

WAC 220-417-010

Trapping Seasons and Regulations

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Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Cascade Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes cascadensis*)

- Smaller, native subspecies of red fox (*V. vulpes*)
- State endangered (WAC 220-610-010)
- Historically occurred in subalpine meadow, upper montane forest, and alpine habitats of the Cascade Range of Washington and southern British Columbia
- Now occurs only in the South Cascades (south of the I-90 corridor), within $\leq 50\%$ of its historical range in WA



Figure 2. The Cascade red fox exhibits three common color phases including the red phase (left; photo by Cascade Carnivore Project), cross phase (center; photo by Anthony Carado) and black phase (right; photo by Anthony Carado).

Red Fox Harvest

Hunting:

- From our 2022 small game hunter harvest surveys, we had an estimated 13 (range: 5-40) fox taken by gun statewide by an estimated total of 25 (range: 12-49) hunters.
- WAC 220-416-010 small game seasons and regulations: Fox hunting is open statewide **EXCEPT** closed within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- This rule provides additional protection to **WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species** to prevent the take of the state endangered **Cascade Red Fox**



Photo: Roy Morris

Red Fox Harvest

Trapping:

- In 2020, 2 fox were reported trapped statewide (Garfield Co and Franklin Co).
- In 2021, only 1 fox was reported trapped statewide (Snohomish Co).
- 10-year average trapper reporting rate is 52%
- Online and follow-up trapper surveys implemented to increase participation; working with enforcement and wildlife programs on ways to increase rate

In summary, very few fox are trapped on an annual basis statewide in WA.

Trapping E-Rule

- A capture of a suspected Cascade Red Fox occurred in the Wenatchee National Forest in early February 2024
- We put an E-rule into effect on February 16, 2024:
 - fox trapping CLOSED within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests to prevent accidental take of state endangered Cascade red fox
- The e-rule remains active for 120 days – expired June 15, 2024
- The program renewed the e-rule on June 16, 2024, to provide guidance while rulemaking continues

Trapping Rule

WAC 220-417-010 Trapping Seasons and Regulations:

- Fox trapping is open statewide **EXCEPT CLOSED** within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- Rule change is scheduled to go into effect on Nov. 1, 2024, the season opening date
- The Commission hearing is scheduled for August 9, 2024, and the Commission decision is scheduled for September 27, 2024.

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	RESTRICTIONS
Badger, Beaver, Bobcat, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, ((Red Fox,)) River Otter, and Weasel	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year	
Marten	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year	CLOSED in Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Gray's Harbor counties.
<u>Red Fox</u>	<u>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31</u> <u>during the current</u> <u>license year</u>	<u>CLOSED within the</u> <u>exterior boundaries</u> <u>of Mount Baker-</u> <u>Snoqualmie,</u> <u>Okanogan,</u> <u>Wenatchee, and</u> <u>Gifford Pinchot</u> <u>National Forest.</u>



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