

## Trapping Meeting Notes from Sheridan (9/3/2020)

### Topic 1: Education and Awareness

#### Discussion Questions:

1. **Trapper Education - Should the Game and Fish require mandatory trapper education?**
  - a. **Recommend use of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies approved North American Trapper Education online course.**
  - b. **Update/redesign the trapping brochure to provide more information (species ID, education opportunities, messages, etc.)**
2. **Public Education - Should the Game and Fish develop consistent trapping education topics/themes relevant to those using public lands (hiking, walking dogs, bird watching, riding bikes, trail running, etc.)?**
  - a. **Should we use this information for messaging on a dedicated page on the Game and Fish webpage and signs on Commission-owned lands, trailheads and recreation areas as well as working with other agencies to promote similar signage/education.**
  - b. **Should the Game and Fish continue to promote how to release your pet workshops and other non-trapper based trapping education and training around the state?**
  - c. **Should the Game and Fish work with partners and stakeholder groups to provide hand tools at major trailheads or parking areas that can be used to remove a pet from a trap or snare? Sell tools through the Game and Fish Website and Regional Offices?**
3. **Conservation Stamp- Should the Game and Fish require Conservation Stamps for trappers and anyone using Commission owned or administered properties (antler hunters, dog walkers, bird watchers, other recreators, etc.)?**

#### Discussion:

Group 1A - 7 people

1-Trapper Education (31 of 35)

- Education is good- especially when lives are taken
- Maybe for first year trappers- most others already have experience
- Like hunter safety- might think you know but people will learn more/ethics too

1a- AFWA online course (15 of 35)

- Wyoming specific as we differ from many other states
- Trapping is so hands-on, need that hands on learning (in-person)

- The AFWA course would make for universal standards
- Online simpler and cheaper
- If mandatory, how do you know the person was the one really taking the class- loose accountability
- Could have online with mandatory in-person field day. Treat like hunter ed
- Suggest using a mentor

#### 1b- Brochure (15 of 35)

- Not needed if much of it covered in the education
- Trappers shouldn't rely on brochure- need to learn before
- More detail on trapping and not just info on furbearers

#### 2- Public Education (35 of 35)

- Public should be educated about all land uses
- Educate about leash laws

#### 2a- (34 of 35)

- Include other hazards- snakes, bears, lions
- May help prevent dogs being caught and help release them or carry the right tools
- Land users have a right to know traps are out there
- In SD they put how to release a dog from a trap and when seasons are

#### 2b- Workshops (33 of 35)

- Reach out to trappers to help
- Include videos on website
- Push out on social media may have low attendance at workshops
- Reminder that trapping season is starting

#### 2c- Handtools (3 of 35)

- May not need to spend money
- Instead put out the information on what to carry

#### 3- Conservation Stamp (35 of 35)

- Yes, don't mind paying- everyone chips in
- May give others a say in what happens
- Most trappers already have one
- Recreationists should contribute

#### Group 1B - 8 people

##### 1- Trapper Education mandatory (2 of 40)

- Not mandatory but voluntarily
- Would would do it ? Would they be paid? Do similar to hunter ed
- Should be a trapper that does it

- In conjunction with GF enforcement
- May help folks who think they know what they are doing
- As a new trapper, it would have been helpful to have

1a- AFWA online (30 of 40)

- Yes, the world we live in

1b-Update Brochure (21 of 40)

- More info on education
- Younger people may prefer to go online
- May need both
- Better explain regs and statutes

2- Public education (19 of 40)

- May negatively inadvertently influence the public
- Safety education may be irrelevant at trailheads if too big/general

2a- Trailheads? Webpage? (10 of 40)

- No wast of resources, wont read on web
- To big/broad at trailheads
- Other language users
- Time of ear, may not be relevant
- Scare recreationists

2b-Workshops (34 of 40)

- Yes as long as done with local trappers
- Hands on useful- might also be goo on website in case they cant do workshop
- Include in hunter safety- may reach more people
- Legitimately taught
- Include and enforce leash laws (pets)

2c- Handtools (7 of 40)

- Not for GF to sell
- Educate what tools are needed and how to do it
- They will get stolen
- If concerned you should carry it

3-Conservation stamps

- Most trappers already have one
- If other recreationists aren't harvesting they shouldn't
- Shed hunters, yes
- What happens to funds
- Enforcement difficult
- MT does this
- Is for those taking/using resources (40 of 40)

Group 1C- 6 people

1- Trapper Education (23 of 30)

- Ethics and common sense
- Not sure if required but they should have it- would solve problems
- Yes mandatory- educate on multi-use
- Similar to required hunter safety
- As long as it is not a barrier- length of time?

1a- AFWA online? (29 of 30)

- Learn more hands on , but may be harder to get done
- Hve class (in person) option if dont have internet
- Must be field day, mentorship, sign-off from someone

1b-Brochure (30 of 30)

- Include education
- Point to more resources

2- Public education (30 of 30)

- Educate on benefits of trapping
- Yes, on trap laws
- Push out/advertise trapping season
- PSA
- Collaborative process helps
- Webpage
- Ethics and common sense
- Educate on multi-use

2a-Signs? Website? (30 of 30)

- Yes
- Know before you go
- Types of traps used
- Better at trailhead, not every trap- put this online, apps? Web? Tourism?

2b-Workshops (30 of 30)

- Yes, lots, everywhere
- Need the hands on portion -do it
- Teach the laws and regulations

2c- Hand Tools- (0 of 30 for giveaway 28 of 30 for selling)

- User responsibility, not GF
- Just educate people
- Maybe sell kit
- Will steal, waste of money

3- Conservation stamp (30 of 30)

- Trappers already have, so sure

- If recreationists are using lands yes
- Yes good for all
- Help keep areas clean

## Topic 2: Trails and Campgrounds

### Discussion Questions:

1. **Trapping Setbacks- Should the Game and Fish develop trap setback requirements and definitions for trapping furbearing and predatory animals?**
  - a. **Should public trails have a setback requirement of 30’**
  - b. **Should public campgrounds, trailheads and recreation sites have a recommended setback of 300’?**
  - c. **Some definitions to consider.**
    - i. **Public trails: defined as any trail on public land designated by administrative signs or numbers or as designated on the most current official map of the agency.**
    - ii. **Campground: defined as any campground on public land designated by an administrative agency.**
    - iii. **Trailhead: defined as any trailhead on public land designated by an administrative agency.**
    - iv. **Recreation site: defined as any site with construction improvements made for recreation as designated by an administrative agency including, but not limited to, picnic areas, boat launches, fishing access areas, etc.**

Discussion:

Group 2A

1) Knowing where traps are/are not

- Not opposed to reasonable set-backs
- As a trapper avoids high use areas
- Agree with setbacks
- Don't set traps where people walk
- “Common sense”
- Trapper ethics and education
- Ethics and education
- Be careful of your pets setbacks relative to the area
- Setbacks- you know at least a distance

1(a)

- Depends on environment

- Instances where 30 is not enough
- Environment
- Pet owners have to be responsible
- 300 feet
- Seasonal
- Trap type- diff setbacks

1(b)

- Relative to environment
- Responsible pet owners
- Everyone has a part to play
- 300 feet is ok number
- Why would you trap in a campground
- Traps tampered with -under reported

1(c)

i)

- A marked trail
- Have a map
- Marked trails

ii)

- Not going to catch anything in campgrounds
- Perfecting reasonable definition

iii)

- Similar to campgrounds

iv)

- Common sense

Group 2B

1)

- Yes- thefts- vandalism
- Educational for trappers
- Should be common sense
  - No setbacks
  - Seasonal use
- Common sense- trapper education
- Public education
  - Yes- setbacks and distance
- Would hold public more accountable
- Could help trappers- setbacks m44s public view
- Where does this end

- Could be arbitrary distance

1(a) \*30'

- Stay consistent- whatever is decided
- Will a distance off a trail affect trapping catches, number traps set
- Environment

1(b) \*300'

- Wouldn't set it these anyway
- Seems reasonable
- seasonal - trap types

1(c)

i)

- Brochures defining- trails
- Fairly clear definition- FS marked and numbered
- Marked Trails

ii)

- Good definition
- No one would trap in a campground
- Camp sites vs. camp grounds
- Designated and maintained (agency)

iii)

- Trail heads and trails go together

iv)

- Water born traps vs leg holds
- Boat launches
- Should not have to worry at these locations
- Seasonal- damage control
- Trash attracts animals at picnic areas
- Both docks- a concern!!

Group 2C

1)

- No- because there's no problem
  - Predators not under game and fish
- No- on setbacks
- Is it really a problem
- Responsible trappers would not set close to trails
- Most trappers responsible and yes it would be worthwhile
- No on setbacks
- No

- Can't regulate common sense

1(a) no- to 30'

- Depends of definition of trail
- No to 30'- seasons use- pine marten
- Depends on how much public use- seasonal
- Common sense-

1(b) 300'\*

- I wouldn't most don't already
- Is t cost effective
- Does rick outweigh the benefit
- Stay away from designated seasonal trails

1(c)

i)

- Seasonal use
- Would not apply
- Like designation- FS
  - Some # trails are undefined- too broad
  - Signage is as important
- No signage close to traps

ii)

- Common sense
- Trappers don't trap in campgrounds

iii)

- Trappers would not set at trailheads

iv)

- Trappers would not set at recreation sites
- Inappropriate

## Topic 3: Regulations & Reporting

Discussion questions:

- 1. Reporting of Non-target Species - Should the Game and Fish develop a database and app to track voluntary reporting of non-target species trapped(including dogs) and work to require reporting in the future?**
- 2. Snare Check Periods - Should the Game and Fish reduce the check period requirement for snares and consider additional trap and snare restrictions (RAM power snare, spring-loaded snares)?**

3. **Furbearer Working Group - Should the Game and Fish form a Department Furbearer Working Group to keep up to date with furbearer management practices, population trends and evaluate the need for harvest quotas and seasons?**
4. **Commission Owned Land Closures - Should the Game and Fish consider Commission owned or administered land closures during heavy use periods (pheasant release areas, etc.)?**

### **Discussion:**

3A- 7 people

1)- Reporting

- Concerned about trap theft with increased reporting
- Have reported non-targets bears to GF, didn't show up
- No-rare to catch a dog, most released unharmed from footholds
- Multiple ways need to be available for reporting
- Education for pet owners on release from traps/snares
- Dogs are not on their property when they are caught
- Distrust of GF can discourage reporting

2)-Snare Check period

- Most trappers check snares along with footholds
- Would like snare check period done away with- dead animal has no stress
- No changes to equipment, use best equipment available

3)- Furbearer Working Group

- Trapper association does not support small harvest
- Could benefit state of furbearer management issues, further conservation couldn't hurt
- Hard to get good estimates from bears, lions, other predators
- Sometimes snares are the only tool of choice (depends on field conditions)
- Current law allows for leniency depending on life circumstances

4)- Commission owned land closures

- Should consider
- Need clear definition of "heavy use period"
- Trappers aren't here to kill every animal they can
- Common sense things

Group 3B

1)-Non-target Reporting (8)

- No- other animals are killed incidentally and require no reporting (ie- archery losses, car accidents\_
- No- if animal is fine, it is unnecessary

- That info will only focus on the negative- how would that database be used later? Against trapping?
- No- location data could be used against trappers- folks stealing/damaging traps
- Need to define a real purpose for the data before starting to collect it
- Could be beneficial in managing wildlife- so all kills should be reported

#### 2)-snare check periods (5)

- Nothing to be gained from increased check periods- animal is dead within minutes. Increased checks would increase human scent around traps
- County/govt trappers should actually get an increased time period to check them
- Bad weather could impede folks getting to traps more regularly
- Two sides of this issue- with snares, as a pet owner, not good that they kill quickly. For wildlife, more humane if they die faster
- Light cable=increased catch
- Ban power snares and decrease check time because animals are in distress

#### 3)- Furbearers working group (12)

- No- trappers and their provided data already serve this function and give good info. WG would duplicate effort
- Trappers want populations to be sustained for the long term. So analysis and monitoring would be beneficial
- Good idea- proves leadership
- Concerned about non-trappers being involved if they don't understand/knew the issue

#### 4)-Commission owned closures (15)

- Yes- increase public and trapper education
- Goes both ways- should we close trails to walking during trapping season
- Ocean Lake conflict- encouraging public use and wildlife watching, but there are also lots of traps out

#### Group 3C-7 people

##### 1)- Non-Target Reporting

- Database- can you solicit it, give me your data- available to the public without personal info?
- Internal only
- Information would be useful for public to see
- Should also be recorded
- Some mandatory/some voluntary recording
- public report if pets caught
- From where you record/report trapped species
- If it is mandatory- EXPLAIN why and how data is used
- Biological data release- should be monitored or released out of necessity

- Injured/killed non-target report
- Release non-targets could be worse off

#### 2)-Snare Check Period

- Kill snares more humane- no change
- Old snares not humane/effective in adequate euthanasia
- Kill snares- maybe shouldn't be in high traffic areas because of non-target -pets trapped
- Double edged sword
- Trapping for pelts, still checking traps in 72 hours
- Once every 7 days
- Snares designed to kill, check period does NOT matter
- Maybe beneficial to hobby trappers

#### 3)- Furberer working group?

- G&F has too much
- Lots of benefits to working groups
- Population monitoring of furbearers
- Also potential funding opportunities with working groups to take more population estimates/surveys
- Sportsmen should be involved in survey methods/known animals in area

#### 4)-Commission Owned Land Closures

- Past evidence of need?
- No problem with it
- Makes sense if there is an issue
- Case by case

#### PARKING LOT

- Would recommend reduced break-away strength
- Scrutinized by GF for doing a job as a county trapper killed 2 wolves