

Session 1A

VOTES

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 1

Education and Awareness

Our purpose is to engage everyone to contribute to this process to make sense of profound challenges and guide potential regulatory/statutory development for trapping in Wyoming

Agreements

1. Suspend judgement as best you can
2. Respect one another
3. Seek to understand rather than persuade
4. Invite and honor diverse opinions
5. Speak what has personal heart and meaning
6. Go for honesty and depth without going on and on

Session 1A

Facilitator: Rene Schell

Scribe: Emily Gates

Education and Awareness

Discussion Questions:

1. Trapper Education - Should the Game and Fish require mandatory trapper education? 5,5,0,2,5,0,3,3
 - i. Support – would be a benefit
 - ii. education is always good
 - iii. education is important – we have hunter education. Violations happen with improper education
 - iv. no, not mandatory. Should be voluntary. Rural areas might not have access to program. Online program would be better. Online would not be ok for some cases either. Do young people with a mentor/on private land need to take mandatory education? Conflicts might be minimal in open areas

- v. 4h is in rural areas, could this help with rural access? It should be required so it should be equally available
- vi. public vs private land for mandatory might requirement
- vii. what should the age limit be? Will there be an exception for very experienced older trappers (grandfather clause?). Young trappers are already learning from older trappers, who will teach the mandatory education and how to make sure that they are competent. Many trappers already seek out education voluntarily to be better more efficient trappers. Not necessarily in support of mandatory.
- viii. Mandatory education on public land/public resource is a good idea. Instruction should come from proper source/trained biologists/WGFD

2. Recommend use of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies approved North American Trapper Education online course. 3,3,3,4,2,5

- i. Online course needs to be sanctioned by game and fish as a viable source. This will mitigate violations and conflict. Wyoming specifics might be important to add.
- ii. Took hunter education as adults and learned a lot. Education should be for all. Online is good but benefit of stories from other people was important. There needs to be a skills section and this is hard to do online. Some hands on would be good. X2

3. Update/redesign the trapping brochure to provide more information (species ID, education opportunities, messages, etc.) 0,3,5,0,1,5,0,0,4

- i. BMPs or other best practices for euthanasia should be incorporated.
- ii. The brochure is fine the way it is. Dispatch methods will vary by animal and situation. X2
- iii. AVA puts out recommended methods of euthanasia. Different methods become available, things change over time. Especially for young folks, some advice on reasonable ways to dispatch would be appropriate.

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.)?5,5,5,2,0

- i. Yes, it is important to have education out there for the public. There are a lot of dog violations and there is a lot of interest is hiking with dogs around wildlife off leash. A lot of conflict can be avoided. People recreating on public lands do need to be aware of how to be responsible with pets on public land. More in depth education on ways to mitigate conflict is important.
- ii.

2. 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.5

- i. Who will monitor the disturbance of traps in areas where there are signs?
- ii. Education is important but recreationists might be hard to target. Trailhead signs might be a good/local way to do it. Be aware of other activities happening on this land.
- iii. Against signs. Would create fear in the public. Trappers already avoid these public areas. Traps near trails won't be traps that harm dogs. May not be as many incidences as it seems. Tries not to trap on public land. x2
- iv. There are incidences that have happened, the issue may not be traps that are far away from trails.
- v. Yes trails should be signed, people coming in from out of state would benefit from being alerted.

3. 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?5
 - i. Incidences of pets getting caught in traps low. Leg hold traps do not need tools to release. Dogs won't be harmed if owner is near. Snares can be released by lock.
 - ii. This could be a good idea to show people how to deal with traps. Could be a good way to get this info out to other groups using land.
 - iii. No one is collecting info on dogs being trapped. Dog that was trapped bit owner and damaged mouth. Large vet bill incurred by episode. Damaged private property. People would benefit about knowing the risks of having to release dogs.
 - iv. Do not think dogs being caught is rare. Parking lot = trappers should be liable for damages on public land
4. 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?2

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 recreates, etc.)?5
 - i. Conservation stamp is great idea should be one for trapping. Would be a good way to be aware of what is happening on game and fish land.
 - ii. Trappers should not be exempt.
 - iii. Trappers trapping for predators may not have a trapping license – should not be required to have a conservation stamp for this

- iv. Anyone entering game and fish lands should be contributing financially. x3
- v. Moot point. Most trappers probably already have a conservation stamp from another license.

Session 1B

VOTES

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 1

Education and Awareness

Our purpose is to engage everyone to contribute to this process to make sense of profound challenges and guide potential regulatory/statutory development for trapping in Wyoming

Agreements

1. Suspend judgement as best you can
2. Respect one another
3. Seek to understand rather than persuade
4. Invite and honor diverse opinions
5. Speak what has personal heart and meaning
6. Go for honesty and depth without going on and on

Session 1B

Facilitator: Rene Schell

Scribe: Emily Gates

Education and Awareness

Discussion Questions:

4. Trapper Education - Should the Game and Fish require mandatory trapper education?5,5,5,5,3,5
 - i. If it was once in a lifetime cert like hunter education would be supportive.
 - ii. Agree. New people who move to the state should get education to be clear on how to trap
 - iii. Yes, require it
 - iv. Yes, trapping is similar to hunting, there should be education
 - v. Yes, but should consider renewal or refreshers
 - vi. yes

2. Recommend use of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies approved North American Trapper Education online course.52552
 - i. Should have something more extensive. You are not present while the activity is going on. In person, in depth training is warranted.
 - ii. An in person class would be better
 - iii. experiences in in person classes cannot be replicated. It should be in person.
 - iv. Should be in person
3. Update/redesign the trapping brochure to provide more information (species ID, education opportunities, messages, etc.)55535
 - i. not sure without being familiar with the brochure. But yes, review what is available to trappers
 - ii. yes, the brochure should include info on unintentional catch
 - iii. Montana brochure has some good ideas that should be considered.
5. 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.)? 55555
 - i. Absolutely
 - ii. yes, some kind of brochure would be helpful to know where trapping could be
 - iii. yes, a lot of people don't know that trapping is happening or where and don't know how to deal with dogs in traps
 - iv. yes

2. 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.5555
 - i. It needs to be more obvious than a website. Did not know that trapping could be happening, would need to be a sign at a trail head – need to know to look for a website
 - ii. have both. Signs and web
 - iii. simple signs would be helpful
 - iv. have both and definitely work with other agencies. Out of state visitors might have no idea
 - v. would like to see signage – online and at trailheads and trappers should be indicating to users when on public land where traps are
 - vi. When you are leaving things out on the land, it is important to indicate where these traps are being left. “Live traps in area” signs
 - vii.
3. 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? 55553
 - i. Yes, please promote these workshops. X5
 - ii. or small child
4. 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?1233
 - i. Yes, should be compensated for having to carry extra tools. A good idea could be for trappers to leave these tools with instructions along with their traps in a water proof box. Trappers could offer a way out
 - ii. Tools available maybe with instructions left at the trailhead, similar to a trail register. Tool available to go get if needed

- iii. Other entities do provide classes and kits of tools with instructions. Game and fish could promote preexisting classes
- iv. The idea is good, but those tools would not get put back after use.
- v. A tool is good but this is mostly for snares, for leg holds you don't need a tool you just need to know how
- vi. offer them for sale at wholesale price

6. 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 recreates, etc.)?

5555

5005

- i. Absolutely yes. For trappers and for anyone who birds, hikes, walks dogs. Should be for everyone
- ii. hunters and fishers are required, so trappers should to. Objects to having to get a stamp as a nonconsumptive users. If nonconsumptive users had more say, would be more supportive. Nonconsumptive users money should go toward their interests
- iii. if you are on the land you should be supporting it.
- iv. Trappers are not required and this is archaic. Modernize and make it more equal to hunters and fishers. Focus on the archaic laws and have another discussion about bring other groups in with conservation stamps.
- v. Harvesting game should have equal requirements. If using the same trails for recreating needs to evolve, thats fine too.
- vi. Yes, trappers should be required x3

Session 1C

VOTES

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 1

Education and Awareness

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Agreements

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Session 1C

Facilitator: Rene Schell

Scribe: Emily Gates

Education and Awareness

Discussion Questions:

7. Trapper Education - Should the Game and Fish require mandatory trapper education? 5 – chat responses 5504
 - i. Yes, this should be required. Hunting education is required for certain ages. Older trappers could refresh
 - ii. trapping should not be exempt from education
 - iii. not mandatory. Trapping for 50 yrs may not need education. Should be voluntary x2
 - iv. Not all rural people have access to online or in person courses. Many families would not have the access to internet or ability to get to towns with classes. Should not be mandatory. Additional regulations would limit trapping
 - v. what would be the downside to more training? Training is required for hunting.

- vi. If this is mandatory there should be an option to test out.
- 2. Recommend use of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies approved North American Trapper Education online course. 5– chat responses 553
 - i. Yes, an online class would be helpful. Make the online course mandatory. Internet access at libraries.
 - ii. Kids in rural areas do not necessarily have access to internet or the library.
 - iii.
- 3. Update/redesign the trapping brochure to provide more information (species ID, education opportunities, messages, etc.) 6– chat responses 5234
 - i. Not necessarily familiar with the brochure
 - ii. Encourage the brochure to not reflect negatively on trapping
 - iii. If we provide education and brochure to trapper, how to educate other groups.

- 8. 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.)? 5– chat responses 5455
 - i. Yes, you should. A problem is that there are people that have no idea that trapping occurs. It would be helpful to know that trapping is occurring while doing other activities.
 - ii. If there is a brochure for trapping there should be education for other users. Hikers leave litter, regulating one activity is punitive. No, this is not a good use of govt funds
 - iii. anyone using public lands should have info on how to be a responsible user
 - iv. It would be helpful to create education about the positive uses of trapping. x2

2. 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. 0– chat responses 5505
 - i. Yes to signs and website. It would be a good way to let people know that trapping exists.
 - ii. Developing a new webpage might not be a good use of budget. Signs will tell people where traps are. Signs and education and setbacks are overkill. Implementing everything would be impact budget
 - iii. Both could be useful and positive if presented in the correct way.
3. 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? 9-5554
 - i. Yes, this has been helpful over the past years
 - ii. No problem with it as long as trapping not reflected in negative light
4. 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– chat responses 0004
 - i. Sell them but don't put at trailheads, would get stolen. Advertise that they can be purchased.
 - ii. Handtools at trailheads would be stolen, offer them for sale during classes

9. 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.)? 5-0– chat responses 5500/5500
- i. Yes to both. Hunters anglers and bird hunter need one so trappers should too. Would be fine with conservation stamp money going to nonconsumptive uses.
 - ii. Yes to all
 - iii. yes as long as all forms of recreation pay the fee
 - iv. It seems like it would be hard to enforce to have everyone need a conservation stamp. Might be hard for the public to know where commission owned lands are.

Trapping meeting: Laramie 2020-09-09, Session 2A

Facilitator: Ken Mills
Scribe: Robin Kepple

FINAL RANKING: 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5 (9 votes: 45/45 possible)

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 2

Trails and Campgrounds

Our purpose is to engage everyone to contribute to this process to make sense of profound challenges and guide potential regulatory/statutory development for trapping in Wyoming

Agreements

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Session 2A

Facilitator:

Scribe:

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? 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5

It makes sense in areas where we know there are going to be a lot of people, dogs and kids recreating. We would like to know what they are

Does G&F have a 30-foot setback? What is that for?

My dog has been caught in a leg-hold trap near a road pullout near a trail. I feel there should be setback near any trail that is on a map the people will use, such as Forest Service or BLM map that shows designated trails for the public. It should be more than 30 feet.

Yes. The biggest setback as possible. I am new to trapping and not understand why someone would want to set traps near high human activity areas. Isn't that where the animals wouldn't be due to human activity? There should be setbacks as large as possible.

Do current guidelines include two-track roads? Yes, it makes sense to have setbacks. A lot of people who use trails and campgrounds, especially out of state people., do not realize there are traps out there.

Yes. I agree there should be setbacks and they should be greater than the current setback,

At least a minimum of 300 feet off the trails. An average dog would smell bait from 300 feet. 30 feet does not work for anyone. 300 feet from all busy trails and maybe all public trails.

In Montana, did they have 300 foot setbacks on all public trails? Ken answered that Montana has a 50 foot setback from trails and 1,000 feet from campgrounds. For wolves it is 150 feet.

- a) 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.

Unofficial trail systems that are popular in a lot of areas. Narrow the definition that much is not adequate. Define it in terms of traffic

Shorelines around bodies of water are often used like trails. Are there any mentions of shorelines in the definitions?

I've never seen an official trail map of the agency. I'm not sure if my trails are official but I see a lot of people on them.

We want all public trails to have a large setback, but the high use trails should have a larger setback. The Forest Service is working on designating trails depending on use. The higher use ones would have a larger setback.

- ii) Campground: defined as any campground on public land designated by an administrative agency.

When backpacking. I will break off and go until I won't see anyone. Those are not official campgrounds, but they are the ones I like.

Designation by administrative agencies. The last example is not a use that can be monitored, there are no counters, it would be very difficult to have a tally of this type of use. Designation by administrative agencies is pretty narrow

An official campground is not a place you want trapping even 300 feet away. Lots of people and pets, it should be off limits. I live near a pullout that has a bathroom, its not a campground but lots of people stop here and use the game trails nearby and have dogs. People have trapped within 50 feet of this spot. I would like this location to fit in here somehow.

- iii) Trailhead: defined as any trailhead on public land designated by an administrative agency.

A lot of unofficial places you can access a trail from, some are commonly used. It might be hard to assess all of them. Backcountry camping example. A designated trailhead is not going to cut it here.

Any kind of regulation based on designated by administrative bodies is very narrow for the amount of use a lot of undesignated areas see.

We worked on Montana setbacks and their rules show a 500-foot setback, expanded setbacks from both edges of the trails and roads listed below for ground set traps. There are variations. Some area had very large setbacks. We chose 300, which is less than Montana's 500 feet setback. Looking in their brochure on page 5, in the 2019 brochure. Trapping districts 1 and 3. We should make that correction from 30 feet. It's a good idea to know that other states have larger setbacks.

- 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.

Do you think parking areas are covered in the “etc?” Ken answered “Yes.” We think it could be construed as that.

Obvious Yes from me.

Yes, there should be setback regulations greater than the 30 feet.

b) Should public trails have a setback requirement of 30’

I think 30 feet is not big enough., When I hike with my kid she throws rocks and walks through the woods all over the place. I do not feel that 30 feet is enough.

I’m confused by the question, but yes they should and they should be greater than 30 feet.

My brother used to trap more, but 30 feet off a public trail is not enough. I see a lot of conflicts on both sides. With dogs and kids it seems dangerous to me.

I know very little about trapping. Fishing access, a person might go up and down the river so I’m not sure how that falls into this situation and how obvious it is that a trap is set in the river

I want to up my idea from 300 to 500 feet.

30 feet is not enough. It should be as far away as possible, especially high use trails, whether they are designated by administrative agencies or not

I would echo as far away as possible.

Can we say trap free? Close the whole area up to a square mile. Go ahead and close it to trapping. Designate a place where they can trap.

30 feet is not enough.

In high use area, there should be no trapping on those trails. In low use, 300 to 500 feet.

c) Should public campgrounds, trailheads and recreation sites have a recommended setback of 300’?

Yes, at the very least 300 feet.

I would say 1,000 feet.

It depends on how many campsites there area. If large, 1,000 feet is good. If smaller, like 5 sites, maye 500 feet would be enough. Worried about kids and dogs. It shold be scaled depending on the size of the campground

300 feet is not enough.

I copy that, 300 feet is not enough

I also echo the statement of minimum of 500 feet for campground areas.

Can some dogs smell bait at 1,000 feet or a mile? Ken said "Yes"

There are areas where people like to hunt birds with their bird dogs and those dogs just run around. Is that considered a recreation site? How does this fit in? I would not want to hunt my bird dog if there are traps set there.

Pet owners and trappers need to know they can be safe. So everybody knows what the rules are. We need good definitions.

Trapping meeting: Laramie 2020-09-09, Session 2B

Facilitator: Ken Mills
Scribe: Robin Kepple

FINAL RANKING: 5, 5, 0, 5, 5, 0, 0, 5 (8 votes: 25/40 possible)

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 2

Trails and Campgrounds

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Agreements

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Session 2B

Facilitator:

Scribe:

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? 5, 5, 0, 5, 5, 0, 0, 5

Yes, I think they should have trapping setbacks off trails. Minimum of 100 yards. I don't understand why they would be set on trails in the first place. Yes, definitions for furbearing and predatory animals.

I think no. There is not a problem between predatoy and furbearers. Coyotes need no protection by G&F. Animals use the path of least resistance. They wil lwalk where it is easier. If they get overpopulated, they destory the other species.

Yes to both.

If the animals and people use the trails, isn't that a recipe for problems.

Animals use the highways too but so do we. Do we shut down all traffic too?

That is extreme. If I'm on a trail with grandchildren, and there is a trap, kids go off the trail, to smell flowers that is a danger.

There are no flowers in the winter.

I think traps near trails are dangerous. People can still trap but I don't need to worry about my dog stepping in it.

I feel setbacks are reasonable and it would help the general population if there were definitions for the furbearers and it would be a good way to communicate if the definitions were provided for the general population.

No to both. If trails are banned to trappers there need to be trails just for trappers that are closed to hikers.

Yes. You're making it more restrictive to trappers and not seeing the trappers point of view.

a) 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.

I think it is good. I think public trails should be defined and that looks like the definition.

I agree that's a good definition. It doesn't include game trails, that's an important difference. Especially for trappers and their need for using trails.

I don't trap on public lands so I hate to comment on this.

- ii) Campground: defined as any campground on public land designated by an administrative agency.

I agree with that definition. It is important to have these definitions, some people have experienced traps in parking lots of trailheads and in

campgrounds. It is important that we have specific definitions so the trappers know where they can and can't trap.

I agree. That is a clear definition. There is a lot of dispersed camping in WY, if they are dispersed camping, that site would not fall under this definition.

- iii) Trailhead: defined as any trailhead on public land designated by an administrative agency.

I agree. I do know people who have seen or know people whose pets have gotten trapped at a trailhead so this is a good definition.

Please no traps at trailheads.

No problem with the definition, only 8 dogs caught in traps in 16 years. How so many dogs on trails and trailheads, also what is the motive behind the definition of needing a definition of trailheads. Trappers are not setting them indiscriminately. Mischaracterization of trappers.

Pets – over the past 5 years that people have started to take notice. Before there was nobody to report it to. Now it is gaining attention. From now on they will keep track of the pets trapped. It happens more than you realize. There are more people and. An article in Jackson Hole News and Guide, more people on the land it will happen more and more

Traps are expensive and it takes a lot of time to put them out. Nobody wants to trap a dog; it takes trap out of commission. If a bobcat is in the trap, someone will steal it., I makes me uneasy when someone says "I think" or "I heard" Nobody wants an animal stolen.

The information comes from people who have had their pets trapped.

I think it's a good definition of trailheads.

I don't think. I understand the concern but I don't understand the concern of the people who are not trappers is to cast trapping in a bad light. Our purpose is to understand and present the public side. Nobody really knows that few

dogs have been trapped. Non-target animals should be reported. It is important that we would get a lot further if we knew this. I don't want to put trappers out of business. How do we balance all this? To avoid problems and not persecute trappers.

- 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.

It sounds like an appropriate definition.

Strike the words "Construction improvements" and clarify that a recreation site is any site designated by an administrative agency. WHMA on Sheep Mtn, kiosk says you're here. Is that a construction improvement?

- b) Should public trails have a setback requirement of 30'

At a minimum, it should be further. In New Mexico they have 30 foot setback and dogs were still getting trapped. I would say a minimum of 100 yards.

No, most trails are season and not used when trapping season. The only people back there would be on snowmobiles. If so many restrictions on trappers, is the inverse on public lands on people recreating with dogs? Is there a restriction on how far dogs can go off trails? What is the requirement of dog owners. Trapping is constitutional right in the Wyoming constitution.

More than 30 feet is better.

In agreement with the comment above the 30-foot comment.

- c) Should public campgrounds, trailheads and recreation sites have a recommended setback of 300'?

Yes, they should.

Having two different setbacks that are so broadly different is confusing. If they each gave a little bit it would be easier for people to understand and for G&F to manage.

Not sure how many people are camping where people are setting traps from November to February, so not sure why this is an issue.

I know people who winter camp. What about people who like to hike in the winter? Snowshoeing? These people would be in the area in the winter.

I winter camp and ski.

Trapping meeting: Laramie 2020-09-09, Session 2C

Facilitator: Ken Mills
Scribe: Robin Kepple

FINAL RANKING: 5, 5, 5, 0, 0, 0, 5, 1, 0 (9 votes: 21/45 possible)

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 2

Trails and Campgrounds

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Agreements

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2. Respect one another
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4. Invite and honor diverse opinions
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Session 2C

Facilitator:

Scribe:

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?

I think it's a good idea. Definition of public trails – there is different levels of use. Some have heavy, some light. What about one trail vs. another?

I agree with the above statement.

I agree as well.

Not in all instances. Some things should be in control of legislature, especially coyotes. It is OK to trap on two-track trails. You have to define trails. 30-foot setback on roads now, but in winter they become a groomed snowmobile trail. Do I still need a 30-foot setback? Not that much benefit to having a 30-foot setback.

I agree with the idea of setback for laypeople like myself. A large range in the size of setbacks between states. I don't know what would be a reasonable setback for folks to live with. Part is prompted by tensions between trappers and pet owners

Heavily used areas vs. areas that are not used as much. Area east of Laramie is heavily used year round, such as area east of Laramie and others across the state

Data gathering, as part of this would be the location of the traps to get an idea for what is a reasonable setback. Where do the conflicts occur?

This ties in to information at trailheads. Having info on site is important for recreationists. Vast increase of recreation on public lands due to Covid. Things are changing

WE DIDN'T GET TO THESE TWO QUESTIONS...EVERYONE WAS WAITING FOR US TO FINISH.

1. *Should public trails have a setback requirement of 30'*

2. *Should public campgrounds, trailheads and recreation sites have a recommended setback of 300'?*

3. Some definitions to consider.

1. 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.

Two-track roads have a number, so they could be considered a public trail. Snowy Range example, they are all numbered roads. In January in 8 feet of snow, only snowmobilers and trappers use these roads. Slippery slope on this one.

Traps are out of the reach of dogs in trees. Martin traps.

If setting coyote snares in 3 feet of snow in the timber, very little if any danger of someone's dog up there too.

Making it mandatory everywhere, all inclusive mandate is out of place.

Question about definition of a two-track road. Some are designated, some are not.

Pilot hill is crisscrossed by old two-track roads, would they be considered to fall under this? Area is used in summer and winter. Would depend on extent to whether there is trapping on this land.

There are few animals here. It won't attract many trappers.

2. Campground: defined as any campground on public land designated by an administrative agency.

Pilot hill area "distributed campgrounds" Both incidents with my dogs have been around these. People camp almost year round here. Would they be considered campgrounds? I've been told they are not officially campgrounds. This concerns me because both of my incidents of traps and dogs have been within 20 of these types of areas.

You need a definition of campgrounds. Developed campgrounds charge a fee.

Does this include parking areas?

- iii. Trailhead: defined as any trailhead on public land designated by an administrative agency.

Would like to see wording about parking areas. My friend's dog got trapped in a winter habitat area near Sybille Canyon. Traps were set around the parking area. Why would someone set traps around a parking area? We need a good setback if we include parking areas with trailheads, it's just common sense.

This would be difficult on a statewide manner. Maybe just specific places.

Yes, place by place cases. I agree with the top comment, no reason to trap around a parking area. But what about parking in September vs. January in the Snowy Range. They are different.

Another agreement with the top comment.

Incorporate some sort of season. More concern about usage.

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.

Include some of the spots we have around the state that are heavily used recreation areas. A trail that gets light use vs. a trail that is constantly used.

Recreations “areas” but this is asking for recreation “sites.” Areas are more general, such as the area between I-80 and Happy Jack Road. This is a heavily used area all times of the year, even when the roads are closed. People snowshoe, ski, take dogs along. This is an “area” not a “site” according to the definition.

I agree with the above comment. In Jackson some areas have intense recreation use.

I’ve trapped that area between I80 and Happy Jack, it is heavily used. You can avoid conflicts. A lot of it drifts in winter. You have to get away from the roads. That whole area should not be eliminated from trapping.

I disagree wholeheartedly. Eliminate this whole area from trapping. People don’t stay on trails. They go cross country. Even heavier use now due to Covid. People are coming to get away from the smoke and the crowds

A lot of personal rights- everyone has the right to enjoy the land. Violating the rights of trappers to eliminate them from here. Do it right and you won’t run into issues. Snowy Range is heavily used year round and no issues here. Don’t discriminate against certain people and their rights.

I agree. The use of the land is for everyone. Discrimination against trappers is a huge issue

Improve the education and setbacks to reduce conflict. This would help everyone use the land responsibly.

I’ve lived in Laramie 30 years, and the Happy Jack area is being used more intensively now more than ever, riders, snow-shoers, runners, It is under a lot of pressure. Hundreds of people present year round, need some segregation between these people and their pets and trappers. Not advocating discriminating against trappers. People are in a concentrated area. Small number of trappers vs. hundreds of people that use this area. Too much pressure at the moment. It would be wise for trappers to work with them.

Because we're a small number we don't get the right to use these areas? They tried to get back away from the areas with the majority of the people. You want to exclude a small group of people because we're a small group.

I cross country ski in the Snowies. I will not go where there are a lot of snowmobilers. It is common sense. Asking people to be reasonable.

Session 3A

VOTES

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 3

Regulations & Reporting

Our purpose is to engage everyone to contribute to this process to make sense of profound challenges and guide potential regulatory/statutory development for trapping in Wyoming

Agreements

1. Suspend judgement as best you can
2. Respect one another
3. Seek to understand rather than persuade
4. Invite and honor diverse opinions
5. Speak what has personal heart and meaning
6. Go for honesty and depth without going on and on

Session 3A

Facilitator: Aaron Kerr

Scribe: Teal Cufaude

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 (4,5,5,0,0,0,5,5/8)?
 - Non-target species should be reported, including dogs, eagles, reporting is the right thing to do!
 - Do not believe accidental trappings should not have to be reported; reporting is unnecessary; reporting could be a tactic to scare people about trapping overall
 - Reporting would be a management tool for GF, but not necessarily something that would need to be shared broadly

- Reporting would allow GF to know if just a few animals are being trapped, would allow GF to have good data instead of relying on assumptions
 - If you hit a deer or dog on the road you are not required to report it; would hate to see trappers singled out
 - Understand that trappers feel targeted; if trappers are doing what they are supposed to do they will not mind the transparency; data will go a long way
 - If you catch a mountain lion and contact the game and fish they release it. What is the difference if the trapper lets it go?
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) (5,5,5,0,5,4,0/7)?
- Check period and equipment should stay the same; if you have the proper breakaways the non-target animal should be able to get away
 - Discussion-those who do not trap may have the impression that animals that are trapped (snared) can die slow/painful deaths because the traps are not checked for some time
 - Snares designed so that animals will expire in approx. 1min
 - Non-targets would be held until the trapper can release
 - Not in favor of increasing frequency of checks; increase in frequency of checks reduces the efficiency of the trapper
 - Snare check periods should be reduced; power snares and spring loaded snares should go away; should definitely check snares before 72 hours
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 (5,5,5,0,5,0, 5/6)?
- Yes, it would be helpful for GF to form furbearer working group; need to keep up with what is happening out there (more recreationists on public lands)
 - Fills out furbearer survey and submits bobcat jaws each year, so GF knows harvest and it is helpful

- Unnecessary use of GF employee time during budget shortfalls, data is already being collected
 - More data is always good and helps make management decisions
 - There is so much country in the state that can't be accessed in the winter albeit public or private that quotas are unnecessary. And many ranches don't allow trapping so those furbearing animals are never trapped or snared. It is very unnecessary
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.)(5,0,0,3,4,4,5/7)?
- Makes sense to consider closures
 - If you would like to close lands to trapping; should consider closing lands for other types of recreational activities; closing lands to just trapping is discriminating; if you close to trapping the inverse needs to happen where lands are closed to other recreational activities
 - It would be complicated to manage because these activities (pheasant season and trapping season) happen at the same time; but comment above makes sense

PARKING LOT

Session 3B

VOTE

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 3

Regulations & Reporting

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Agreements

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6. Go for honesty and depth without going on and on

Session 3B

Facilitator: Aaron Kerr

Scribe: Teal Cufaude

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 (5,0,5,1,5,2,5,2,0,5/10)?
 - You can understand something unless you can measure it; trappers may be inclined to think that the number of dogs trapped each year is small; it would be beneficial to track this information
 - Thinks there are more animals being trapped than what is reported; need to have a handle on how many dogs are being trapped

- Number of people who have had dogs caught in traps could be surprising
 - Data is important; need to know what we are looking at to discuss it intelligently
 - Do not think non-target (dog) numbers are as high as people think they are
 - Last year, 4 dogs trapped documented at Johnny Behind the Rocks, data is important for accurate management
 - We don't the numbers, we are just guessing; some people will walk dogs with cable cutters; this means people have had this experience(having a pet trapped)
 - Don't think trappers need to voluntarily report non-targets there should not be mandatory reporting; this data would be used to ban trapping and scare the public
 - A lot of this started because a dog that was trapped; disagree with above comment; only way to minimize conflict is to acknowledge there is a conflict
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)(5,5,0,0,5,5,0,1,0,5/10)?
- Shorter check times are important; banning power snare is important
 - 3 others agreed with above comment
 - 7-13 days is an extremely long time and it should be shorter
 - There is no reason to change snare check laws
 - 2 other agreed with above comment
 - Dog owner should be close to dog and able to release them
 - Shorter check period might increase conflicts because trappers may choose to trap closer to towns
 - RAM power snare is lethal; might ban it (RAM power snare) in heavily used areas; but should not ban statewide; Spring-loaded snares are not lethal to dogs if person (owner) is right there; if you ban spring-loaded snares you would set snaring back
 - 90 seconds is not enough time to get non-target out of snare

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 (4,3,4,0,2,5,0,3,0/9)?

- Why doesn't GF have a furbearer biologist?
- It would seem useful to have biologist well-informed on this issue able to work with the various interests groups
- GF is gathering harvest data; WY has light trapping pressure so it is not necessary to manage the furbearers intensively; do not need to hire a furbearer bio, seasons are working
- We have gotten this far without a furbearer bio, reporting is already adequate
- Would agree that a furbearer bio and working group would be beneficial
- Yes/probably, you can tell what outcome will be based on the composition of the committee (working group)...what would committee composition look like?
- Are the numbers of trappers and furbearer harvest such that we need to have this group to make decisions?
- What would be done different than the harvest survey?
Trappers know pop trends more than anybody else; best data source is already the trappers

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.)(3,4,2,2,4,1,3,1,2/9)?

- Is there a problem now at these management areas?
- It would be an easy way to reduce conflict by closing these lands to trapping
- Could close lands to other user groups to allow for trapping
- Have a defined season-closed to other users and open to trapping
- One way to control predation of game birds etc is through predator control
- In favor of policy that promote access for all user groups
- Consider limiting trap types during these heavy use periods

Session 3C

VOTE

Public Collaborative Trapping Meeting, Group 3

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Session 3C

Facilitator: Aaron Kerr

Scribe: Teal Cufaude

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 (4,5,5,5,3,5,5/7)?
 - Absolutely, injuries might happen to non-targets that we don't know about
 - Yes to both parts
 - Yes and also report human injury(e.g. children)
 - There should be a method for public (non-trappers) to report non-target catches or problems
 - Trappers wouldn't use an app, wouldn't bother to use an app; a database would be a good idea; wish we were talking about reporting all non-targets including rabbits and other species

- Would this database be something the public could view or would it be used internally by GF?
 - Wyoming Untrapped already has a non-target incident database, this information was provided by GF
 - Reporting should be mandatory, not voluntary
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)(0,5,0,0,5,4,5,5,5,5,5/11)?
- Yes to shorter check period (maximum 24 hour check period for all traps and snares)-this is already recommended on online trap class
 - No, on ranches it can take a week to check snares
 - Yes, check period should be reduced
 - Yes to both parts, 24 hour trap check for all traps and yes to restrictions on power and spring-loaded snares (these snares are quick kill/can't release dog)
 - Snares only kill when they are set exactly right; non-targets could be caught by snare and it could kill them; sooner we can release these non-target animals the better
 - Is it possible to have different check periods for different types of trappers (recreational v. rancher)
 - Could designate private v. public land trapping check periods
 - Yes to shorter check period
 - Yes to both parts; requirement that traps are maintained so non-targets are easy to release; look at developing trap quick releases so tools are not required to release non-targets
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(4,5,5,5,5,5,5,4,5/9)?
- Yes if GF can do this; surprised GF doesn't already have one
 - Yes to furbearer working group if GF can handle another duty

- Yes, but it would not serve the purpose if it was just Dept. employees; would like to see the group include people outside the Dept.
 - Yes
 - Yes and include external collaborators
 - Yes, should be an oversight group; okay with internal GF working group
 - Yes, should look at population trends; doesn't know if GF is currently doing these kind of population surveys on furbearers
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.)(4,5,5,3,5,5,5,5,5/9)?
- Yes
 - Manage properties to meet objectives
 - This is a management decision and GF is the manager
 - Yes
 - Yes
 - Use should be regulated based on all users on that land
 - Yes, as long as closures can evolve with whatever use comes along (flexibility)