

## CHAPTER 4

### FURBEARING ANIMAL HUNTING OR TRAPPING SEASONS

**Section 1. Authority.** This regulation is promulgated by authority of Wyoming Statute § 23-1-302, § 23-2-303, § 23-2-304, § 23-2-305 and § 23-3-109.

**Section 2. Definitions.** Definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, Commission regulations, and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) “Drainage” means all lands within the watershed of a named river or stream, including all tributaries and standing waters that drain into the named river or stream.

(b) “Leg-hold Trap” means any device using a mechanical trigger that springs the jaws or loop shut for capturing furbearing or predatory animals.

(c) “Live Trap” means any device designed to capture or trap a live animal inside a cage or structure. Such traps include, but are not limited to box traps and cage traps.

(d) “Owner” means the person who physically sets any trap or snare in any fashion that may result in the take of any furbearing or predatory animal.

(e) “Pet” means any domestic or tamed animal kept for companionship or pleasure.

(f) “Power-Activated Snare” means a snare with a spring or other device that applies pressure to the locking mechanism.

(g) “Quick-kill Body-grip Trap” means a device that closes around the body or head of the animal in such a manner as to almost immediately kill the animal caught.

(h) “Raw Fur” means the untanned hide or skin, or the unskinned carcass of a furbearing animal.

(i) “Snare” means a device consisting of a loop with no mechanical trigger for capturing furbearing or predatory animals.

(j) “Tamper” means to disturb, obstruct, damage, steal or interfere with any legally placed trap or snare except for releasing any pet or livestock from a trap or snare.

(k) “Trapping” or “trap” means the taking of a furbearing or predatory animal by trap or snare, or taking of a furbearing animal with a firearm or archery equipment.

(l) “Trap Identification Number” means an identification number assigned to the owner of traps or snares by the Department.

(m) “Week” means the seven (7) day period starting on Monday through the following Sunday.

**Section 3. Hunting or Trapping Seasons.**

Species, hunting or trapping areas, season dates and limitations.

Species	Trapping Area	Season Dates		Limitations
		Opens	Closes	
Mink	1	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	Any mink
Bobcat	1	Nov. 15	Mar. 1	Any bobcat
Muskrat	1	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	Any muskrat
Weasel	1	Oct. 1	Mar. 31	Any weasel
Badger	1	Jan. 1	Dec. 31	Any badger
Marten	1	Oct. 1	Mar. 1	Any marten
	2	Dec. 1	Mar. 1	Any marten
Beaver	1	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	Any beaver
	301	CLOSED		
	302	CLOSED		
	303	CLOSED		
	304	CLOSED		
	305	CLOSED		
	401	CLOSED		
	404	CLOSED		
	405	CLOSED		
	406	CLOSED		
	407	CLOSED		
	408	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 25 beaver
	409	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 15 beaver
	410	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 20 beaver
	411	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 35 beaver
	412	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 15 beaver
	413	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 30 beaver
	414	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 30 beaver
	501	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 10 beaver
	502	Oct. 1	Apr. 30	1 trapper; 10 beaver
	503	CLOSED		
	504	CLOSED		
	505	CLOSED		
	605	CLOSED		
	606	CLOSED		

**Section 4. Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Area Descriptions.**

(a) Area and number.

- (i) All furbearing animals, excluding marten and beaver.

**Area 1.** The entire State of Wyoming, excluding those areas closed in Section 4(b).

- (ii) Marten.

**Area 1.** The entire State of Wyoming, excluding Area 2 as listed in this subsection and those areas closed in Section 4(b).

**Area 2. Snowy Range.** Beginning at the junction of Interstate Highway 80 and U.S. Highway 287 in the city of Laramie; southerly along U.S. Highway 287 to the Wyoming-Colorado state line; westerly along said line to Wyoming Highway 230 in Carbon County; northerly along said highway to Wyoming Highway 130; northerly along said highway to Interstate Highway 80; easterly along said highway to its junction with U.S. Highway 287.

- (iii) Beaver.

**Area 1.** The entire State of Wyoming, excluding those limited quota trapping areas listed in this subsection and those areas closed in Section 4(b).

**Area 301. North Tongue River.** North Tongue River drainage in Sheridan County.

**Area 302. South Tongue River.** South Tongue River drainage in Sheridan County.

**Area 303. East Fork of Big Goose Creek.** East Fork of Big Goose Creek drainage upstream of Park Reservoir in Johnson County.

**Area 304. Clear Creek.** Clear Creek drainage on U.S. Forest Service lands in Johnson County.

**Area 305. Crazy Woman Creek.** Crazy Woman Creek drainage on U.S. Forest Service lands in Johnson County.

**Area 401. South Rock Springs.** That portion of Sweetwater County south of I-80 between the Green River, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Wyoming Highway 430.

**Area 404. Henrys Fork.** Henrys Fork River, Louse Creek and Sage Creek drainages on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Uinta County.

**Area 405. Cottonwood Creek.** Cottonwood Creek drainage on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Uinta County.

**Area 406. East Fork of Smiths Fork.** Drainages of Gilbert Creek and East Fork of Smiths Fork River upstream from Wasatch-Cache National Forest boundary in Uinta County.

**Area 407. West Fork of Smiths Fork.** West Fork of the Smiths Fork River and Willow Creek drainages upstream from Wasatch-Cache National Forest boundary in Uinta County.

**Area 408. Salt Creek.** Salt Creek drainage on U.S. Forest Service lands, Salt Creek Proper and Raymond Creek drainage on public lands in Lincoln County.

**Area 409. Upper Smiths Fork.** Smiths Fork drainage on U.S. Forest Service lands in Lincoln County.

**Area 410. Hobble Creek.** Hobble Creek drainage on U.S. Forest Service lands, Coal Creek, and Saw Mill Creek drainages in Lincoln County.

**Area 411. Hams Fork River (Hams Fork).** Beginning where the Hams Fork River crosses the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary to where the river crosses U.S. Forest Service Road 062 and all tributaries lying east of the Hams Fork River in Lincoln County.

**Area 412. South Fork Fontenelle Creek.** Beginning where the South Fork of Fontenelle Creek crosses the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary to its headwaters and all tributaries in Lincoln County, including all of the drainages of the South Fork of Fontenelle Creek upstream from the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary within Lincoln County.

**Area 413. Fontenelle Creek.** Beginning where Fontenelle Creek crosses the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary to the confluence of Camp Fire Creek and all tributaries in Lincoln County, including all of the drainages of Fontenelle Creek between the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary and Camp Fire Creek within Lincoln County.

**Area 414. LaBarge Creek and South LaBarge Creek (main streams).** Beginning where LaBarge Creek crosses the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary to its headwaters and the main channel of South LaBarge Creek in Lincoln County. LaBarge Creek Proper will be closed one (1) mile each direction from the confluence of Nameless Creek and LaBarge Creek in Lincoln County.

**Area 501. North Pole Mountain.** All of the drainages of Brush Creek, Crow Creek, Lodgepole (Pole) Creek, McKechnie Creek and Horse Creek within the boundaries of the Pole Mountain Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest and north of the Happy Jack Road (Wyoming Secondary Highway 210-U.S.F.S. 722) in Albany County.

**Area 502. South Pole Mountain.** All of the drainages of Brush Creek, Lodgepole (Pole) Creek, Crow Creek and Dale Creek within the boundaries of the Pole

Mountain Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest and south of the Happy Jack Road (Wyoming Secondary Highway 210-U.S.F.S. 722) in Albany County.

**Area 503. Woods Landing.** All public lands within Boswell Creek, Eagle Creek, Shellrock Creek, Bear Creek, Jelm Creek and Porter Creek drainages in Albany County.

**Area 504. Lake Owen.** All public lands south and east of U.S.F.S Roads 552 and 540 within Fox Creek, Squirrel Creek, Squaw Creek, Lake Owen Creek and Strain Creek drainages in Albany County.

**Area 505. Sheep Mountain.** All public lands within Fence Creek, Hecht Creek and Buckeye Creek drainages in Albany County.

**Area 605. Green Mountain.** All public lands within the Crooks Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Cooper Creek and Willow Creek drainages on Green Mountain in Fremont County.

**Area 606. East Fork Wind River.** All lands within the Spence and Moriarity Wildlife Management Area and the Kirk Inberg/Kevin Roy Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Fremont County.

(b) Closed areas.

(i) The following areas shall be closed to the taking of all furbearing animals.

(A) Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in Bighorn County;

(B) Grand Teton National Park in Teton County;

(C) John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway in Teton County;

(D) National Elk Refuge in Teton County; and,

(ii) The following areas shall be closed to the taking of beaver.

(A) Beaver Creek drainage from Wyoming Highway 70 downstream to its confluence with the North Fork of the Encampment River in Carbon County;

(B) Cache Creek drainage in Teton County;

(C) Cliff Creek drainage in Sublette County;

(D) Granite Creek drainage from the Granite Hot Springs swimming pool downstream to the confluence with the Hoback River in Teton and Sublette Counties;

(E) Nameless Creek proper in Lincoln County;

(F) Nash Fork drainage south of Wyoming Highway 130 from the Snowy Range Ski Area Road downstream to its confluence with the North Fork of the Little Laramie River in Albany County;

(G) South Fork Hog Park Creek drainage from the Colorado/Wyoming state line downstream to its confluence with Hog Park Creek in Carbon County;

(H) South Fork Lake Creek and Goetze Creek drainages on the Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Carbon County;

(I) The head of the Rock Creek drainage north and east of the Sand Lake Road (U.S.F.S. Road 101) downstream to its confluence with the South Fork of Rock Creek in Carbon County;

(J) Bolton Creek drainage in Carbon and Natrona counties.

(K) Stinking Creek drainage (including Lone Tree Creek and Elk Creek) in Carbon and Natrona counties;

(L) Ditch Creek drainage from the confluence of the North Fork and Middle Fork of Ditch Creek downstream to the U.S.F.S. – Private Land Boundary in Teton County;

(M) Willow Creek drainage upstream from the confluence of Willow Creek and Sourdough Creek in Teton, Lincoln and Sublette counties; and,

(N) Game Creek drainage in Teton County.

(iii) The following areas shall be closed to the taking of Marten.

(A) All lands within the Pole Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest in Albany County.

(iv) The following areas shall be closed to the use of any snare or quick-kill body grip trap with a jaw spread exceeding five (5) inches during any open pheasant hunting season:

(A) Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area;

(B) Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area;

(C) Sand Mesa Wildlife Habitat Management Area east of Bass Lake Road;

(D) Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

(v) The following areas shall be closed to the use of any snare or quick-kill body grip trap with a jaw spread exceeding five (5) inches from October 1 through February 15;

(A) Rawhide Wildlife Habitat Management Area;

(B) Springer/Bump Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area; and,

(C) Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

(vi) The following areas shall be closed to the use of any snare, quick-kill body grip trap, leg-hold trap, and live trap during the calendar year;

(A) Pilot Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Area; and,

(B) John/Annie Woodhouse Public Access Area.

**Section 5. Common Season Boundary.** Wherever a stream or river forms a boundary between two (2) trapping areas with differing seasons for the same furbearing animal, 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 (2) seasons involved.

**Section 6. Limited Quota Furbearing Animal Trapping Area Permits.** Only the holder of a permit for a limited quota trapping area(s) shall be allowed to trap the limited quota area for the designated species during the trapping season for which the permit is valid. Permit holders shall be determined by a random computer selection.

(a) Application for Limited Quota Furbearing Animal Trapping Permits. Applications shall be available from Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Offices, the Cheyenne Headquarters Office and game wardens. Any qualified person may submit one (1) application for a limited quota trapping area drawing and may list as many as three (3) choices.

(b) When trapping, each permit holder shall present their permit and a valid Wyoming furbearing animal trapping license for inspection upon request to any law enforcement officer empowered to enforce these regulations.

(c) Application Date. Applications shall be submitted on a form provided by the Department to the Headquarters Office from April 1 through May 31.

(d) Drawing. Only correct and complete applications received in the Headquarters Office during the application dates shall be entered in the random computer selection. Successful applicants shall be notified by mail.

(e) Leftover Limited Quota Trapping Area Permits. After the regular drawing, applicants may apply for limited quota trapping area permits not issued in the drawing for limited quota furbearing animal trapping areas. Applicants shall apply to the Headquarters Office. Permits shall be issued in the order the applications are processed or until quotas are reached. Submission of an application either through the mail or hand delivered shall not guarantee a permit.

#### **Section 7. Authorization to Trap.**

(a) Any person holding a valid Wyoming furbearing animal trapping license shall be authorized to trap furbearing animals in any trapping area specified in the current trapping regulations, excluding those species within limited quota furbearing animal trapping areas for which a limited quota furbearing animal trapping permit is required and excluding closed areas in Section 4(b) of this regulation.

(b) Individuals issued limited quota furbearing animal trapping permits shall contact the game warden listed on the notice for instructions prior to taking furbearing animals authorized by this permit in the limited quota furbearing animal trapping areas.

#### **Section 8. Trap and Snare Specifications.**

(a) All snares used for furbearing or predatory animals shall be equipped with a break-away device located at the point of the snare lock;

(b) Break-away devices shall release at two hundred ninety-five (295) pounds of pressure or less;

(c) Snare capture loop size shall not exceed twelve (12) inches in diameter measured from side to side;

(d) Snares shall be solidly anchored to ensure the break-away device properly functions to release at two hundred ninety-five (295) pounds of pressure or less, and;

(i) Snares shall not be anchored to any wire of a fence.

(ii) Snares shall not be anchored to any moveable object such as a drag.

(e) Power-activated snares with a spring greater than three (3) inches in length when fully extended may only be set on private land; and,

(f) A quick-kill body-grip trap having a jaw measurement of ten (10) inches or greater when measured vertically at its widest part of the jaw shall not be set, other than on private land, unless the bottom of the quick-kill body-grip trap is at least partially submerged in water when set.



**Section 9. Check Period for Leg-Hold Traps, Live Traps, Snares and Quick-Kill Body-Grip Traps.**

(a) All leg-hold traps and live traps shall be checked by the owner a minimum of once during each seventy-two (72) hour period.

(b) All snares and quick-kill body-grip traps shall be checked by the owner a minimum of one time each week, except during the initial week the snares or quick-kill body-grip traps were set.

**Section 10. Mandatory Bobcat Registration.** All bobcats harvested in Wyoming shall be registered with the Department by the person taking the bobcat, regardless of the final disposition of the raw fur. Bobcat raw furs may be registered throughout the bobcat season, but registration shall end at 5:00 p.m. on March 11 of each year. If the registration deadline date occurs on a weekend when the Department Regional Offices are closed, bobcat raw furs may be registered on the next business day until 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. The properly licensed trapper shall present a bobcat raw fur in an unfrozen condition to a game warden or a Department Regional Office. It shall be unlawful to possess an untagged bobcat raw fur after the registration period expires.

(a) Before a Wyoming bobcat tag shall be issued, the person taking a bobcat shall provide to the Department at the time of registration, the age and sex of the bobcat, the number of the Department's bobcat management area in which the bobcat was taken, the method of take, the date the bobcat was taken, the number of traps that were set, and the number of days traps were set or days hunted with a firearm.

(b) A Wyoming bobcat tag shall be attached to a bobcat raw fur by an employee of the Department. Wyoming bobcat tags shall be issued free of charge.

(c) Any person who makes a false statement on the registration form shall be in violation of this regulation and such violation shall be punishable as provided by Title 23, Wyoming Statutes for violation of Commission regulations.

**Section 11. Trapping of Non-target Wildlife; Disposition of Furbearing Animals at the Trap Site.**

(a) All big or trophy game animals, game birds, protected animals or protected birds that are trapped shall be released unharmed.

(b) If a big or trophy game animal, game bird, protected animal or raptor is trapped and has been injured in such a way that the injury may result in death of the animal or if the animal has been killed, the trapper shall notify a Department law enforcement officer as soon as is reasonably possible.

(c) Furbearing animals that are trapped during a closed season shall be released unharmed. If a furbearing animal is caught during a closed season and injured in such a way that

may result in death of the animal or if the furbearing animal has been killed, the trapper shall notify a Department law enforcement officer as soon as is reasonably possible.

(d) Furbearing animals legally taken shall be either killed at the trap site or immediately released to the wild. If the trapper holds both a furbearing animal trapping license and a license to capture furbearing animals for domestication, the furbearing animals do not have to be killed at the trap site.

(e) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a person from releasing any pet or livestock from a trap or snare.

**Section 12. Use of Dogs.** Persons possessing a valid furbearing animal trapping license may use dogs to take bobcats during the bobcat hunting or trapping season.

**Section 13. Trap Identification Numbers.** All traps and snares used for furbearing or predatory animals shall be permanently marked or tagged with the name and address of the owner or the trap identification number assigned to the owner by the Department.

(a) A person may apply for a trap identification number from the Department. Each individual shall be issued only one (1) trap identification number for the life of the trapper. Trap identification numbers shall be transferable from one (1) person to another only upon completion of an application and approval by the Department.

(b) Trap identification numbers shall consist of the prefix WY, followed by the last two (2) digits of the calendar year in which the number is issued, followed by a number generated by the Department. A hyphen shall separate the three (3) portions of the number. For example, the first trap identification number issued in calendar year 2001 shall be WY-01-001. Numbers shall be legible, at least one-eighth (1/8) inch in height and affixed to traps in such a manner as to read left to right. The trap identification number shall be stamped on the trap or on a metal tag that is affixed to the trap.

(c) Application for a trap identification number shall include the full name and complete home address of the applicant and shall be submitted on a form provided by the Department. Applications shall be submitted to the Wildlife Division, at the Headquarters Office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

(d) Any person who has obtained a trap identification number shall notify the Department by telephoning (307) 777-4600 within thirty (30) days of any change in address.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Peter J. Dube, President

Dated: July 14, 2021