate Permittee: Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with the "Successful Applicants" section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.

Hunters

Be sure of what you shoot. The lynx is a threatened species which may be mistaken for a bobcat. The following comparisons are provided to help you distinguish between the two species.

Bobcat and Lynx Identifying Characteristics

Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.

Bobcat

Short ear tufts

Barred, tip black on top



Smaller feet

- Tail:**
1. Underside of tail is white to the tip.
 2. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.

Color: Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body - usually distinct black spots on belly.

- Face:**
1. Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long.
 2. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.

Feet: Appear small, lack hair development between pads - bare like those of domestic cat.

Size: Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 pounds).

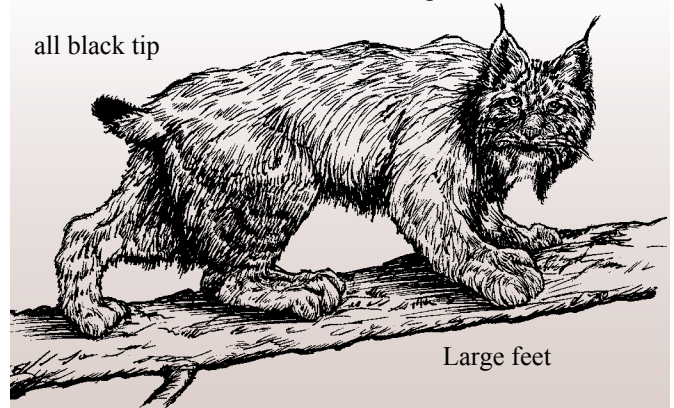


Bobcat photo courtesy
Dale Towell

Lynx

Long ear tufts

all black tip



Large feet

- Tail:**
1. Has black tip which completely encircles the end.
 2. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.

Color: Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.

- Face:**
1. Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5 inches long.
 2. Cheek tufts prominent.

Feet: Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.

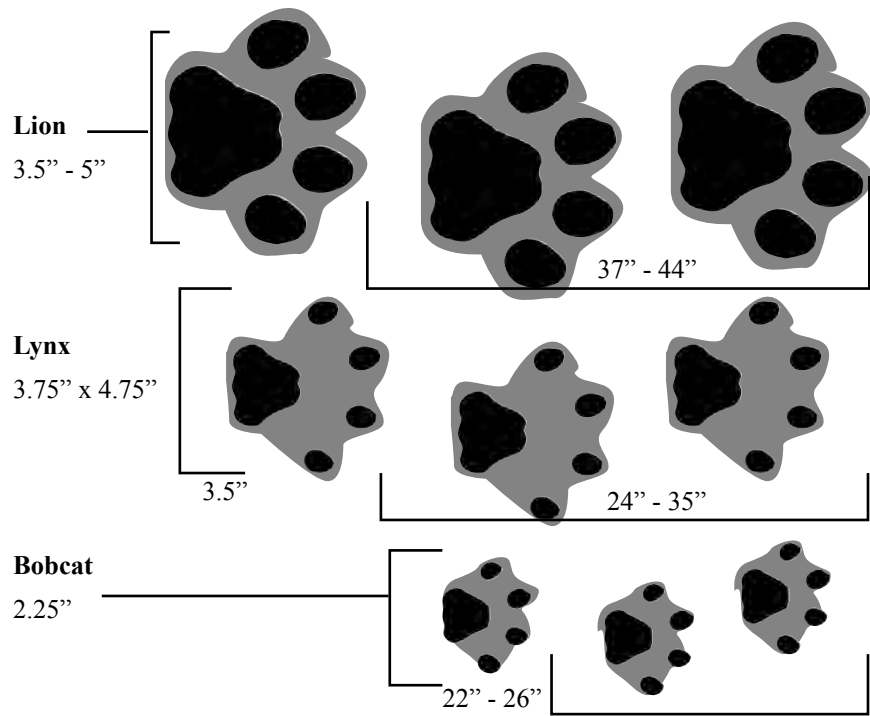
Size: Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 pounds). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.



Lynx photo courtesy
Beth Waterbury

Tracks in Snow and Stride Length Comparison for Mountain Lion, Lynx and Bobcat

- Mountain lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat foot is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length (distance between first and last foot) differences between species.



Trapping Methods for Capturing Bobcats While Avoiding Lynx

While bobcats and lynx are similar in size and habits, the two species depend upon different prey species so they commonly use different habitat types that provide hunting opportunities for either cottontail rabbits or snowshoe hares.

To select for bobcats, trap sets should be made near rocks, ridges, and trees in semi-open country where cottontail rabbits abound. Excellent locations to trap foxes, coyotes, and bobcats are also found along the edges and corners of open meadows, pastures, and abandoned or overgrown fields. Lynx rarely use these areas, as they prefer to hunt and stay in thick cover of brush and evergreen timber stands. Lynx generally stick to cover even when traveling long distances.

Trap set constructions that are effective for bobcats also appeal to lynx. Lures and baits that appeal to one species also appeal to the other. To avoid lynx do not use rabbit parts as bait. (Jack rabbits are the only species of rabbit lawful to use as bait. All other species of rabbit are either protected or game animals, all prohibited for use as bait.) The use of tainted meat rather than fresh meat baits will also help in avoiding lynx. Keeping the baits lightly covered will intrigue canines yet reduce feline captures. Selecting trap locations where bobcat tracks are noted is best because bobcats are habitual in their travels and are apt to return to the same vicinity. If lynx tracks are noted, it is best to not make a bobcat set.

Incidental captures of lynx can be reduced by using a proper sized foothold trap. Number 2 coilspring or number 1.75 coilspring traps discriminate against lynx captures due to a relatively small trap jaw spread; yet this size trap maintains excellent efficiency for smaller footed coyotes, foxes, and bobcats.

Another alternative foothold trap to consider where lynx may be present is the padded jaw version of a coilspring number three trap. These types of restraining traps minimize or eliminate injury to lynx when they are placed so that the trapped animal cannot entangle the trap chain around any tree or other solid object.

All trappers should carry catchpoles to allow safe release of any unintended animal captures. Care should be taken to approach any trapped animals slowly to avoid excessive movements of the animal. A trapped lynx will allow the snare loop to be placed over its head, but it will likely react when the catch loop is tightened. Do not attempt to choke a lynx with the catchpole loop but rather force the animal to lie on its side so the trap may be removed. Then the snare loop should be relaxed and removed to allow the lynx freedom to escape.

Please notify the nearest Fish and Game office to report any lynx sightings or captures.

Bobcat and Lynx information provided by Howard Golden (Alaska Fish and Game) and Tom Krause (National Trappers Association), 2002.

Trapper Responsibilities

Ethics and Responsibility

Many people view trapping and the use of fur as controversial issues. Much of this controversy stems from misinformation and misunderstandings from both sides. Trapping is a legitimate use of a natural renewable resource, but it is often difficult to express in terms that nontrappers can appreciate.

Demonstrating ethics and responsibility while trapping sends many positive messages that nontrappers understand and appreciate more than any explanation. These ethics relay the message that we are proud to be trappers, we care about our activities, and we care about the resource we're using.

Key ingredients for trappers:

- **Maintain good landowner relations**
- **Respect other outdoor enthusiasts**
- **Avoid using traps near heavily used recreational trails. Trail users may have dogs which could be attracted to traps.**
- **Keep familiar with improvements in trapping equipment and techniques**
- **Appreciate perceptions of nontrappers**
- **Respect the resource**

Be a proud trapper by being a good representative of trapping.

Some Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Humaneness

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use “stop-loss”traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.

- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use discretion when setting body-gripping traps or snares.
- Use time to your advantage – don't set more traps than you can handle.

Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers - see F&G website for Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are a set of recommendations about how to improve an activity – in this case trapping – developed by using sound scientific research and consideration of regional, social, and economic factors. The implementation of BMPs for trapping is voluntary and will ensure the continued responsible management of furbearers in the United States.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Fur Resources Committee is responsible for this project. Professional furbearer biologists, state wildlife agencies, and trappers are developing the BMPs. BMPs will be available to the state agencies and trappers for incorporation into trapper education and furbearer management programs. BMPs are available at this website http://jjcdev.com/~fishwild/?section=best_management_practices

Three Key Messages to Use When Educating the Public About Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

- Furbearing animals are an abundant, renewable resource. Some people have the notion that furbearing animals are rare or endangered. We need to reassure them that legally trapped animals are numerous and their populations secure.
- Trapping is controlled through strict regulations that are enforced by conservation officers. People may fear that trapping is a “free-for-all,” with no sort of control or regulation. To overcome this fear, we must reinforce the message that trapping is a highly regulated activity in Idaho and nationwide.
- Trapping provides a wide range of benefits to society. People often ask, “Is trapping really necessary?” We need to tell them about the wildlife management, economic (to the trapper and for damage control), and lifestyle benefits of trapping.

Furbearer - Methods of Take/Rules

Mandatory Furtaker Harvest Report

All trappers are required to fill out the mandatory furtaker harvest report form provided by Fish and Game. The completed mandatory report must be returned to Fish and Game, Wildlife Bureau, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Any trapper failing to send in a report by July 31 shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year. (It would be helpful to Fish and Game personnel to receive the report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This will assist us in getting the departmental progress reports done in a timely manner.)

All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the office from which they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

The mandatory furtaker harvest report form is available on the Fish and Game website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

It is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper's license; see page 49 for exemptions.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait in trapping furbearing animals, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt any animal or bird by aid of a spotlight, flashlight or artificial light of any kind; except unprotected or predatory animals on private land after obtaining written permission and on public lands after obtaining a permit. It is lawful to hunt raccoons on public lands without a permit if such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, or regulations.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

Definitions

Bait is defined as any animal parts; except bleached bones or liquid scent is not considered bait.

Drainage is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

Furbearing animals are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), and badger.

Ground set is defined as any foothold trap, body-gripping trap, or snare originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated up to a maximum of 36 inches above the natural ground level.

Other set is defined as any set not defined as a ground or water set, including without limitation, elevated sets originally set 36 inches or more above natural ground level.

Predatory wildlife is defined as the following species: coyote, raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk and weasel.

Public highway is defined as the traveled portion of, and the shoulders on each side of, any road maintained by any governmental entity for public travel, and includes all bridges, culverts, overpasses, fills, and other structures within the limits of the right-of-way of any such road. See page 42.

Public trail is defined as any trail designated by any city, county, state, or federal transportation or land management agency on the most current official map of the agency

Trapping shall mean taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls or other devices.

Water set is defined as any trap or snare originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides.

Methods of Take — Trapping

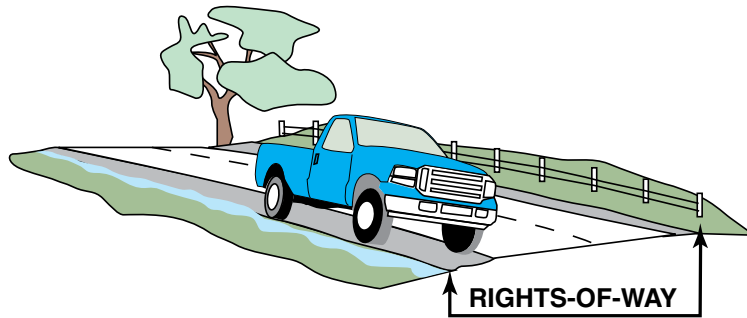
Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

Trapping: No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

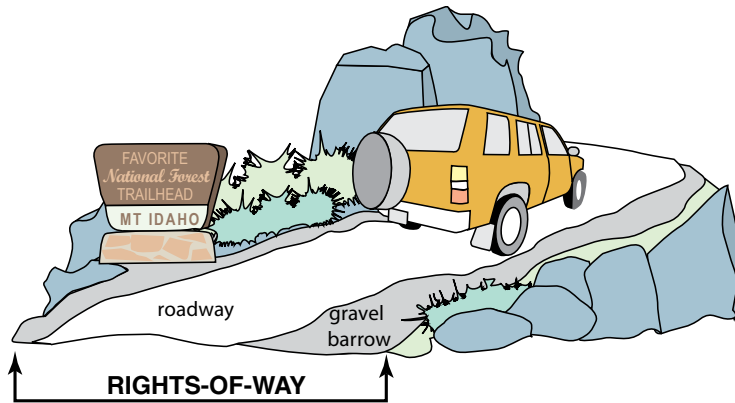
- Use for bait, any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use live animals as bait or an attractant.
- Use any set within 30 feet of any visible bait.

continued . . .

HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY



Highway rights-of-way: the entire width between the boundary lines of every highway publicly maintained when any part is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel, the jurisdiction extending to the adjacent property line, including sidewalks, shoulders, berms and rights-of-ways not intended for motorized traffic. No person shall shoot from a public highway or discharge any firearm from or across a public highway.



Special Vehicle Restrictions:

State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional Idaho Fish and Game, Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.
- Place any ground, water, or other sets on, across, or within 5 feet of center line of any maintained public trail.
- Place any ground set on, across, or within any public highway, except ground sets may be placed underneath bridges and within and at culvert that are part of a public highway right-of-way.
- Place any ground set incorporating snare, trap, or attached materials within 300 feet of any designated public campground, trailhead, or picnic area.
- Place or set any ground set snare without a break-away device or cable stop incorporated within the loop of the snare.
- Place or set any wolf snare without a diverter; or without a break-away device or cable stop incorporated within the loop of the snare.
- Place any ground set incorporating a foothold trap with an inside jaw spread greater than 9 inches.

Release of Non-Target Catches: All non-target species caught alive shall be released immediately. **Non-target**

species are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed. If difficulty is encountered releasing a trapped fisher, wolverine, lynx, mountain lion, or wolf please contact Fish and Game immediately for assistance.

Any trapper who catches a non-target species that is dead shall:

- Prior to removing the animal, record the date and species of the animal caught.
- Report the catch on the mandatory furtaker harvest report form.
- Remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession.
- Notify Fish and Game through the local conservation officer, a regional office, or the McCall office within 72 hours to make arrangements to transfer the animal to Fish and Game.
- Fish and Game will reimburse trappers \$10 for each lynx, wolverine, bobcat, or fisher caught accidentally and turned in. A \$10 reward will also be paid for otters accidentally taken after the regional quota has been met.

Closed Statewide: There is no open season for fisher, kit fox, lynx or wolverine.

Traps

Checking Traps: No person shall place snares or traps for furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife except pocket gophers, most species of ground squirrels, and other unprotected rodents, without visiting every trap or snare once every 72 hours and removing any catch therein.

Trappers acting under authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services are exempt from this rule.

Removing Trapped Animals of Another: No person shall remove wildlife from the trap or snare of another **except** licensed trappers with written permission from the owner.

Tags for Traps

All traps or snares, except those used for pocket gophers, ground squirrels or other unprotected rodents, shall have attached to the snare or the chain of every trap, a metal tag bearing in legible English the name and current address of the trapper; or a six-digit number assigned by Fish and Game. Any person wishing to mark his or her traps and/or snares with a six-digit number must make application to Fish and Game at a regional office, the McCall office, or the headquarters office. Any person who has been assigned a six-digit number to mark his or her traps and/or snares must notify Fish and Game in writing at the McCall office, a regional office, or the headquarters office within 30 days of any change in address.

Methods of Take — Hunting

Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat or otter by any method other than trapping. In addition to predatory or unprotected wildlife, the following furbearers may be hunted: badger, bobcat and red fox. In Valley County and portions of Adams County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

Hunting: No person hunting permissible furbearing animals (badger, bobcat and red fox) or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Hunt with any weapon the possession of which is prohibited by state or federal law..

No person hunting raccoon at night shall:

- Hunt from a motorized vehicle.
- Use any light attached to any motor vehicle.
- Hunt on private land without obtaining written permission from the landowner or lessee.

Also see General Hunting Rules, pages 45-48.

Hound Hunting Rules

Dogs may be used to pursue black bears, mountain lions, bobcat, raccoon, or fox in either an open take season where use of dogs is allowed, or during a dog training season. During a dog training season, bobcat may be pursued and treed, but may not be captured, killed, or possessed.

Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species. Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking or killing any big game animal, **except** black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon or fox may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the Director of Fish and Game, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

Hound Hunter Permit

The following persons must have a valid hound hunter permit in possession when dogs are being used to hunt:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
- Anyone that harvests a black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, or fox with the use of dogs, Except clients of licensed outfitters are not required to have a hound hunter permit.

Closed Areas

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument, see page 49 for a full description.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce counties.
- That portion of Ada County:
 - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
 - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
 - Between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of State game preserves, State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges and bird sanctuaries for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, **except** as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

Common Season Boundaries

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.

ATTENTION GROUND SQUIRREL HUNTERS

- Ground squirrel hunting is open statewide for the following species:
White-tailed Antelope Squirrel, Uinta Ground Squirrel, Belding's Ground Squirrel, Columbian Ground Squirrel, and two subspecies of Wyoming Ground Squirrel in eastern Idaho
- Hunting of ground squirrels is not allowed for some species with limited abundance and distribution. These species may be found throughout Idaho and include:
Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel, Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel, Rock Squirrel, Piute Ground Squirrel, Merriam's Ground Squirrel, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, and a subspecies of Wyoming Ground Squirrel in southwest Idaho





Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

Know your target!



- Please check with an Idaho Fish and Game Regional Office in the area you wish to hunt for more detailed information on the distribution of ground squirrels.
- Visit <http://www.fws.gov/idaho/publications/GrSqGuide.pdf> for an identification field guide and range maps for all Idaho ground squirrels.

 Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel - federally protected under the Endangered Species Act

 Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel - a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act

