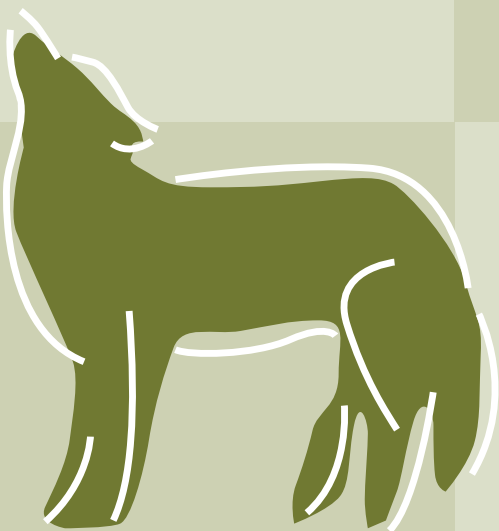


2003

Alberta Guide to

Trapping Regulations

Official Summary of Alberta
Government Trapping Regulations



Alberta
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT

Fish & Wildlife

Minister's Message

Trapping has been an important activity in Canada for hundreds of years and the fur trade was one of our first industries. Today, trapping continues to be part of Canada's heritage and people like you help carry on this tradition.

Working a trapline provides a great deal of independence. At the same time, you can enjoy the splendor of Alberta's backcountry and have a chance to see more wildlife than most people ever do.

Trappers commonly have a great respect for animals, lands and forests, and most trappers harvest fur-bearers in a humane and sustainable way. Indeed, responsible trapping is necessary to help ensure Alberta's fur-bearer resource is used wisely.

The Alberta Trappers' Association assists the Alberta government in administering and delivering programs — including humane trapping and trapper compensation programs. Our government also appreciates the emphasis the ATA places on trapper education.

I believe that trapping will stand the test of time. As long as there are people who love nature and the outdoors, there will be an interest in trapping.

I invite you to refer to the 2003 - 04 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations often. Best wishes for a safe, enjoyable and rewarding trapping season.

Mike Cardinal
Minister
Sustainable Resource Development



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Fish & Wildlife Division
Head Office Mailing Address

Great West Life Building
9920 - 108 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2M4

NOTE: This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta Trapping Regulations. It is a summary of these regulations published to assist trappers to understand the rules of trapping. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 4).

The *Alberta Guide to Trapping* is published annually by the Department of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. It is provided free-of-charge to all Alberta trappers and others interested in the fur industry in Alberta. With the exception of short quotations for review purposes, no portion of this document may be reproduced without written permission from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

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Definitions

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

Fur Management Zone (FMZ) — large tracts of land (as prescribed in legislation) having similar environmental features. There are eight such zones in Alberta.

Killing Device

1. a device designed and set in a manner to trap and kill a fur-bearing animal by the action of the trap;
2. snare set to tighten on the neck of a fur-bearing animal in order to kill it, where the energy to tighten the snare is provided by the animal; or
3. a device that is set so that it will hold and kill a fur-bearing animal under water.

Partner — a resident, a person with written authority from the Senior Licence Holder (see below) to trap on the Senior Licence Holder's Registered Fur Management Area. A partner does not require a licence, but partners who are first-time trappers must meet mandatory requirements, outlined on page 7, before their partnership agreement can be approved. For further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Division (see page 4).

Resident — a person who either

- has his or her only or primary residence in Alberta **and**
 - is a Canadian citizen or admitted to permanent residence in Canada, or
 - has lived in Canada for the 12-month period immediately preceding the relevant date;
- or**
- is on full-time service with the Armed Forces of Canada and would, if an election were held under the *Elections Act* (Canada), be eligible to vote in Alberta under that Act.

Registered Fur Management Area (RFMA) — a parcel of public land the boundary of which is described on the original Registered Fur Management Licence.

Registered Fur Management Licence — a licence to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on the lands described on the licence, as well as on private lands that the licence-holder owns or occupies.

Resident Fur Management Licence — a licence available for trapping on privately-owned and public lands not included in Registered Fur Management Areas.

Senior Licence Holder — the principal holder of a Registered Fur Management Area, and the person who has authority to give written consent to establish partnerships.

WMU — Wildlife Management Unit, a geographical area prescribed in legislation.

NOTICE TO TRAPPERS

The Fish & Wildlife Division frequently conducts roadblocks to assist in the management of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources and to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

Important Changes for 2003 – 2004

- There have been some changes to season dates for beaver, coyote, lynx and wolf.

Partners on Registered Fur Management Areas

For the 2004 – 2005 season, Sustainable Resource Development is looking at licencing partners on Registered Fur Management Areas.

All Fur Management Area Partnership Agreements (WA73s) shall be confirmed annually, ideally at the time of licence renewal (on or before September 30 of each year). Any subsequent agreements that occur throughout the trapping year will be approved through the normal process (see page 5).

Partners, in accordance with approved Partnership Agreements, will be issued wallet-size cards (WA188s) valid for a one (1) year period (July 1 through June 30). Partners, in lieu of a formal licence, are encouraged to carry the WA188 card while trapping or conducting trapping related business to both identify themselves and verify their authority as granted by the approved Partnership Agreement.

In addition to written authority from the Senior Licence Holder, partners who are first-time trappers must also meet the mandatory requirements outlined on page 7 before their Partnership Agreement can be approved. For further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Division (see page 4).

Fur Dealers

Fur dealers shall ensure that an approved partner as described above (including their spouse or a resident child under 18 years of age) produces a valid WA188 card when selling the pelts and parts of any fur-bearing animals. The appropriate information from the card shall be accurately recorded and maintained as part of the dealer's transaction records. Similarly, fur dealers shall ensure that the appropriate information from Registered and Resident Fur Management Licences is recorded when fur is bought from individuals authorized to sell under these authorities.

For those fur dealers authorized to register the pelts of lynx, fisher, wolverine and otter, the Furbearers Registration Certificate (WA324) shall be fully and accurately completed and appropriately submitted in a timely manner.

Fur dealers are now required to report monthly all wildlife taken into possession.

Also, fur dealers are required to retain on the licenced premises a copy of all records for 2 years since the wildlife was last possessed. Contact your local Fish and Wildlife office for further information. (see Page 4)

Senior Licence Holders

The holder of a Registered Fur Management Licence shall ensure that the fur harvests of a spouse, a resident child under 18 years of age, or an approved partner are included in the annual Report of Fur Bearing Animals Taken (WA12).

Accurate harvest information helps in managing the furbearer resource, and ultimately benefits the trapping industry. Your fullest cooperation is both required and appreciated.

Further Inquiries

For further information about these regulations or other matters concerning wildlife or fish management, please contact the sources listed below. Offices are open 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, unless otherwise stated.

Telephone Numbers of Fish and Wildlife Division offices

For toll-free access to most Fish and Wildlife Division offices in Alberta, call 310-0000.

Northwest Region

Fairview	780-835-2737
Fort Vermilion (8:15 – noon)	780-927-4488
Grande Prairie	780-538-5265
High Level (8:15 – noon)	780-926-2238
High Prairie	780-523-6520
Manning (8:15 – noon)	780-836-3065
*Peace River	780-624-6405
Red Earth (8:15 – noon)	780-649-3853
Slave Lake	780-849-7123
Spirit River	780-864-4101
Valleyview	780-524-3605

Northeast Region

Athabasca	780-675-2419
Bonnyville	780-826-3142
Cold Lake	780-639-3377
Edmonton	780-427-3574
Fort McMurray	780-743-7200
*Lac La Biche	780-623-5247
St. Paul	780-645-6313
Smoky Lake (8:15 – noon)	780-656-3556

Southwest Region

Barrhead	780-674-8236
Blairmore	403-562-3289
Canmore	403-678-2373
Claresholm	403-625-1450
Cochrane	403-932-2388
Drayton Valley	780-542-6616
Edson	780-723-8244
Evansburg	780-727-3635
Fox Creek	780-622-3421
Ghost	403-678-5508
Grande Cache	780-827-3356
High River (8:15 – 4:30, Mon & Fri 8:15 – noon, Tues – Thur)	403-652-8330
Hinton	780-865-8264
Nordegg (8:15 – noon)	403-721-3965
Pincher Creek	403-627-1116
*Rocky Mountain House	403-845-8230
Stony Plain	780-963-6131
Sundre	403-638-3805
Swan Hills	780-333-2229
Whitecourt	780-778-7112

Southeast Region

Brooks	403-362-1232
*Calgary	403-297-6423
Camrose	780-679-1225
Cardston	403-653-4331
Coronation (Tue, Wed every other Thur)	403-578-3223
Drumheller	403-823-1670
Foremost (Tue, Wed every other Thur)	403-867-3826
Hanna (Tue, Wed every other Thur)	403-854-5540
Lethbridge	403-381-5266
Lloydminster (9:00 – 3:00 Mon to Wed)	780-871-6495
Medicine Hat	403-529-3680
Olds (1:00 – 4:30)	403-556-4215
Oyen (Tue, Wed every other Thur)	403-664-3614
Ponoka	403-783-7093
Provost (1:00 – 4:30, Tue 8:30-4:30 Wed, Thur)	780-753-2433
Red Deer	403-340-5142
Stettler (8:15 – noon)	403-742-7510
Strathmore	403-934-3422
Vegreville (8:15 – 4:30 Mon, Tue 8:15 – noon Wed)	780-632-5410
Vermilion	780-853-8137
Vulcan	403-485-6971
Wetaskiwin	780-361-1250

*Regional Office

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Information Centre

Edmonton 780-944-0313
 Electronic mail env.infocent@gov.ab.ca
World Wide Web — <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd> Go to *Fish and Wildlife, Living with fish and Wildlife*, then *Trapping in Alberta*.



WMU Descriptions

WMUs shown on the enclosed map are legally described in the *Wildlife Regulation* (AR 143/97), which either may be viewed at your nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 4), on-line under Regulations on the Queen's Printer web site (www.qp.gov.ab.ca) or purchased from **The Queen's Printer** at the following addresses:

10611 - 98 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7 Telephone: (780) 427-4952	602, 620 - 7 Ave SW Calgary, AB T2P 0Y8 Telephone: (403) 297-6251
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Note: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.

Maps

The Fur Management Zone map, is on page 8 of this guide, is provided to help you determine the zone and WMU in which you are trapping. Other maps providing information about access, topography and land ownership can be purchased at several locations throughout the province.

Provincial and Federal Maps

Provincial and federal access and topographical maps are available from various private map dealers throughout the province.

County and Other Municipal Maps

County and municipal offices provide detailed maps showing land ownership status. These maps are available for a nominal fee and are useful for learning land status and ownership.

Licences

It is unlawful to trap or hunt fur-bearing animals, or to help another person trap or hunt fur-bearing animals, without a valid licence or partnership agreement. (Exceptions are listed in this section and under Control of Problem Wildlife, page 14.)

A fur management licence or trapper's identification card must be carried at all times while trapping. Resident trappers must also carry Form WA 19A signed by the landowner providing permission to trap on the lands involved. Trappers using power-neck snares and common neck snares on land owned by someone else must carry written permission from the landowner to use these snares.

Registered Fur Management Licence

There are approximately 1700 Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs) within Alberta. The Senior Licence Holder is authorized to trap on an RFMA for a five year term, provided the licence is renewed each year. At the close of the five year term, the Senior Licence Holder may apply for another five year term.

Applications: Occasionally, RFMAs become vacant. District Fish and Wildlife Division offices (see page 4) list the vacant RFMAs in their areas. Qualified adult residents of Alberta may apply for a vacant RFMA at those offices. Successful applicants will receive Registered Fur Management Licences that will authorize them to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on the lands described on the licence and also on private lands that they may own or occupy.

Renewals: The Senior Licence Holder of a Registered Fur Management Area may apply for a renewal of that licence on or before September 30 of each year. The application for renewal must be accompanied by a report of the number and species of fur-bearing animals taken by all trappers on the fur management area during the previous year.

Partners on RFMAs do not require a licence. The Senior Licence Holder of an RFMA may, at any time, sign on a partner by completing a Fur Management Area Partnership Agreement and having it approved in writing by a Fish and Wildlife Officer. In order to assist in identifying partners, a wallet-size card will be issued at Fish and Wildlife Division offices (see page 4) that can be carried by a partner in lieu of a licence. This agreement will remain in place until the senior holder cancels it. **Senior holders must ensure they include furbearers taken by partners* in their annual report.**

***Note:** The spouse or a resident child (under 18 years of age) of the holder of a Registered Fur Management Area (or those of an approved partner) may hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within the fur management area without a Registered Fur Management Licence. Harvests by these persons must also be included in the annual report completed by the senior holder.

Resident Fur Management Licence

An Alberta resident 14 years of age or older may obtain a Resident Fur Management Licence. Holders of such licences may trap fur-bearing animals on lands

- they own, lease or occupy, and
- for which they have written permission — on Form WA 19A — from the person who owns, leases or occupies the land. (Additional written permission is required for the use of power-neck snares and common neck snares, see page 7.)

While hunting and trapping under the authority of this licence, resident trappers must always carry their licences and relevant Permission to Trap form, and must produce them upon the request of a Fish and Wildlife Officer.

Note:

- A resident child (under 16 years of age) of the holder of a Resident Fur Management Licence must have written permission from the landholder — on Form WA 19A — to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals on land that the parent may trap. The child does not need a licence.
- Holders of Resident Fur Management Licences may not take fisher, otter, lynx, or wolverine, and they may not take marten in FMZ 3.
- Holders of a Resident Fur Management Licence are asked to complete a Resident Fur Harvest Report (WA12A) on or before September 30 to report the number, WMU and species of fur-bearing animals taken during the previous year.
- In the case of weasel (ermine), it will be necessary to distinguish between those with tails less than 100 millimetres (4 inches) and those with tail lengths greater than 100 millimetres (4 inches). This will provide much needed status information for long-tailed weasel.

Indian Fur Management Licence

This licence authorizes Indians to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within the boundaries of the Indian Reserve in which they live. These licences may be obtained from Band Administration Offices.

Métis Fur Management Licence

This licence authorizes Métis Settlement members to hunt and trap fur-bearing animals within the boundaries of the Métis Settlement in which they live. These licences may be obtained from Métis Settlement Supervisors.

Youths Accompanying Trapper

Non-family members 12 years of age or older are permitted to accompany and trap with an adult who holds a valid licence (until the youths are eligible to obtain a licence). Written permission from the youth's parents or guardian is required.

Sale of Pelts by Youths

Any youth that may lawfully trap may also sell the pelts and parts of fur-bearing animals taken (see page 7).

Licence Fees

All licences are subject to the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST), which has not been added to the fees listed in the table below. Please note requirements for first-time trappers on page 7.

Five dollars from each Registered Fur Management Licence funds compensation for trappers who have lost cabins to naturally caused forest fires.

LICENCE	FEE	LICENCE	FEE
Resident Fur Management Licence	\$20.00	Indian Fur Management	Free
Registered Fur Management Licence	\$40.00	Metis Fur Management	Free
3 Townships (189 to 280 sq. km or 73 to 108 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$10.00	Damage Control	Free
4 Townships (281 to 373 sq. km or 109 to 144 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$20.00	Class 1 Fur Dealer Permit	\$100.00
5 Townships (374 to 466 sq. km or 145 to 180 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$30.00	Class 2 Fur Dealer Permit	\$500.00
6 Townships (more than 466 sq. km or 180 sq. mi) add'l fee*	\$40.00		

*Maximum fee for Registered Fur *Management Licence and Area is \$80.00 plus GST.

Quotas

Different species of furbearers vary in abundance, distribution and opportunity to harvest. Registered Fur Management Areas — RFMAs also vary in size. To allow trappers a greater opportunity to manage furbearers, varied quotas exist.

Quotas for fisher, lynx and otter within each RFMA have been linked to the size of the trapping area. A basic quota for these species will apply for all RFMAs up to two townships in size. Additional increments will be added for additional townships (or parts of a township). These increments vary according to WMU. (Please note: the higher quota applies when an RFMA falls into WMUs having different quotas.) The following table lists the quotas and increments applicable to RFMAs lying in the designated FMZs or WMUs (see map).

Registered Fur Management Area Quotas

Zones	Fisher		Lynx		Otter		Wolverine Basic Quota Only
	Basic Quota	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Quota	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Quota	Increase for excess Twp*	
Zone 1							
WMU 511, 512, 516, 517, 518, 519, 529	8	4	10	5	10	3	1
WMU 530, 531	8	4	10	5	8	2	1
WMU 532	8	4	10	5	8	2	1
Zone 2							
WMU 357, 358, 359, 522, 523, 526, 527	8	4	6	3	2	1	1
WMU 524, 525, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539	8	4	12	6	2	1	1
WMU 520, 528, 540, 542, 544	8	4	10	5	6	3	1
Zone 3	5	2	6	3	10	3	1
Zone 4							
WMU 320 to 342, 429	1	1	4	2	0	0	1
WMU 336 to 342, 348, 507, 508	1	1	4	2	1	0	1
WMU 344, 346, 347, 352	1	1	4	2	2	1	1
WMU 349, 353, 354, 355, 356, 360, 521	4	2	4	2	2	1	1
WMU 350 and 351	5	2	4	2	2	2	1
Zone 5	1	1	4	2	0	0	1
Zone 6	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
Zones 7 & 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Increase for each Township (Twp), or part of it, in excess of two Townships.

Regulatory Requirements for the Use of Trapping Devices

- Foothold traps may not be used to harvest furbearers other than bobcat, coyote, fox, lynx or wolf. Other fur-bearing species must be taken in a killing device or in a live-trap set to capture the animal by holding it in a container (see pages 10 and 11).
- Foothold traps that are not defined as killing devices may not be used in trees or on poles.
- Foothold traps with toothed jaws or a jaw-spread of 23 cm (9 in.) or more may not be used to trap fur-bearing animals.
- Snares* for taking fur-bearing animals may only be set by holders of Registered Fur Management Licences or
 - by holders of Resident Fur Management Licences for bobcat, coyote, fox, squirrel or wolf (provided they meet the requirements listed in this section) and for beaver (provided the snare loop is completely under water).
 - by residents for rabbit or hare on lands to which they have right-of-access (provided the snare wire is not larger than 20-gauge and the snare loop is not more than 13 cm (5 in.) in diameter).

* Snare devices include neck snares, power neck snares and foot snares.

- Slide-wire sets must be equipped with a lock. The slide-wires and weight must be properly anchored, and set in water that is deep enough to ensure that the largest animal that may be captured will be totally submerged.
- Neck snares must be equipped with a locking device that is designed and set to prevent the snare loop from loosening again after it has tightened on the neck of the fur-bearing animal, except when:
 - set to hold, with the intent to kill, beaver under water; or
 - made of a single strand of wire and are set to capture squirrel, rabbit or hare.
- Neck snares requiring a locking device (as previously described) when set by the holder of a Resident Fur Management Licence must bear the name or current licence number of the licence holder. There is no longer a requirement to provide a Fish and Wildlife Division office with a copy of the landholder's written permission to use neck snares.
- Holders of Resident Fur Management Licences must check traps that are not defined as killing devices (see definition on page 3) at least once in every 24 hours. Other trappers must check such traps once in every 48 hours.

It should be noted that raccoon and skunk are classed as non-licence animals and may be hunted or trapped (see page 14 for these provisions). Traps meeting requirements of the *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards* for raccoon are outlined on page 11.

Sale of Pelts and Parts

No pelt of any fur-bearing animal, except one taken according to the regulations listed under Control of Problem Wildlife (page 14), may be wasted, destroyed or spoiled. No raw skins of fur-bearing animals may be sold to anyone who is not a fur dealer. Anyone in legal possession of a beaver may sell the skinned carcass of the beaver to use as bait or animal food. Except as

noted under Exporting (page 10), it is unlawful to export from Alberta all, or any part of, the skin or pelt of a fur-bearing animal, without first obtaining an Export Permit.

The claws, skulls, teeth of lawfully taken fur-bearing animals may now be sold without restriction (note that black bears are not included as they are big game animals). These parts of fur-bearing animals may also be exported without a provincial export permit (note that Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna — CITES permits are still required for exporting any part of a wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary).

Additional Regulations

No one may remove, damage, spring or in any way interfere with traps set by another person for the taking of fur-bearing animals. (Exception: Holders of Registered Fur Management Licences may remove traps or snares found within the limits of their trapping areas. They should advise the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office of the occurrence and removal of these traps.)

It is unlawful to:

- use a poison or drug for taking a fur-bearing animal, except as authorized by the Agricultural Pest Act;
- use sharp hooks or similar devices to capture furbearers; or
- trap in a wildlife sanctuary. Please refer to the map for locations of these sanctuaries. Some exceptions exist for Registered Fur Management Areas — RFMAs. (For further information, contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office [see page 4].); or
- harvest fur-bearing animals within 100 metres of Highway 1A in WMU 410, except with the use of traps.

In WMUs 102 - 166, 200 - 260, 300 - 360, 400 - 446, 507, 508, 514, 521 - 527, 535, 537 and 841, it is unlawful to carry a weapon on an off-highway vehicle between one hour before sunrise and the following noon during an open season for big game (see 2003 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations). However, this prohibition does not apply to persons hunting on privately owned lands, and it does not apply to those trapping under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence or a Resident Fur Management Licence. Persons who are within 50 yards of an OHV (but not on it) and who are dispatching a fur-bearing animal caught in a trap are also exempt from the restriction that prohibits discharging a firearm within 50 yards of an OHV.

Mandatory Requirements for First-time Trappers

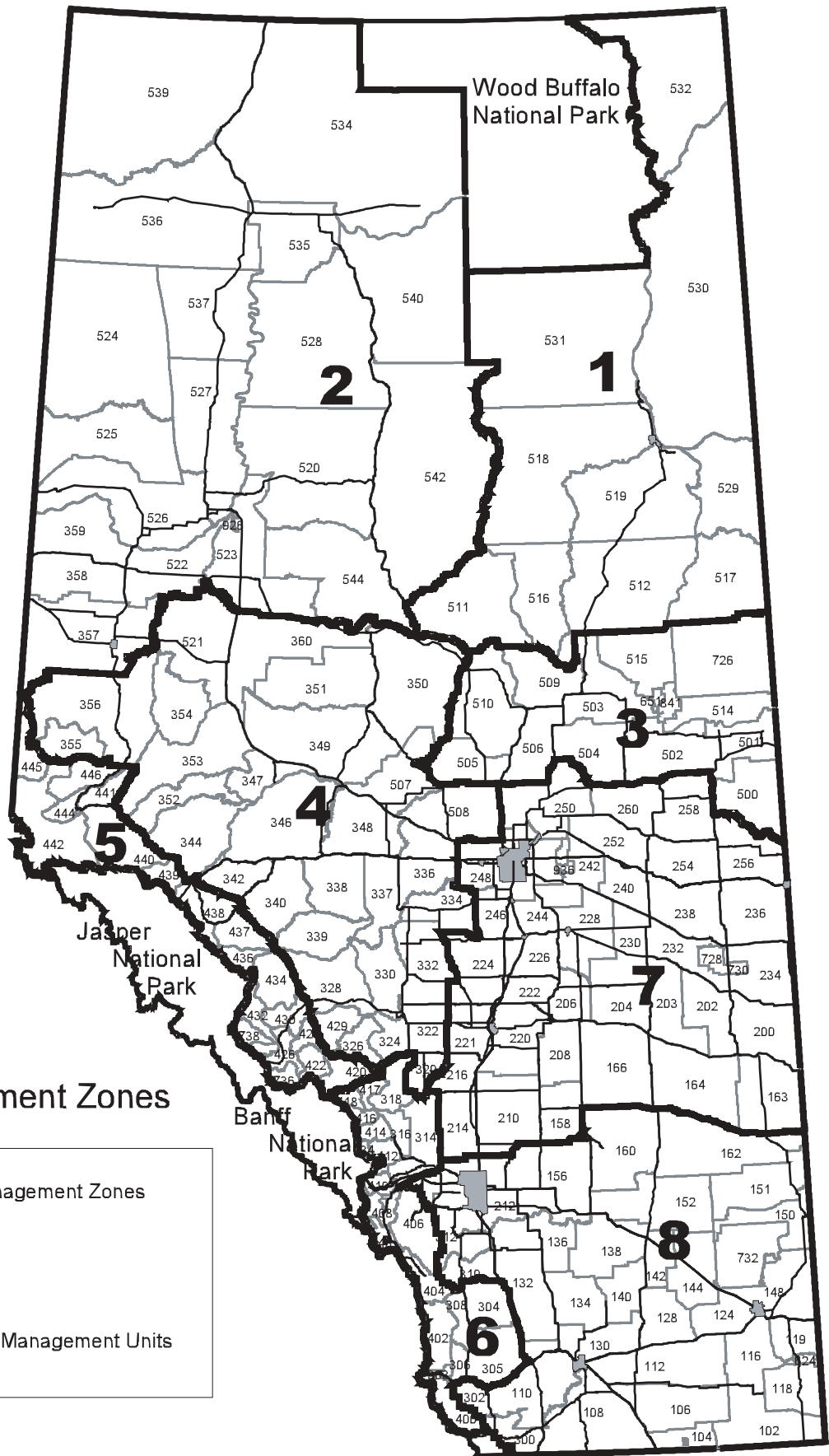
A "first-time trapper" is a person who has:

- 1) never before held a licence — in Alberta or elsewhere — that authorized the trapping of fur-bearing animals, and
- 2) not completed a fur management course.

Before obtaining any fur management licence, first-time trappers must either:

- pass a test which deals with humane trapping and fur management, or
- complete a Trapper Education course (page 15).

Appointments to write tests may be made at Fish and Wildlife Division district offices. Testing times vary with each office.



Fur Management Zones



Fur Seasons

The following table lists the seasons in each Fur Management Zone (see enclosed map).

SPECIES	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
Badger	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - M31
Beaver	O1 - Ma15	O1-Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma31	O15 - Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
Bobcat	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - J31	CLOSED	N1 - F28
Coyote	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Fisher	N1 - J31 ^{2&4}	N1 - J31 ^{2&4}	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31 ²	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Red/Arctic Fox	O1 - J31 ⁴	O1 - J31 ⁴	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Lynx	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	D1 - F15 ²	CLOSED	CLOSED
Marten	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ²	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	CLOSED	CLOSED
Mink	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31 ⁴	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31
Muskrat	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O15-Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
Otter	D1 - Ap15 ¹	D1 - Ap15 ¹	D1 - Ap15 ¹	D1 - Ap15 ^{1&6}	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Red Squirrel	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28
Weasel	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28 ⁵	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N15 - F14 ⁵	N15 - F14 ⁵
Wolf	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	N1 - M31	N1 - M31	N1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
Wolverine	N1 - J31 ^{1&4}	N1 - J31 ^{1&4}	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	N1 - J31 ¹	CLOSED	CLOSED

¹ This season is provided only for those who are authorized under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence.

² This season is provided only for those who are authorized under the authority of a Registered Fur Management Licence, Indian Fur Management Licence or Métis Fur Management Licence issued under the *Métis Settlements Act*.

³ This season does not apply to WMUs 314, 316, 318, 410, 412, 414, 416, 417 and 418. The season in these WMUs is from October 1 - March 31.

⁴ Season extended to February 15, 2004, in WMUs 524, 532, 534, 536, and 539.

⁵ Weasel may not be harvested in that part of the province described as ranges 1 - 5, west of the 4th meridian, from the international boundary to the north boundary of township 63. This does not apply to Indian Reserves and Métis Settlements set aside under the *Métis Settlements Act*, which fall within the area described.

⁶ This season applies only to WMUs 336 to 360, 507, 508 and 521.

O - October	N - November	D - December	J - January
F - February	M - March	Ap - April	Ma - May

Black Bear Seasons and Baiting

Six black bear may be hunted but not trapped in each Fur Management Area north of the Red Deer River during the open season for black bear. Registered trappers who are permitted to hunt black bear on their Fur Management Area may use bait for that purpose in the following WMUs: 320 - 324, 330 - 338, 348, 358 - 360, 500 - 507, 509, 510, 512 - 520, 522, 523, 526, 529 - 536, 539 - 542 and portions of 357, 521, 528 and 544. Baiting is prohibited within 1.6 km (1 mi) of occupied dwellings (owners or occupants of dwellings are exempted from this restriction if they have permission to bait from the owner or occupant of all other dwellings within 1.6 km of the bait), provincial parks, provincial and forest recreation areas and some industrial sites. Each bait site must have a readily observable sign legibly showing the owner's name or Registered Fur Management Area number. Furthermore, each bait must be posted with surrounding signs to warn other people of its presence. Also, baiting is restricted to the open season and preceding 2 weeks in each specific WMU.

See page 33 of the 2003 **Alberta Guide to Hunting**

Mandatory Registration

All captured fisher, lynx, otter and wolverine must be registered and tagged before pelts from these furbearers can be sold, processed or exported. All wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 - 316 or 400 - 426 under any authority must be registered. Registration must occur within 30 days after the close of the season in which the animal was killed.

Registration is a way of recording information about the harvest of furbearers. This information helps fur managers set seasons and quotas for following years. Registration provides information such as:

- the size and number of males, females and juvenile animals captured;
- the time of the season they were caught; and
- where they were caught.

Trappers benefit from the mandatory registration requirement because it allows for appropriate changes in quotas and seasons. Accurate data prevents the over-harvest of sensitive species of

furbearers, ensuring a viable resource for the future (see page 12 for 2002 – 2003 registration information).

Additionally, all wolves killed by human causes in southwestern Alberta (WMUs 300-316 and 400-414) must be registered with a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 4) within 30 days of kill.

Sale of Wildlife

Anyone may sell the following:

- processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved, but not dried, salted or frozen) skins of fur-bearing animals;
- black bear skins, provided they have been taken lawfully (black bear claws may only be sold if they remain attached to the whole skin);
- the skins of most animals, including skunk and raccoon, for which a licence is not required;
- skinned beaver carcasses including the tail; or
- the claws, skulls and teeth of lawfully taken fur-bearing animals.

Exporting

With some exceptions noted below, those wishing to export fur-bearing animals from Alberta must have a provincial export permit. These permits may be obtained from any Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 4).

Persons exporting wolf, lynx, bobcat, otter or black bear products out of Canada must also obtain a federal export permit issued according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Information about CITES permits may be obtained at Environment Canada offices in Edmonton (780-951-8891) or Calgary (403-292-4103).

The following products* may be exported **without** a provincial export permit:

- beaver castor,
 - beaver oil glands,
- claws, skulls and teeth of fur-bearing animals, and
- processed (tanned or otherwise permanently preserved, but not dried, salted or frozen) skins of fur-bearing animals.
 - coyote skins lawfully possessed.

*The above products must have been harvested under a lawful authority in Alberta or elsewhere.

(**Note:** Black bear are classified as big game, not as fur-bearing animals. All black bears taken from an RFMA require provincial export permits. For more information on export conditions for black bear, please contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office [see page 4]. CITES permits are still required for exporting any part of a black bear, wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary.)

For fur exports to Europe, see also European Union Wild Fur Import Certificate on page 11.

Accidental Trapping

Trappers who accidentally take a fur-bearing animal during a closed season, after a quota has been filled or a species they are not licensed to trap, are required to skin the animal, prepare the pelt properly, and deliver it to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office as soon as possible (see page 4). The trapper will be required to complete a statutory declaration and the pelt will be registered and tagged. Circumstances will

determine whether the pelt may be returned to the trapper for sale purposes.

The Fish and Wildlife Division is particularly interested in preventing and documenting the accidental capture of **swift fox** in southern Alberta. A small population of this endangered species has been reintroduced into Fur Management Zone 8, and trappers are encouraged to take all reasonable care to prevent accidental capture, and to report any contact with this species. Injured swift fox should be immediately delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office, or a qualified veterinarian for care.

Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not fur-bearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Office. In addition, permission must first be obtained from an officer to use such an animal as bait.

Fur Handlers

A person may skin and prepare another person's furs for market, provided the handler maintains on premises records for inspection purposes. These records no longer have to be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Division, nor do they have to be kept on specified forms. However, specific information is required. Please contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 4) if you have questions.

Humane Trapping

Fur-bearing animals must be trapped using methods that are proven to avoid unnecessary pain and suffering. The manner in which animals are trapped is a concern of many Albertans, including trappers. Those who follow the Code for Responsible Trapping (page 15) will help to ensure that the harvest of this resource is done in a way that is socially acceptable.

Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

The *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards* (AIHTS) came into force in Canada on June 1, 1999. It is a binding agreement between the European Union (EU), Canada and Russia. The United States and the EU have signed a similar commitment, which unifies the North American wild fur market.

Canada signed the AIHTS only after careful consultation with trappers, provincial and territorial governments and fur industry representatives. Alberta has agreed to implement the AIHTS standards. Implementation is an ongoing process, and trappers will be kept informed of any new developments.

The AIHTS:

- Allows for continuing export of wild fur products into the EU.
- Commits all parties to applying the AIHTS standards to all trapping, including commercial use.
- Supports further research and testing for the ongoing improvement of trapping devices.
- Provides for other elements such as product certification, trap certification and trapper education.
- Will allow for the use of jaw-type leg/foot-hold restraining traps in submersion sets for semi-aquatic furbearers such as beaver, muskrat and otter, provided these sets meet the standard by 2007.
- Allows for the use of approved snares.
- Allows for the use of traditional wooden dead-fall traps.

- Will allow for the use of cage or box traps on land for the listed fur-bearing species provided these devices meet the restraining trap standard by 2007.
- Prohibits the use of all jaw-type leg/foothold restraining traps (including padded traps) on land for badger, beaver, ermine, fisher, marten, muskrat and otter. Alberta adopted similar legislation for these species, and others before the AIHTS became effective.
- Prohibits, effective 2001, the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps on land for bobcat, coyote, lynx, raccoon and wolf.

It should be noted that the adequacy of trapping devices must be properly tested. The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) has taken the lead role in this regard. Killing and restraining traps that have undergone testing and have met the AIHTS requirements are outlined below and are also listed on the FIC web site: www.fur.ca/research/index-e.asp.

Traps Meeting Requirements of the AIHTS

Killing Traps

SPECIES	TRAP NAME	
Beaver (on land and underwater)	Bélisle Super X 330 BMI 330 Bridger 330 Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half-Magnum Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half-Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	LDL C 330 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-11
Beaver (underwater) LDL 280	BMI 280 Bélisle Super X 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor	Rudy 280 Sauvageau 2001-8 Conibear 280
River Otter (underwater)	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	
Weasel	Victor Rat Trap	
Fisher	Sauvageau 2001-8 Bélisle Super X 220 Koro #2	LDL C160 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5
Marten	Bélisle Super X 120 BMI 126 Magnum LDL B120 Magnum	Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau C 120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5
Muskrat (on land)	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120	
Muskrat (underwater)	Jaw-type leghold trap with submersion system Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110	
Lynx	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	
Raccoon	Bélisle Super X 160 Bélisle Super X 220 BMI 160 BMI 220 Bridger 220 LDL C 160 LDL C 220	Rudy 220 Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001- 8 Species-Specific 220 Half-Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220

Notes: These traps meet the time-to-loss-of-consciousness and sensibility thresholds as set out in the AIHTS.

Killing traps similar to those listed above could meet these standards, provided that their mechanical values are shown, through testing, to be adequate.

Restraining Traps

SPECIES	TRAP NAME
Lynx	Bélisle Foot Snare Victor #3 Soft Catch (unmodified) Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch jaw laminations and 4 coil springs and a swivel centre mounted base plate
Bobcat	Bélisle Foot Snare
Coyote	Bélisle Foot Snare Bridger #3 equipped with 5/16-inch offset, double rounded jaw laminations using (3/16-inch on topside of jaws and 1/4-inch on underside of jaw) with 4 coil springs and a swivel centre mounted on base plate

Notes: These traps meet the injury and behavioral thresholds as set out in the AIHTS.

The above lists apply to traps meeting specific performance requirements as set out in the AIHTS. They are subject to certification, by 2007, by the provincial and territorial governments and those aboriginal agencies sanctioned to regulate trapping methods.

European Union Wild Fur Import Certificate — Persons who export fur and fur products of wild-caught badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, lynx, marten, muskrat, otter, raccoon, weasel (ermine) and wolf **directly** to the European Union must ensure that an authorized “certificate of origin” accompanies the consignment. This requirement is additional to any other documents that may be needed for this purpose. For information on the certificate, contact your local Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 4). **Note:** Canadian fur auction houses are responsible for certifying the origin of eligible products received from trappers that will subsequently be exported to the European Union.

Natural Areas and Ecological Reserves

In Alberta, special parcels of public land, such as natural areas and ecological reserves, have been set aside for conservation purposes. Trapping is prohibited within ecological reserves. For information about ecological reserves and natural areas, contact Parks & Protected Areas Division in Edmonton at 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582).

Furbearer Management Registration Information

Mandatory registration of fisher, lynx and wolverine has been in effect since 1989; river otter was added in 1996. The information gained allows annual harvest comparisons to be made immediately after the trapping season so required changes in harvest quotas can be made for the next season. The following table provides a comparison of the number of furbearers registered during past seasons. More specific information can be obtained from regional Fish and Wildlife Division offices. (see page 4)

Species	Fur Registration			
	1999 – 2000	2000 – 2001	2001– 2002	2002 – 2003
Lynx	915	1425	1188	1874
Fisher	917	1395	1255	2035
Wolverine	21	15	24	37
Otter	218	276	191	328
Total	2071	3111	2658	4274

Fisher and Wolverine Carcass Collection Program

Mandatory registration of certain pelts of fur-bearers provides valuable information to wildlife managers.

However, there is a need for additional biological information on fisher and wolverine to determine the age structure, reproductive capability and general health of these populations.

Fish and Wildlife Division district offices (see page 4) will issue a direct payment of \$5.00 to trappers for each fisher and wolverine carcass submitted. Carcasses should be individually labelled with the date of harvest, the trapper's name, and the RFMA number. **In order to provide the greatest benefit, carcasses must be submitted by March 10 of each year.** Your participation in these programs is encouraged and appreciated. The information trappers provide allows quotas to be more accurately set, thus ensuring sustainability of the resource.



Alberta 2002 — 2003 Fur Production Based on Export Permits (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)

Species	Number of Pelts	Mean Price per Pelt	Total \$ Value
Badger	270	34.54	9,325.80
Beaver	11,124	19.67	218,809.08
Black bear	81	73.84	5,981.04
Bobcat	6	394.08	2,364.48
Coyote	25,554	57.63	1,472,677.02
Fisher	1,338	35.67	47,726.46
Fox	44	39.29	1,728.76
• Silver	83	69.63	5,779.29
• Cross	2,571	39.29	101,014.59
• Red			
Lynx	1,347	166.27	223,965.69
Marten	4,210	48.22	203,006.20
Mink	414	16.88	6,988.32
Muskrat	2,148	1.93	4,145.64
Otter	308	196.79	60,611.32
Raccoon	73	13.24	966.52
Skunk	26	6.99	181.74
Squirrel	53,731	—	—
Weasel (Ermine)	3,222	4.76	15,336.72
Wolf	287	116.69	33,490.03
Wolverine	35	263.20	9,212.00
TOTAL			2,413,984.90

— Price not available
Number of Registered Trappers 1583
Number of Resident Trappers 799

Number of Métis and Indian Licensees (Settlements and Reserves only) 105
Total Licensed Trappers 2487

The collection program for the 2002/03 season provided information on 516 carcasses. This included 272 juveniles, 119 adult females and 125 adult males. The ratio of juveniles to adult females in a trapped sample is 2:28:1. This ratio is down from the previous year when it was 2 juveniles, per adult female. A ratio of 3 juveniles per adult female is considered to be a sign of a healthy and stable or increasing population of fisher. As the ratio of juveniles to adult females declines, it indicates a lower rate of kit production and is a signal for trappers to reduce their harvest in order to protect the important breeding stock for future years. The reduction in the juvenile to adult female ratio has resulted in some decreases in quotas for fisher. The continued opportunity to harvest fisher is based on sound management of the available population. It is important that trappers take part in the collection process, the more information available, the better the decisions that can be made in respect to harvest regimes.

Primeness of Pelts

Furs that are at their peak in quality (their prime) offer trappers the greatest financial return. Successful trappers concentrate their efforts so that they collect most of their furs when pelts are in their prime.

The pelt of a fur-bearing animal is in its prime when the underfur is dense, deep and well covered by the longer guard hair. The leather side should be clear and white or slightly blue, and pliable. Each species reaches its prime during a short period of the season. The grey shading in the following table shows the approximate time of the year when each species is in its prime.

Species	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Badger						
Beaver						
Bobcat						
Coyote						
Fisher						
Fox (Red/Arctic)						
Lynx						
Marten						
Mink						
Muskrat						
Otter						
Squirrel						
Weasel						
Wolf						
Wolverine						

Diseases

Diseases and parasites are normal parts of the life of a furbearer. Usually, they are not a problem either for the furbearer or for the person trapping an infected animal. Indeed, most parasites and diseases go completely unnoticed by trappers. However, there are situations where an animal may be infected with a disease that can be transferred to people. Such diseases are most often caused by bacteria and can be recognized readily by the presence of small white spots in the liver and spleen of an infected furbearer. Such animals should be handled carefully (preferably with gloves on). Any person who handles wildlife and then has persistent "flu-like" symptoms or redness, swelling, heat or pain in hands or arms should contact a medical doctor. Remember to tell the doctor the person has handled wildlife.

Carcasses from all furbearers suspected of being diseased should be submitted for examination to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 4).

Alberta Trapper's Compensation Program

The Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program provides a framework to compensate operators (trappers) of Registered Fur Management Areas for trapping business losses related to industrial activity on Crown lands, and cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires.

A seven-member Board manages the program with members appointed from:

- Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA)
- Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)
- Alberta Treaty Indian Trapping Community
- Alberta Metis Trapping Community
- ATCO Electric
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)
- Independent Chairman selected by the stakeholders

In 1997, stakeholders in the program agreed that the Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) would administer the program that was established by the Alberta government in 1981. Industry and government jointly share funding. The role of the Board is to:

- review program specifications and make recommendations to program participants for adjustments to compensation rates, payment schedules etc.,
- review, adjust and settle trapper claims,
- mediate and resolve claim related disputes,
- document undisputed claim settlements, and
- review fund status, financial statements, submit annual reports and make recommendations for disbursement of funds to settle claims

The program recognizes claims in five (5) categories:

- Damage to trapper assets;
- Theft, vandalism, and arson;
- Temporary disruptions to normal trapping operations;
- Long-term loss of income caused by industrial disturbances; and
- Cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires (funded by trappers).

For claims related to the damaged asset and temporary disruption categories, the trapper must first negotiate directly with the company responsible. Should this action fail, the claim must be submitted through a district Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 4) to the Alberta Trappers' Compensation Board to receive consideration. All theft and vandalism must be promptly reported to the RCMP. A corresponding file number must then be provided to a Fish and Wildlife Officer who, in turn, forwards the claim to the Board. Requests for compensation must be made on the approved ATA Claim Form (ATA #02-01), available at district Fish and Wildlife Division offices, and include any attachments relevant to the claim. This may include:

- Photographs — especially for theft, vandalism, and arson, or of trail disruptions etc.;
- Description of equipment stolen and estimated value of items;
- Dates of disturbance and/or when discovered;
- Names of companies involved or others that can verify loss.

Trappers must co-operate with industry to ensure the success of the program. If you have any questions about this program or need additional information, please contact the Fish and Wildlife Division (see page 4) or the Alberta Trappers' Association, #2, 9919 - 106 Street, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2K1 (telephone 780-349-6626 or fax 780-349-6634).



Control of Problem Wildlife

Regulations allow landholders (residents only) to take immediate action to control some problem wildlife. The following privileges are beyond those permitted under fur management licences during the seasons set out on page 9. Please contact your Fish & Wildlife Division district office when furbearers other than the species shown in this section are destroying property. A damage control licence may be necessary.

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter on such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

Beaver may be hunted and trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with written permission from the owner or occupant of the land.

Wolf¹ may be hunted (but not trapped) without a licence during all seasons, as follows:

- on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with permission from the owner or occupant.
- on public land by a person authorized to keep livestock on that land, or by a resident who has written permission from that authorized person.

The above authorities to hunt wolves extend to lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the land described above, provided the authorized person or resident has right-of-access.

Coyotes^{1 & 2} may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence, at all times of the year throughout the province:

- a) by a resident who has right of access to hunt on lands that are not public lands within the Green Area;
- b) by the owner or occupant of privately owned land, on the privately owned land;
- c) by a person maintaining livestock on public land, on that public land; or
- d)*on lands described in c) that are in the Green Area, by a resident who is authorized in writing by the person described in c).

* These pelts must be salvaged.

Red fox² may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Badger may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

Skunk and **raccoon** may be hunted or trapped during all seasons by the owner or occupant of land, or by a person authorized by the owner or occupant, or by the holder of a licence authorizing the trapping of fur-bearing animals.

Rabbit or **hare** may be hunted without traps, throughout the province, at any time of year, without a licence on land which the person has the right of access for hunting. A resident may use snares to take rabbit or hare, provided the snare meets the requirements set out on page 7.

Bobcat may be hunted (but not trapped) by a resident on land which the resident has the right of access for hunting in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118 and 119 and that part of WMU 110 east of Highway No. 2 and south of Highway No. 3.

Notes:

¹ For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, please refer to the *2003 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*.

² Coyote and red fox may be hunted with the assistance of dogs on privately owned land by the owner or occupant, or on privately owned land with written permission of the owner or occupant that specifically authorizes the use of dogs, or under the authority of a damage-control licence that specifically authorizes the use of dogs. Note: this method of hunting is currently under review.

A Code for Responsible Trapping

During trapping operations, trappers should:

- show compassion for the animals they capture;
- develop skills so that furs are properly prepared for market;
- know and practice proper releasing and killing methods;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of furbearers;
- dispose of animal carcasses properly; and
- report the presence of diseased animals to a Fish & Wildlife Division district office.

Community Relations

To foster and maintain good relations within their communities and to gain public support, trappers should:

- respect the rights and property of others;
- protect and conserve wildlife, and wildlife habitat;
- help farmers and other landowners who are having problems with nuisance animals;
- encourage and support trapper education and public awareness programs;
- support trappers and other wildlife conservation organizations;
- support and cooperate with government wildlife agencies; and
- report illegal activities.

Additional Information

Trappers are encouraged to:

- make sets that are designed to only capture the intended species of furbearer.
- make only as many sets as they can manage effectively.
- anchor traps or snares securely to hold the largest animal that they may catch.
- install a centre-mounted, swivelling, short chain (no longer than 30 cm, or 12 in., equipped with a shock absorber) for land foothold trap sets that are solidly anchored.

Trapper Education 2003/2004

Where there is enough interest to justify the program, Standard Trapping and Conservation courses are held at various locations throughout Alberta during the fall and winter. In these courses, lasting a total of 28 to 30 hours, participants receive information on humane trapping techniques, fur management regulations, fur handling and marketing. Expert fur handlers provide instruction on fur quality and grading.

Registration is limited to a maximum of 20 people, and the registration fee is payable in advance. Registrants receive a course manual and a variety of relevant brochures.

During the 2002 - 2003 season, 13 courses (212 participants) and 4 workshops were held throughout Alberta.

Information on program locations may be obtained from the Alberta Trappers Association, #2, 9919 C 106 Street, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2K1, telephone 780-349-6626 or fax 780-349-6634. When courses are not available, potential first-time licence holders may purchase the *Alberta Wild Fur Management Study Guide* to prepare themselves for writing the required examination. These guides are available at Fish & Wildlife Division district offices and the Alberta Trappers Association office.

Fur Institute of Canada



The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) is a non-profit organization, established in 1983 on the initiative of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Ministers, to pursue the work of the Federal-Provincial Committee For Humane Trapping. The Institute is an umbrella organization for the Canadian fur industry and its mandate ensures that all sectors are represented, particularly on the Board of Directors.

The overall mission of the FIC is to promote the sustainable and wise use of Canada's fur resources. The Institute supports the following values:

- The sustainable use and conservation of renewable resources;
- The continued improvement of animal welfare through ongoing research and the development of national and international trapping standards;
- The conservation and management of natural resources based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge;
- Professionalism through continued education, licensing and research;
- Respect for people, animals and the environment;
- Respect for tradition, heritage and culture
- Respect for the right of Aboriginal people to pursue their aboriginal and treaty rights.

Six operational committees develop programs and deliver project activities within the structure of the Institute. These programs are general communications, Aboriginal communications, trap research, international relations, conservation and funding.

The Fur Institute of Canada is committed to delivering information to the media, the general public and governments pertaining to the economic, social, cultural and environmental contributions made by today's fur trade.

For further information, contact the Fur Institute of Canada

- by mail: Suite 605, 130 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2
- by telephone: 613-231-7099
- by fax: 613-231-7940
- by e-mail: info@fur.ca or
- visit web site: www.fur.ca

Alberta's Threatened Wildlife

Increasing human population and the accompanying increase in demands for resources place many stresses on our natural environment. Wildlife habitats change and in some areas are reduced. Some plants and animals adapt well to the changes, others do not. The Fish & Wildlife Division monitors species whose populations are at risk in the province, and takes steps to conserve this valuable heritage. Information on Alberta's Species at Risk Program is available at government information centres (Calgary AB 403-297-3362, Edmonton AB 780-422-2079) at Fish and Wildlife Division offices (see page 4) and on the Internet

(<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/fishwl.html>). The brochures, reports and program summaries provide information on the biology and conservation of various species (e.g., peregrine falcon, swift fox, piping plover, woodland caribou), outlining why they are threatened, what is being done to help these species, and what you can do. Like all Albertans, trappers can help conserve species at risk by ensuring their activities do not conflict with the needs of these species. For example, trappers should take particular care to prevent the accidental capture of non-target species such as the endangered swift fox (see page 10).



POACHING IS A CRIME!

Not only do poachers steal our fish and wildlife heritage, they give anglers and hunters a bad name.

Alberta Conservation Association's **REPORT A POACHER** program provides Albertans with the opportunity to report suspected violations using a toll-free number: **1-800-642-3800** or **#3800** on the TELUS Mobility network (courtesy TELUS Mobility).

Fishing or hunting out of season, night hunting, exceeding bag limits, illegal sale of fish and wildlife and deposit of harmful substances in lakes and rivers are violations that seriously affect fish and wildlife in Alberta.

If you see or know of a violation, you should record all information, including date, time, location, vehicle licence number, vehicle description, description of person(s) involved, details of violation, and any other details, no matter how

insignificant they may seem. You should then contact the nearest Fish & Wildlife Division office or call **1-800-642-3800** as soon as possible.

The **RAP** line is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Trained staff pass reported information on to an available Fish and Wildlife Officer. Anyone who calls the **1-800-642-3800** line or provides information to Fish and Wildlife Officers or staff can remain anonymous. If the information provided concerns a resource violation and results in the laying of a charge by a Fish and Wildlife Officer, the reporter is automatically eligible for a reward. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the nearest office of Fish & Wildlife Division (page 4).

Summer or Winter Make Sure Your Fire Is Out!

Nearly half of the forest fires in Alberta are caused by people. Nobody means to start a forest fire and most never know the blaze was a result of their carelessness. Campfires built in a poor location, left unattended or not completely extinguished can cause forest fires. Even when there's water nearby or snow on the ground!

Make sure your fire is out and if you see smoke or fire in a forested area, call the hot line —

310-FIRE
Call Collect
Call Immediately