

On December 2, 2017, Alpine Game Warden Levi Wood was dispatched a complaint reporting two traps that appeared to be illegal along Highway 26 in the Snake River Canyon. Warden Wood located the trap set and determined that they were not labeled with the trapper's name or identification number as required. The traps were baited with a large quantity of unidentified meat, two whole grey squirrels and a magpie in violation of trapping baiting regulations. On December 3, Warden Wood located another trap site along Highway 26 on the Lincoln/Teton County line. This set was not tagged and again set with a large quantity of unidentified meat, a whole gray squirrel and a blue jay. The trap had been successful in catching an ermine. Warden Wood, with assistance from South Jackson Game Warden Kyle Lash, set trail cameras to identify the trapper. On December 6, Warden Wood checked the cameras and determined that the traps had not been checked by the trapper. There were no footprints in recent snow near any of the traps and the ermine that had been caught was still in the trap. Trappers are required to check leg hold traps every 72 hours. On December 7, Warden Wood checked the trap sites and discovered the ermine had been removed and the traps were reset. The blue jay had been removed as bait. From photos on the trail cameras, Warden Lash was able to identify the suspect as a trapper he knew of. The wardens seized the traps and bait as evidence and contacted the trapper to interview him. The suspect was very cooperative and admitted that he had not read the trapping regulations thoroughly. He was issued citations for use of game parts as bait, failure to tag traps, failure to check steel-jawed leg hold traps within 72 hours and possession of protected species or any part thereof (for using a magpie as bait). The suspect was fined \$405 and had his trapping privileges suspended for one year.

