



# FURBEARER TRAPPING REGULATIONS

Effective from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, both dates inclusive

## TRAPPER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

If you are buying a Washington State Trapping License for the first time you must pass an exam in safe, humane, and proper trapping techniques. For information on trapper education see [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education) or contact the Hunter Education section of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) office in Olympia at (360) 902-8111.

## ANNUAL TRAPPING LICENSE

A trapping license year begins on April 1 and ends on March 31 of the next year. Fees below include transaction and dealer fees.

Resident Trapping License .....	\$41.60
Resident Youth Trapping License.....	\$18.50
Non-Resident Trapping License .....	\$200.00
Fur Dealer's License .....	\$200.00

Trapping and fur dealer's licenses are available online at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov) and at all WDFW license dealers. Trapping and fur dealer's licenses may also be purchased through the Commercial Licensing program at the WDFW Olympia headquarters office (in person or by mail) for an additional application fee.

## STATEWIDE TRAPPING SEASONS

A trapping license authorizes the lethal harvest of furbearing animals for their hides, pelts, or other resources during the trapping season. Furbearers may not be taken from the wild and held alive for sale or personal use without a special permit pursuant to WAC 220-450-030. 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 where firearm use is allowed. For more information on lethal dispatch, see [wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/nuisance-wildlife/trapping](http://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/nuisance-wildlife/trapping) and the Trapper Education manual at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education/trapping](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education/trapping).

FURBEARER 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

## TRAP CHECK REQUIREMENTS

- Animals captured in restraining traps (any non-killing set) must be removed within 24 hours of capture.
- Kill traps must be checked and animals removed within 72 hours.

## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Director

Kelly Susewind

### Wildlife Program

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director

**Olympia Office:** (360) 902-2515

### Visitors:

Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. SE  
Olympia, WA

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 43141  
Olympia, WA 98504-3141

**Email:** [WildThing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WildThing@dfw.wa.gov)

### Regional Offices:

#### Region 1

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

#### Region 2

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

#### 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 98012-1541

#### Region 5

(360) 696-6211  
5525 S 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ridgefield, WA 98642

#### Region 6

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

### Fish and Wildlife Commission

(360) 902-2267

[wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission)

### Website

[wdfw.wa.gov](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 220-417-040. These traps include, but are not limited to, padded foot-hold traps, unpadded foot-hold traps, all snares, and conibear-type traps.
- 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 their WDFW identification number (trapper ID or Wild ID) or the name and address of the trapper in English letters not less than one-eighth inch in height. Failure to identify traps is a misdemeanor punishable under RCW 77.15.190. When a property owner, lessee, or tenant presents a trapper identification number to WDFW and requests the identification of the trapper, WDFW shall provide the requestor with the name and address of the trapper. After disclosing the trapper's 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. See RCW 77.32.545.

## **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.

## **CLOSED AREAS**

Most public lands are open to trapping, but some areas may be closed. Closed areas include, but are not limited to, state and national parks, most federal wildlife refuges, and state game reserves. Trappers should check with land managers prior to trapping. Legal descriptions of state game reserves are found in

the game bird hunting regulations at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations) and Chapter 220-411 of the Washington Administrative Code.

## **TRAPPER REPORT OF CATCH**

All licensed trappers must report their trapping activity (regardless of success or whether they trapped or not) by April 20. Annual reports must be made using the department's WILD licensing system, found online at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov). It is the responsibility of the licensed trapper to ensure their report is complete, with all trapping activity and harvest reported. Any trapper not reporting by April 20 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. Licensed trappers that are also certified Wildlife Control Operators (WCO) must submit their WCO activity separately, and can contact [SpecialTrapping@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SpecialTrapping@dfw.wa.gov) for more information.

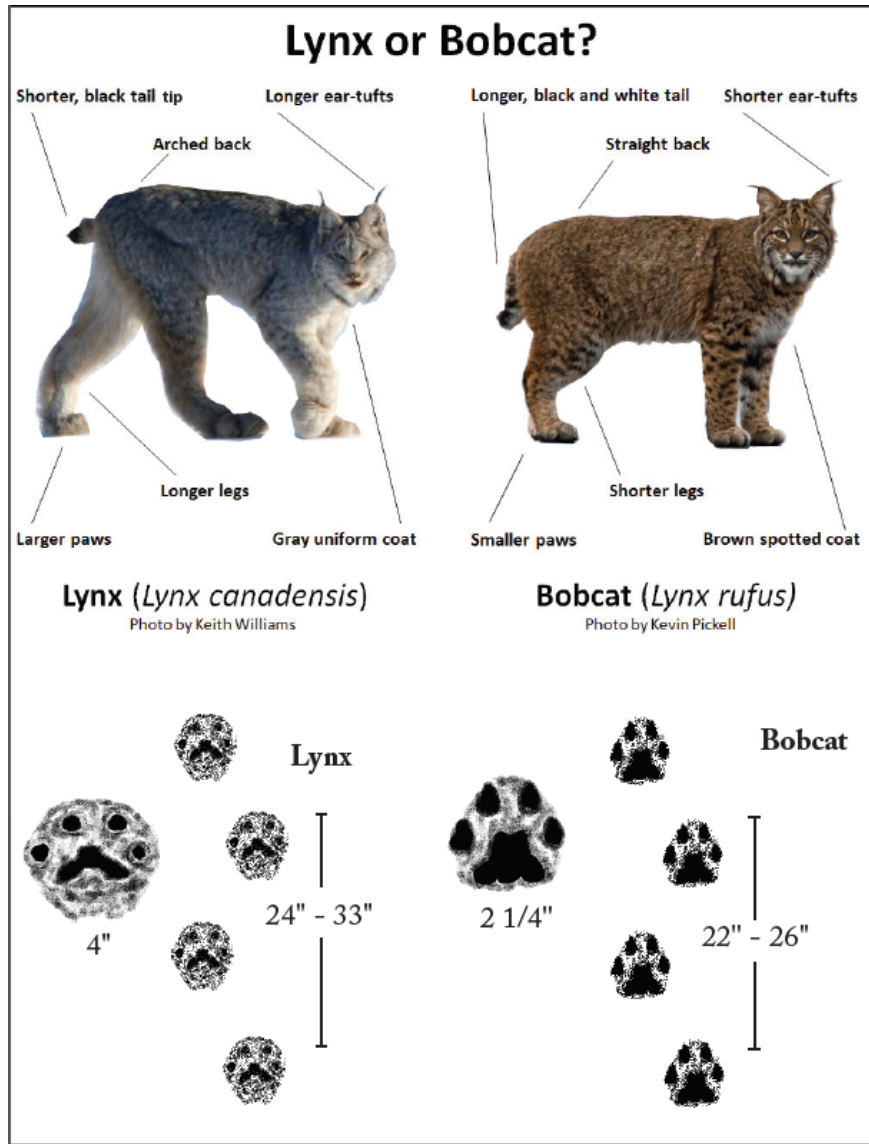
## **SEALING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER**

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. All bobcat and river otter pelts, on or off the carcass, must be presented by the person harvesting them to an authorized department employee or authorized individual under permit with the department for sealing by April 20. Pelts must be presented in a way that the hide can be sealed. No frozen hides or carcasses will be accepted. Pelts must be fully thawed prior to sealing appointment if previously frozen. Contact a regional office to schedule an appointment for pelt sealing ([wdfw.wa.gov/about/regional-offices](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regional-offices)) prior to bringing in a bobcat or river otter.

## **INCIDENTAL TAKE OF CANADA LYNX**

Canada lynx are protected in Washington. Accidentally trapped Canada lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to WDFW ([WildThing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WildThing@dfw.wa.gov) or 360-902-2515) within 24 hours. The report must include the circumstances surrounding the incident, observed physical and ambulatory condition of the lynx, and final disposition of the lynx. Any Canada lynx that cannot be released unharmed must be left in the trap, and a WDFW representative must be notified immediately.

*This pamphlet is a summary of the trapping seasons and regulations (Chapters 220-400, 220-417, 220-440 and 220-450 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.*



## Identification of Fisher and Marten in Washington

**Pelage Colors**

**Fisher** – dark brown with lighter shading on head, back of the neck and back.  
**Marten** – light brown to brown (cinnamon, russet), with creamy brown/ beige face and occasionally chest with darker brown legs, feet and end of tail.

Fishers are protected under both federal and state law and may not be trapped or killed. **Be sure of identification if you are trapping marten or mink.**

**FISHER**



**MARTEN**



**Ear Shape**

**Fishers** – rounded “teddy-bear” shaped ears  
**Marten** – more pointed ears

**Size**

Fishers are bigger, darker and have noticeably longer and fuller tails than marten. Fishers tails average 14-15 inches in length and Marten tails average 6.5-7.5 inches in length.

**Trapping Information**  
 Use cubby boxes, with a closed front and 2.5 inch entrance hole, to avoid catching fishers.

**Elevation**

Fishers and marten overlap in elevation. Therefore, elevation should not be used as an indicator of species presence.