

Trapping Meeting Notes from Jackson (9/2/2020)

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.)?**

Group 1A- 4 people

1. **-Trapper Educations- Mandatory? (5 of 20)**
 - Teachers? Compensation? Time commitment
 - Prefer not- (but yes education) mandatory- prevents some from being able to trap
 - Rural, accessibility
 - Put video/education on website- voluntary
 - Education may not prevent poor ethics

- Watch education (approved) at GF office
- 1a. - AWFA Approved online course? (19 of 20)
- Not use as mandatory but like the course
 - Need more than videos- mentors
 - Liability with mentors
 - Offer physical materials in case cant do online
 - Need certification
- 1b.-Update Trapping Brochure (20 of 20)
- Delete info about least weasels- sends message that trappers are causing many deaths
 - Ethics
 - Info/encourage release female bobcats so might be info about conservation biology
 - More push for trapper education
- 2- Public Education (20 of 20)
- Liability
 - Depends of message
 - Message conservation/wise use
 - Might put unrealistic fears in people
 - Warn people (signs) when in area YES
 - Informed public=more support
 - Include info to public about the ethics that trappers do follow
 - Message vetted thru experts/trappers
- 2b- Workshops (20 of 20)
- Yes- assist from local trappers (those who know)
 - Might teach people where to find traps and possibly steal
- 2c- Handtools (0 of 20)
- Wast of money
 - No
 - Is there really a need
 - Thievery
 - If really affordable
- 3- Conservation Stamp (2 of 20)
- Waste of time and legislation for trappers
 - Yes- Good for dog walkers- good money
 - Trappers already have
 - Not in favor- trappers association - not our fight
 - Yes, in favor for trappers as you are taking from landscape

Group 1B- 8 people

1. -Trapper Education- Mandatory? (33 of 40)

- Education doesn't really modify behavior
- Yes would support
- Must first educate people before their behavior can change
- Need to pass the test- certification

1a. - Continue AWFA course? (35 of 40)

- Maybe include in-person portion more applicable to WY
- Need to really look at objectives of course, include safety of self and others
- Whatever makes it more accessible
- If people want to do it they will find a way
- Gateway to responsible behavior- more gateways=more responsibility

1b.-Brochure (30 of 40)

- Rather spend money on good website
- Similar to large game booklet
- Trapping webpage should include education on laws

2- Public Education (39 of 40)

- Trapping webpage should include education on laws
- Yes please- include videos about every trap type found on land
- Tourism *get info to)- advertise trapping season, like hunting seasons
- Add info on how to contact us when pets caught
- More you educate people can make better choices- know before you go- educate on the responsibility

2a- Signage- (39 of 40)

- Trailheads signs
- Want to know what types of traps are in area
- Work with other agencies

2b- Workshops (33 of 40)

- Include info on regulations
- Tone and instructor in class can make radically different
- Get good leaders/educators
- Put a trapper and recreationist to lead the class

2c- Handtools (10 of 40)

- Concerned about theft
- Doesn't sound practical
- Would deter me from using the trail
- Rather just have a sign letting me know traps are there
- Just provide info on what you want to have

3- Conservation Stamp (trappers- 38 of 40; all users 33 of 40)

- Yes for everyone

Group 1C- 6 people

1. -Trapper Education- Mandatory? (25 of 30)

- Yes- like hunter education
- Is it readily available- rural kids/people may not have access
- Would it actually solve the issues we are seeing
- In-person or online, with a attest to pass (would hep with new trappers)

1a. - AWFA online course (23 of 30)

- Needs to be Wyoming based, fine tuned

1b.-Update Brochure (26 of 30)

- Yes, sure
- How to release animals
- Ethics

2- Public Education (29 of 30)

- Yes

2a- Webpage & Signs- (27 of 30)

- Yes to all
- Make it available- don't shove it in their faces
- Signs to indicate trapping activity
- Should also have links and codes on signs for more info
- Should be hazard and warning signs
- Non-trappers may not go to GF website; non-hunters- reach out to NGO's and other groups

2b- Workshops (30 of 30)

- Yes, doesn't hurt
- Have a trapper involved- have the expertise
- Find an unbiased instructor only about how to release- utilize GF staff

2c- Handtools (0 of 30)

- Yes
- Rater see EDUCATE public to carry tools
- Waste of money, get stolen

3- Conservation Stamp (28 of 30)

- Trappers- sure
- Recreations on Commission lands?
 - Would like a designated stamp that goes to a project I am aware of - not to things I don't support (hunting/trapping)
 - Dog walker may not benefit

○

Trails and Campgrounds (Multiple use -playing nice on your lands)

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.**

Group 2A- 6 people

1

- Yes- we should have setbacks
- Yes
- Absolutely
- We need trapper input- they are the ones trapping and have the expertise
- Common sense to have setbacks
- Makes sense but need good definition of features (trails, etc)

Ci)

- Tough To regulate if broader than designated
- Lots of undersigned? Trails get public use should be considered
- Ambiguous- lots of commonly used recreation areas not on the list (covered by definition)
 - Ambiguity can be manipulated both ways

- Needs to be more specific
- Lots of personal responsibility required by everyone- all parties
- Major trails

Cii)

- If campground is not in use 6months of the year what is the use of a setback
- Campgrounds should be trap free year round
- Trapping around campgrounds could attract other animals (apex predators)
- Trappers try not to set traps near campgrounds- common sense- campers also need to keep pets under control

Ciii)

- Same as campground- closed year round
- Need to be obvious
- Don't want to limit abilities of some people (elderly/disabled,etc)
- Sign to trailhead

Civ)

- Where people congregate, traps farther away to lower interface of competing uses
- Trapping usually when rec sites are not used as much
- Closed year round

1a

- 2x yes
- Should be more
- Dog smells bait at 300'
- It's my responsibility to control my dog
- Dogs smell bait at less than 300'
- 30' reasonable on clearly defined designated route

1b

- Yes
- Ask a trapper what is reasonable

Group 2B- 4 people

- Yes
- Common sense issue that shouldn't be- once in place, they only
- Not convinced necessary- no evidence
- Talking about furbearers trappers take every precaution season use of some areas
- Restricts some types that don't cause problems- marten/underwater
- Need accurate info from anti-trap sides

- Trap around Jackson without conflict- make every effort to avoid without regulation- let us teach young trappers
- Appropriate not to set within 300' of campgrounds- trails is a tough one
- Setbacks send the wrong message to the public there is a problem

ci)

- Against all of it because it will lead to further restrictions- our land too
- Not convinced this is happening
 - On trails
 - Consideration of seasonal use most trappers do this
- Feel safe to be assured traps are off the trail a specific distance
- Prefer education
- Define for specific types of traps
- Signs at trailheads seen as a threat that doesn't exist
- Brochures, some education

cii)

- Paid campground- no traps within 100' or maybe 300'
- Set backs near campground if there has been a problem
- Consider weather its open or not *agree

ciii)

- No setbacks on trailheads
- Include seasonality

civ)

- Same deal- seasonality
- Common sense- restrictions lead to more restrictions

1a)

- No- seasonality
- Setback makes sense, but not necessary to mandate- already do this
- Increase to 100'
- No- seasonal- marten (trap type) not convinced a threat- trappers don't trap there

1b)

- Yes- makes sense
- No- common sense- restrictions will only increase
- Trappers no unreasonable as people think
- No signs though- not necessary

Group 2C- 3 votes?

1)

- Big time (thats a yes)
- Setbacks are a better option than closures- compromise between user groups

- Prefer traps free- high rec areas- yes look into setbacks
- Need to share the land
- Resources determine where an activity is reasonable
- Possible presence of traps could our experience while recreating

ci)

- Trails on public lands that people use- preferred definition
- Good but some trails the public uses that are not designated

cii)

- 3x Yes

ciii)

- Trailheads (Better by areas than trailhead?) used by public but not designated need consideration- but not sure how to define/identify
- Users take on more responsibility when using non-designated trailheads- trails same with most activities
- #3 in agreement

civ)

- Agree x3

1a)

- More than 300'
- Traps are baited to 30' is too close
- 30' is way to close
- These numbers are dependent on leash laws - more than 100 without leash law

1b)

- Yes- more than 300' x3
- Designated areas for "master" aging population

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.)?**

Group 3A- 8 people

#1

- App and database
- Require all non-target species (38)
- Why wouldn't we
- App/database costs money- what are priorities
- Website link
- Public report of pets caught- need someone to report to
 - Database management
- Non-profit development of app/tracking
- Dogs and non-target wildlife
- Trappers more likely to report if personal information is not public record

#2

- Absolutely. Ban spring-loaded snares
- 24-hour check for snares (40)
- Ban all snares

#3

- If people are allowed to kill them we need to know how many there are
- Yes- working group (39)
- Include non-consumptive users
- Great way to set priorities/consensus
- Should include budget for scientific wildlife management studies

#4

- Yes- consider designated time periods for different user groups
- Way to let people know what is out there
 - Is trapping occurring? (34)

Group 3B- 6 people

#1

- Yes- to both parts
- Knowledge is power (21- Voluntary; 15- Mandatory)
- Mandatory reporting for all non-target
- Trappers aren't all meeting current requirements, unlikely to report further
- What about mice, rabbits?
- Data could benefit trappers & everyone else by showing accurate information
- Most non-targets reported to wardens to they can help release it

#2

- 24 hours on all traps/snares (15)
- Trigger/ spring-loaded snares should be banned
- Current laws are adequate
- Quick-kill traps- time period is adequate
- Have to keep in mind what non-targets may be caught- shorter trap period minimizes suffering
- Online hunter course recommended, 24hrs
- Most biologists use 24 hours

#3

- Yes- should have working group (30)
- Would include biologists
- Need to include trappers
- Funding
- Education

#4

- Trapper input considered
- Yes- commission lands with high rec use should be closed (25)
- Case by case basis
- During hunting seasons

Group 3C- 4 People

#1

- No- typical dog trapping is a non-event
- Information used against trappers and wildlife conservation and management (5)
- No- Educate GF offices- trappers treated like criminals
- Better communication between G&F and trappers
- Agrees with reporting but understands trapper concerns

#2

- Current check period set in respect to wool growers
- Trappers in reality are checking snares when they check their footholds
- Leave the law the way it is, it is adequate
- Allows opportunity for people who work
- Trappers interested in fur quality
- Concern about animal welfare and suffering
- Efficiency reduced with more frequent checks
 - Essential for snaring coyotes
- No benefit to dogs
- More frequent checks increase costs
- Current period allows snaring away from town

#3

- No- furbearer harvester in WY are too low to make biological impact
- Surveys currently provide enough information (5)
- Wyo ets info from AFWA, don't need to reinvent the wheel
- Good idea- GF needs information for furbearer management

#4

- Yes- definition of wavy use periods required (9)
- Yes- good idea- already avoid high use areas
- No- no further regulations

Parking Lot

- Trap locations should be available to public
- Public land trap closures (Cache Creek, etc)
- Trapping restrictions on hgh use recreation areas
- Public land experience is different with traps in area
- Trappers are eyes and ears in the field
- Wildlife management needs to be based on science not emotion
- GF should not kowtow to anti-trapping interests
- Include in education?
- USDA trappers need to follow state laws.
- More info on how this helps the state