



FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS AND RULES

Effective from October 1, 2009 to March 31, 2012, both dates inclusive

ANNUAL LICENSE FEES

Resident Trapping License	\$36.00
Non-Resident Trapping License	\$180.00
Resident Youth Trapping License.....	\$15.00
Fur Dealer's License	\$180.00

Trapping and Fur Dealer's licenses are available only at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Olympia headquarters office (in person or by mail). A trapping license is valid from April 1 to March 31 of the next year.

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Miranda Wecker, Chair, Naselle	Gary Douvia Vice Chair, Kettle Falls	Dr. Kenneth Chew Seattle
Dr. Conrad Mahnken Bainbridge Island	Chuck Perry Moses Lake	David Jennings Olympia
Rolland Schmitt Leavenworth	Bradley Smith Bellingham	George Orr Spokane
Commission Phone (360) 902-2267		

STATEWIDE TRAPPING SEASONS

FURBEARER SPECIES	SEASON DATES
Badger, Beaver, Bobcat, Marten, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red Fox, River Otter (bag limit 12) ^a , and Weasel	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year
^a River otter trapping season is closed in all Eastern Washington counties, except in Chelan, Ferry, Klickitat, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima counties, as well as in the Snake and Walla Walla River drainages. The season bag limit is 12 river otter in the portions of Eastern Washington that are open to trapping.	

The trapping season authorizes taking of furbearing animals for their hides and pelts only. Furbearers may not be taken from the wild and held alive for sale or personal use without a special permit pursuant to WAC 232-12-064. Any wildlife trapped for which the season is not open shall be released unharmed. Any wildlife that cannot be released unharmed must be left in the trap, and a WDFW representative must be notified immediately. Lawfully trapped wild animals must be lethally dispatched or immediately released. A firearm may be used to dispatch trapped animals.

People buying a Washington State Trapping License for the first time must pass an exam in safe, humane, and proper trapper techniques. For information on trapper education materials contact the Hunter Education section of the WDFW office in Olympia at (360) 902-8111.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Director

Phil Anderson

Wildlife Program

Dave Brittell, Assistant Director

Olympia Office: (360) 902-2200

Visitors– Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE, 1st Floor
Olympia, WA

Mailing Address– 600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Regional Offices:

Region 1

(509) 892-1001
2315 North Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566

Region 2

(509) 754-4624
1550 Alder St. NW
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

Wenatchee District Office

(509) 662-0452
3860 Chelan Hwy N
Wenatchee, WA 98801-9607

Region 3

(509) 575-2740
1701 S 24th Ave.
Yakima, WA 98902-5720

Region 4

(425) 775-1311
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296

Region 5

(360) 696-6211
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661-4624

Region 6

(360) 249-4628
48 Devonshire Rd.
Montesano, WA 98563

Website

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TRAP FOR WILD ANIMALS:

- With body-gripping traps EXCEPT by permit to abate an animal problem under WAC 232-12-142. This includes, but not limited to, padded foothold traps, unpadded foot-hold traps, all snares, and conibear type traps.
- Unless traps are checked and animals removed within 72 hours (non-body gripping kill traps).
- Unless animals captured in restraining traps (any nonkilling set) are removed within 24 hours of capture.
- With a neck or body snare attached to a spring pole or any spring pole type of device.
- Using game birds, game fish, or game animals for bait, except nonedible parts of game birds, game fish, or game animals may be used as bait.
- Within thirty feet of any exposed meat bait or nonedible game parts which are visible to flying raptors.

IDENTIFICATION OF TRAPS AND DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITIES.—Trappers shall attach to the chain of their traps or devices a legible metal tag with either the WDFW identification number of the trapper or the name and address of the trapper in English letters not less than one-eighth inch in height. When a property owner, lessee, or tenant presents a trapper identification number to the WDFW and requests the identification of the trapper, the WDFW shall provide the requestor with the name and address of the trapper. After disclosing the trappers name, WDFW will also release the requesting individual's name and address to the trapper. It is unlawful to take a wild animal from another person's trap without permission, or to spring, pull up, damage, possess or destroy the trap; however, it is not unlawful for a person to remove a trap placed on property owned, leased, or rented by the person.

It is recommended that all land-based trapping areas be identified by the red diamond sign developed by the Washington State Trappers Association. These signs are available from the Trappers Association. Posted signs must be removed immediately after the close of trapping seasons.

SEALING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER.—It is unlawful to possess or export from the state of Washington bobcat or river otter pelts taken in Washington without a Department identification seal attached. Bobcat and river otter pelts, on or off the carcass, must be sealed within 20 days after the close of the appropriate hunting or trapping seasons in which they were harvested. All bobcat and river otter pelts must be presented by the person harvesting them to an authorized Department employee or Department office for sealing. Pelts must be presented in a way that the hide can be sealed. No frozen hides or carcasses will be accepted. To make sure office personnel are available for pelt sealing, hunters and trappers should contact a Department office prior to bringing in a bobcat or river otter.

TRAPPER'S LICENSE AND PERMISSION TO TRAP ON PRIVATE LAND.—A state trapping license allows the holder to trap furbearing animals throughout the state; however, a trapper may not place traps on private property without

permission of the owner, lessee or tenant where the land is improved and apparently used, or where the land is fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders or to indicate a property boundary line, or where notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner.

TRAPPER REPORT OF CATCH.—All licensed trappers must report their trapping activity (regardless of success or whether they trapped or not) by April 10. Reports must be made using the Department's Trapper's Report of Catch form or online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/trapper_report/. If a trapper chooses to report using the Trapper's Report of Catch form, it is the responsibility of the licensed trapper to ensure the form is received (postmarked by April 10) by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091. Any trapper not reporting by April 10 will be in noncompliance of reporting requirements. False reports will be considered the same as noncompliance. Failure to report trapping activity is an infraction, punishable under RCW 77.15.160. Noncompliant trappers who have paid their penalty under RCW 77.15.160 and WAC 232-12-134 must report their trapping activity prior to being issued a trapping license.

This pamphlet is a summary of the trapping seasons and regulations (Chapters 232-12, 232-16 and 232-28 of the Washington Administrative Code) adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. This pamphlet does not contain nor is it intended to contain all Department regulations. Caution: Emergency regulation changes may occur while seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.

