FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS BY REGION

THE TRAPPING BROCHURE IS NO LONGER IN PRINT. THESE RULES APPLY.

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kooentai, 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

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 River downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake River below the mouth of the Salmon River to the Clearwater River, 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**.

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 - 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

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, Hunter 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: Otter

Payette River: From the confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to Banks; North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Banks; and from Banks downstream to the confluence with the Snake River - **CLOSED**.

Boise River: From Lucky Peak Dam to the confluence with the Snake River - **CLOSED**.

Snake River: From Grandview to Farewell Bend - **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, Hunter 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.

To see interactive maps of furbearer hunting and trapping exceptions, please visit the IDFG website:

idfg.idaho.gov/trap

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

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

To apply for controlled beaver trapping permits see page 33.

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: Public lands (Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage. - **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**.
Birch Creek Drainage above the Forest Service boundary - **CLOSED.**

Exceptions: Marten

Bear Lake & Franklin Counties: CLOSED

Exceptions: Otter

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs: CLOSED

Controlled Beaver Trapping Unit Permits		
Permit Number	**Season Dates and Unit Descriptions**	**No. of Beaver**
201	**October 22 - April 15** That portion of Mink Creek drainage in Bannock County, except the East Fork Mink Cr. and West Fork Mink Cr.	5
202	**October 22 - April 15** Pebble Creek drainage in Caribou County.	5
203	**October 22 - April 15** Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.	5
204	**October 22 - April 15** Pearl Creek in Bear Lake County	5
205	**October 22 - April 15** Logan River drainage, including Beaver Creek and Whites Creek Drainage	5
206	**October 22 - April 15** That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County	5
207	**October 22 - April 15** That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County	5

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 public lands managed by Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management within the Willow Creek drainage - **CLOSED**.

Clark County. All public lands 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. Dahlonega 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	40
Clearwater	20
Southwest	20
Magic Valley	30
Southeast	15
Upper Snake	15
Salmon	15
Statewide Total	155

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas

Prior to trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas, trappers must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office:

- Andrus
- Billingsley Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Boise River
- Boundary Creek
- C.J. Strike
- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh
- Carey Lake
- Cartier Slough
- Coeur d'Alene River
- Cottonwood
- Craig Mountain
- Deer Park
- Farragut
- Fort Boise
- Georgetown Summit
- Hagerman
- Market Lake
- McArthur Lake
- Montpelier
- Montour
- Mud Lake
- Niagara Springs
- Payette
- Pend Oreille
- Portneuf
- Red River
- St. Maries
- Sand Creek
- Snow Peak
- Sterling
- Tex Creek

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 - 8AM to 5PM **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.

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.

- 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 online at **https://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/harvest-quotas**. The reporting hotline (1-800-323-4334) is now only updated when there is a closure.

- 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.

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 is helpful to Fish and Game personnel to receive report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This assists 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 **idfg.idaho.gov.**

ATTENTION MARTEN TRAPPERS

- Trappers are encouraged to set marten traps at least 2 feet above the ground or snow level to reduce the harvest of female martens.
- Use cubby boxes, with a closed front and 2 $^1/_2$ inch entrance hole, to avoid catching fishers.

TO AVOID CATCHING DOGS

- It is recommended trappers use body-gripping or Conibear traps only under water.
- Set traps at least 4 feet above ground when used on land.
- Use only small Conibears (160 or smaller), set 7 inches back inside a long hard box that is no larger than 7 inches in width, preferably with a lid extending beyond the opening (See photo).
- Always look for places without human or dog activity when setting Conibears, and post signs indicating lethal traps are in use.

Attention Trappers

Completion of a trapper education course will be mandatory starting July 1, 2018 for anyone who purchased their first Idaho trapping license on or after July 1, 2011. Trappers who have taken only a wolf trapping education course must take the Idaho trapper education course. Those who present proof of equivalent certification obtained in Idaho or from an authorized agency or association in another state or country are exempt. For more information visit: https://idfg.idaho.gov/trap or contact a Fish and Game office.

It is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper's license; see page 47 for exceptions.
- 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 the required permit from an Idaho Fish and Game regional office. 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 are 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.

Non-target species are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed.

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 36.

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.

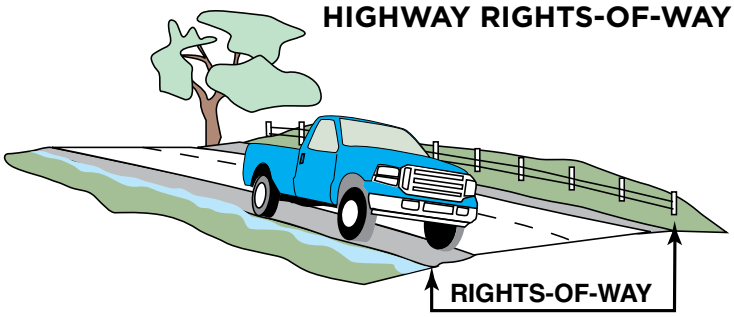
Methods of Take—Trapping

Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping.

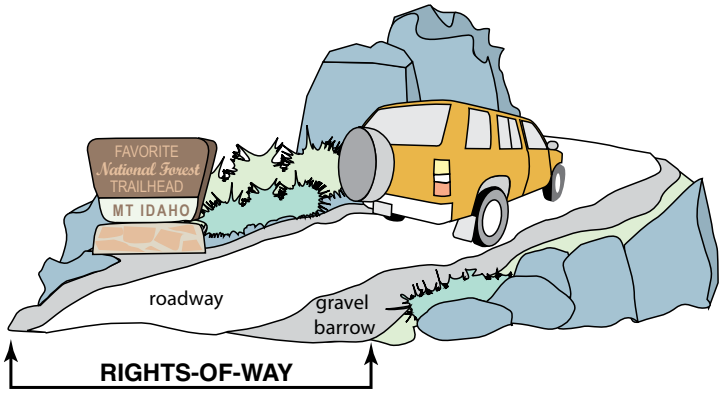
Trapping: No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- 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.
- 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

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 Department of Fish and Game, Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

within and at culverts that are part of a public highway right-of-way.

- Place any ground set incorporating snare, trap, or attached materials within three hundred (300) feet of any designated public campground, trailhead, or picnic area. Cage or box live traps are permitted within three hundred (300) feet of designated public campgrounds, trailheads, or picnic areas as allowed by city, county, state, and federal law.
- 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: Non-target species are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed. ***All non-target species caught alive shall be released immediately.*** 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 as it appears on your trapping license adjacent to TRAPPER ID.

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.

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 43-45

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:

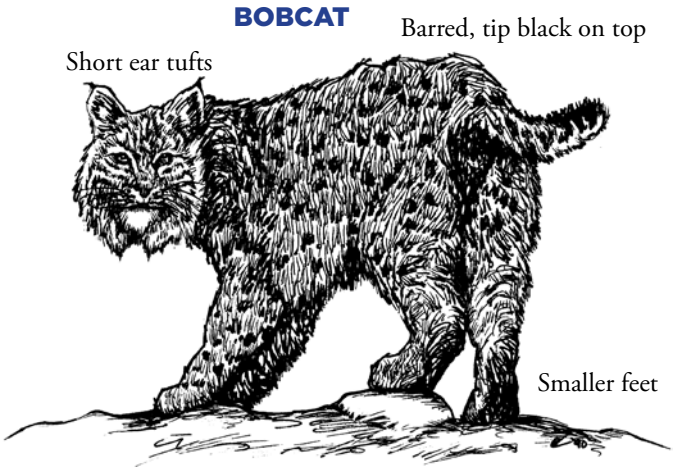
- Craters of the Moon National Monument, see page 44 for more information.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce counties.
- That portion of Ada County:
  - — Within Veterans Memorial Park.
  - — Within one 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.

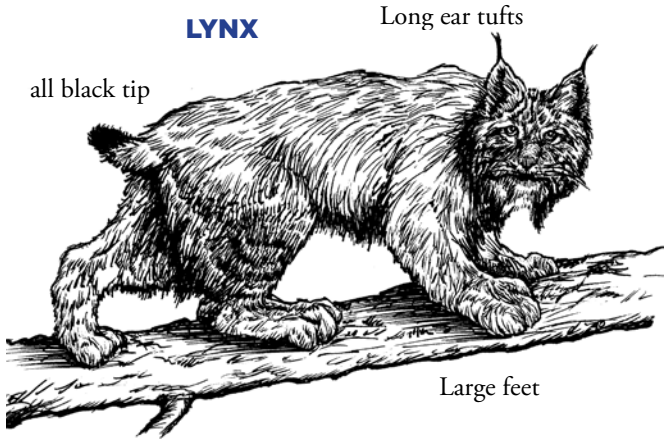
Common Season Boundaries

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.

BOBCAT AND LYNX IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

BE SURE OF WHAT YOU SHOOT. **THE LYNX IS A THREATENED SPECIES WHICH MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR A BOBCAT.**



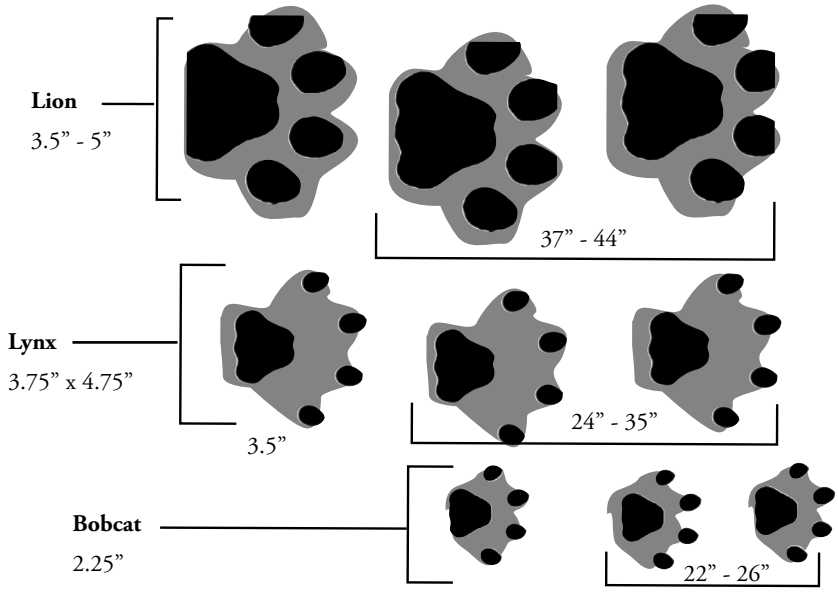


Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.

	BOBCAT	LYNX
Tail	Underside of tail is white to the tip. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.	Has black tip on tail which completely encircles the end. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.
Color	Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body—usually distinct black spots on belly.	Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.
Face	Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.	Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5 inches long. Cheek tufts prominent.
Feet	Appear small, lack hair development between pads—bare like those of domestic cat.	Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.
Size	Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 pounds).	Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 pounds). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.

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.



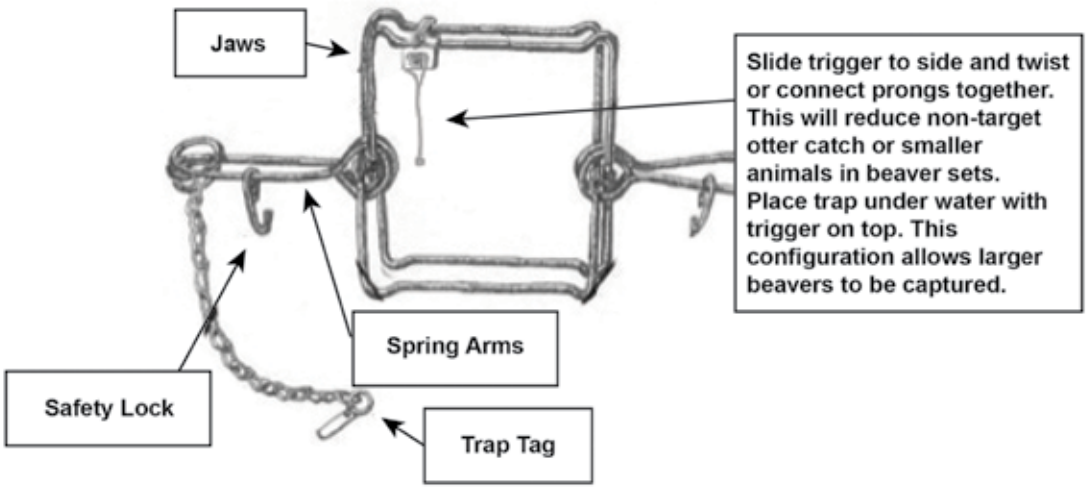
GUIDELINES TO REDUCE INJURY & MINIMIZE NON-TARGET CATCHES SUCH AS WOLVERINES AND LYNX

- Set pan tension for wolf traps to at least 8 pounds of pressure to prevent a wolverine or lynx from firing a trap set for wolf.
- Make marten sets on leaning poles no larger than 4” in diameter and set at a 45 (or greater) degree angle with trap and bait placed at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level.
- Do not use large bodygrip traps if wolverines or lynx tracks are observed in the vicinity of a set.
- When using baits larger than 5 pounds, traps should be set at least 30 feet from the bait—farther is better.
- To avoid wolverines in snares set for wolves, place the bottom of the snare loop just below knee cap level (18”- 21” above the ground or packed snow surface).
- Use #2 or smaller foothold trap for furbearers or consider a rubber-padded foothold trap if a #3 size or larger is used.
- If using drags, use at least 8-feet of sturdy chain.
- If a larger trap is preferred use padded-jaw or laminated offset jaws, such as padded #3 coil-springs, to minimize injury.
- Anchor all traps solidly, including small bodygrip traps. A wolverine may be able to pull out or bend or break a small trap if it is anchored securely.
- Select habitat less likely to have lynx or wolverines (open fields or semi-open country near rocks, ridges, and trees).
- Avoid using rabbit parts as bait.
- If you observe wolverine or lynx tracks, it is best not to make a set in the area.
- If using a staked set, stake the trap so that a wolverine cannot get entangled around a solid object after being captured. Trap chains should be sturdy and equipped with at least two swivels. J-hooks should be spot-welded closed.
- Carry a catchpole to release non-target animals alive.

IF YOU CATCH A LYNX OR WOLVERINE...

Immediately contact Fish and Game or your local sheriff’s office to assist with the safe release of the animal.

HOW TO AVOID NON-TARGET OTTERS SETTING #330 CONIBEAR TRAPS



Ethics and Responsibility

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**

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 caution when setting body-gripping traps or snares.
- Do not set more traps than you can check in 72 hours even in bad weather.

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

- Furbearing animals are a sustainable, 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.

Be a Proud Trapper by being a Good Representative of trapping.

Trappers are encouraged to use warning signs to inform recreational users that traps or snares are in the area. Trappers may print off copies of the signs from idfg.idaho.gov and post them near their trap lines. Using warning signs is voluntary.

WARNING

TRAPS/SNARES ARE SET IN THIS AREA

Dogs can easily be released from a foothold trap without harm by simply compressing the trap spring levers on each side of the closed jaws. Your first objective should be to calm the dog. If the dog is overreacting, remove your coat or jacket and place it over the dog. This should allow you to calm the dog down so you can remove the trap. The foothold trap should not cause permanent injuries.

Removing a dog from a snare is as simple as the removal from a foothold trap. If the dog is fighting the set, calm him first. To remove the snare, just pinch the lock that closes it and reverse the lock. Then slip the lock back up the snare cable. This will open the snare loop and allow the dog to be free from the snare.

No person shall remove wildlife from the traps or snares of another person EXCEPT licensed trappers with written permission from the owner. In no instance should you shoot a trapped furbearer. You are in violation of regulations if you disturb a trapper's set.

The sign is a courtesy of Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with the Idaho Trapper's Association.

Photo ©Ed Glazar & ©*Times-News*

IDAHO'S MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE

New law takes effect July 1, 2018

Idaho trappers who purchase their first trapping license after June 30, 2011 are required to attend a mandatory trapper education course before they can purchase an Idaho trapping license. Course is a mixture of classroom instruction and field experience.

- Learn the best tools, techniques, and locations for safe and responsible trapping to avoid catching non-target animals, as well as how to minimize impacts on others.
- Furbearer behavior and management, trapping regulations, equipment selection and maintenance, and care of pelts will be covered.
- **Cost at regional office: $8.00**
  Online Cost: $9.75

Please note that the wolf trapping education course is not a substitute for this class. Those who present proof of equivalent certification obtained in Idaho or from an authorized agency or association in another state or country are exempt.

For more information please visit: https://idfg.idaho.gov/trap or contact your nearest Fish and Game office.

ATTENTION GROUND SQUIRREL HUNTERS

KNOW YOUR TARGET

Hunting of ground squirrels is **not allowed for some species** with limited abundance and distribution. These species include: Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel, Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel, Rock Squirrel, Piute Ground Squirrel (eastern Idaho subspecies), Merriam's Ground Squirrel, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, and a subspecies of Wyoming Ground Squirrel in southwest Idaho.

Ground squirrel hunting is **legal for the following species:** Yellow-bellied Marmot, White-tailed Antelope Squirrel, Uinta Ground Squirrel, Belding's Ground Squirrel, Columbian Ground Squirrel, Piute Ground Squirrel (western Idaho subspecies) and two subspecies of Wyoming Ground Squirrel in eastern Idaho.

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 or visit **idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/ground-squirrel** for more information and range maps for all Idaho ground squirrels.

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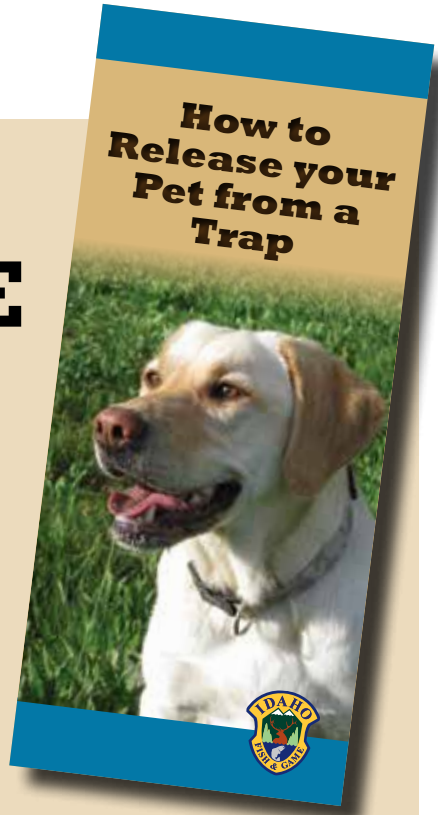
TIPS ON TRAP AVOIDANCE

See our Videos:

How To Recognize and Avoid Wildlife Traps while Walking your Dog

How To Release Your Dog From A Trap

And our Brochure:

How to Release your Pet from a Trap

https://idfg.idaho.gov/media/release-pet