

# Trapping Meeting Notes from Rock Springs (9/1/2020)

## Regulations and Reporting

- 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?***

### Group A - 4 participants

- GF should require reporting of non-target species
- Data important for wildlife management
- Trappers have duty to honor constitution
- Dept. strategic plan requires data- scientific management
- Reporting non-target is a good idea, goes hand in hand with education
- Might help identify problem areas or techniques
- Trappers should not be afraid to report a non-target, should encourage reporting without fear of consequences
- App would be good

### Group B - 3 participants

- In favor of reporting all non-target (12)
- Good start to gather scientific data
- Ok with that- Definition should exempt the trappers dog
- Service could be a problem with an app
- Could be delayed on trap check
- Clear definitions of how,when, how long, etc?
- Also definition on non-target

### Group C - 4 Participants

- No increase of non-target reporting (3)
- Trapping of dogs is rare
- Increased reporting leads to public being negatively influenced against trappers
- Reporting should be voluntary
- Should report livestock
- App may be difficult due to rural service lack
- Already laws to minimize non-target catch (break aways)

**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)?**

Group A

- Double-edged sword, spring loaded snares kill quickly- ethical for trappers, bad for pet owners and non-target (11 5 no further restrictions)
- Ban quick-kill snares
- Some trappers only use snares because of the shorter check period on foot holds
- Snare check period should be shorter
- Trappers try to not catch dogs and non-targets
- Avoid people and high use areas
- Is there a rule that pets need to be under control
  - This should be a rule

Group B

- Most trappers already check their snares more frequently than the current period allows for (5)
- Spring- loaded snares should be banned
- Shorter check period for snares and footholds
- Not support further restrictions on snares. Feels they are more humane

Group C

- No more restrictions on snare check period (3)
- Spring- loaded snares kill quickly, effective

**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?**

Group A

- Should be a working group (15)

Group B

- In favor- science based management (15)
- More for education than regulation

Group C

- In favor of working group due to increased trapper numbers

- Already getting a good idea of what is going on based on trapper surveys. No need for working group (2)
- 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.)?**

Group A

- Yes- Ocean Lake & Sand Mesa (18)
- OK with restricting trapping in designated recreational areas

Group B

- Should evaluate and get more information
- Depends on the area (7.5)

Group C

- Dog caught in trap after furbearer season was closed
- Depends on definition of “heavy use” and case by case for area (1)

## **Trails and Campgrounds**

- 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.**

## Group A - 3 participants

#1

- In support of setbacks
- No support- leash laws should take care of it
- At times of the year some trails don't get used
- Most trappers don't trap next to roads or trails
- Definition of trail?
- When do people trap?
- May be appropriate during certain times of year
- Start with high traffic areas
- Define by region/county

C (i)

- Seems to be ok- eliminates cow trails/two tracks
- Public/Private questions
- Seasonal definitions
- Don't like it but many end up there
- Should trails in wilderness areas be exempt

C (ii)

- Should be seasonal
- Should not apply if camp grounds closed
- Can people trap in campgrounds anytime of the year now
- Balance the desires of people using public lands- most WY people want that
- Trap definitions should be part of it- some traps may be ok or have a specific purpose

C (iii)

- Same as campgrounds?
- Trappers don't trap in these areas
- Seasonal??

C (iv)

- Trappers don't trap there now
- Rely more on education
- How to release if caught
- Most trappers are very responsible they want to do the right thing
  
- A)- no without exemptions (cow trail example)
- B)- ok for some but defend, on definitions what is a trail head
  - Depends on area how much use?

## Group B- 4 participants

#1

- I don't go to busy sites
- If we don't trap areas there couple be problem areas
- No- no problem exists currently with furbearers
- Predator trapping should still be statutory
- Residential area support
- Only a couple of bad eggs

(i)

- No- so many seasonal trails
- Not a good definition
- Not many trails in SW

(ii)

- Makes sense in campgrounds

(iii)

- Makes sense but any conflicts? We don't know of any

(iv)

- Not appropriate to set a trap in those areas

1a

- No- seasonality still an issue
- What does it accomplish?
- Don't need more regulations
- Education may be better
- Signage- trapping is on public lands

1b

- These sites may be more appropriate
- More people, pets, etc
- Signage/education
- 300 feet may be to far
- \*campgrounds and rec site, take trail head out

Group C- 5 Participants 4 5,5,5,5

#1

- Yes- frequently used trails
- Try to stay away now
- Yes
- Be specific about what a road is

C (i)

- Self explanatory
- USFS markers?
- Does it include game trails?
- Needs to be signed as a trail- busy areas

C(ii)

- Yes
- C(iii)
- Yes
- C(iv)
- Self explanatory, yes.
  - Should we add roads.
- A
- Should it be 30' is it enough?
  - Should it be more
  - 100'?
  - Education 300'?
  - 50'?
  - Most trappers don't trap there
- B
- Yes

## **Education and Awareness**

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.)?**

## A- 4 participants

### #1

- Trapper Ed = 5 out of 20
- Needs to be some education to help fix a few problems
- Education for first time trappers
- Not mandatory but GF could do a better job getting trapper ed info out as available
- Not mandatory - rural people without internet or poor internet may not have access OR not computer savvy
- AAFWA= 12 of 20
  - Wyo specific course nice
  - Let's get the word out that its available
- 1.a. Trapper Ed AFWA
  - Making mandatory may eliminate discrimination
  - Min number giving the max a bad name
- 1.b. Brochure make available
  - Sufficient as you will seek out the info on how to trap
  - Other resources are available
  - You have to want to learn
- 2 Public Ed= 11 of 20
  - may instill more negativity- needs to be carefully considered verbiage
  - Could use "be trap aware" Johnny behind the rocks, sinks canyon
  - Signing awareness about trapping in area, but don't need specifics like types of traps
- 2.a Public Education = 16 of 20
  - Just so they know to be aware
- 2.b Workshops= 20 of 20
  - Yes, yes, puts some responsibility of the recreationists
  - Touch on where to find traps
- 2.c Hand Tools= 1 of 20
  - People will steal
  - Don't want to see state money used
- 3 Conservation Stamp= 18 of 20
  - Will hold people accountable
  - Could include education with sales of stamps
  - Yes- will give recreationists a stake in game "stakeholder"

## Group B- 4 participants

- Mandatory Trapper Ed = 13 out of 20
  - Elective, in person (G&F and season trappers)
  - New trappers, feel most will seek it out

- Mandatory good- offer incentive or discount for something
  - Elective vs mandatory
- 1.a-AFWA= 19 of 20
  - A good first start
  - Mesh it with some WY content
- 1.b.- Update brochure= 20 of 20
  - Yes, difference bet. Bobcat and lynx. Wolverine and fisher. Body, tracks
- 2 Public Ed= 20 of 20
  - Yes, create videos on GF website, sharing lands
  - Create a dedicated webpage and link to tourism/recreation
  - Include trapping laws/regs
- 2.a Public Education = 20 of 20
  - Signs at trailheads
  - Info signs- icon for trapper like you have hiker, biker, etc.
  - Indicate types of traps in area
- 2.b Workshops= 20 of 20
  - Yes, include laws and regs
- 2.c Hand Tools= 5 of 20
  - Stolen?
  - Would rather see included in education
  - Keep tag so warden can inform trapper its been out
- 3 Conservation Stamp= 9 of 20
  - If good purpose for \$- recreation
  - Every trapper likely has one
  - Promoted thru tourism- really hit non-resident
  - May be very hard/timely to enforce
  - May help state budget- now everyone wants to recreate more (COVID) may need more \$ to help keep lands up

Group C- 3 participants

- Mandatory Trapper Ed = 14 of 15
  - Yes, they might prefer that over regulation
  - Include education to trappers about where people recreate
  - Online or in-person? Cost? Time?
  - Prefer in-person with experienced people
- 1.a-AFWA-online= 15 of 15
  - Would like to see as an option
  - Can offer in-person too and people can choose. Or could have field da
  - Good option- shift workers and others who can't make in-person
- 1.b.- Brochure= 15 of 15
  - Sure- would like to see digital not printing everything
  - Make info more available. Can't find education easily
- 2 Public Ed= 15 of 15



- Yes- used to do ad in paper about trapping season starting
- 2.a Website and Signs = 14 of 15
  - Add links on signs- QR codes, URLs, Pet removal
  - Get to tourists
  - Online newspapers/sources- County10, Sweetwater Now
  - GF helps mediate and bring together these groups that hesitate meeting otherwise
  - To save money place signs at access points and consider where most useful
  - Include season dates
  - Include in online Access and WHMA maps
- 2.b Workshops= 15 of 15
  - Yes- have been successful, advertise
  - Puts responsibility/opportunity on recreationists
- 2.c Hand tools= 0 of 15
  - Too costly
  - Include in education course instead
  - Puts responsibility on pet owner- not commission case (ie. you carry your own first aid kit)
- 3 Commission Stamp= 1 of 15
  - Hard to regulate for recreationists
  - People don't like extra fees
  - Most trappers have stamps, so maybe not a big deal
  - People might take better care of the area if they are having to buy a stamp