

ALBERTA GUIDE TO

TRAPPING REGULATIONS

2010-2011

**Government
of Alberta ■**

- photo Duane Rosenkranz

Official Summary of Alberta Government Trapping Regulations



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Minister's Message

Trapping has been a vital part of Canada's history and economy since long before Alberta was a province. Trapping continues to be a viable and responsible use of a natural renewable resource while remaining an important source of income for many Albertans. While the tradition of trapping endures, it is also changing. There have been significant advancements in trap development resulting in improved trapping practices and we continue to work with trappers to implement modern trapping standards.



Trappers are true conservationists and have deep respect for the animals as well as the land. The stewardship that trappers show toward Alberta's natural resources helps maintain healthy wildlife populations and landscapes.

The Alberta government is committed to supporting Alberta's heritage, culture, and identity through continued support of trappers and the trapping industry. Our Land-use Framework will work to balance ecological stewardship with human activities, allowing for one of Alberta's richest traditions to continue. Together, we can ensure that sustainable trapping is as much a part of Alberta's future as it was of its past.

With the help of the Alberta Trappers' Association, the government is working to promote trapping and improve the trapping program in Alberta. The education and compensation programs as well as the safe and responsible trapping information that the Trappers' Association provides are invaluable to sustainable trapping practices in the province.

Please read the 2010-2011 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations carefully. I hope that you have a rewarding season, and I encourage you to look for ways to share this honourable tradition with the next generation of trappers. Although the ways we trap are changing, it is our youth – the trappers of tomorrow – who will carry the tradition forward into the 21st century.

Honourable Mel R. Knight
Minister

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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 district Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5).

The *Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations* is published annually by 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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Important Changes for 2010 – 2011

- Additional traps have been certified under the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS). Trappers are reminded that it is unlawful to use traps that do not meet the requirement of the AIHTS (page 13).

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. a 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 requires a licence, and partners who are first-time trappers must meet mandatory requirements, outlined on page 9, before their partnership agreement can be approved. For further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Division (see page 5).

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 some public lands not included in Registered Fur Management Areas. For further information contact the Fish and Wildlife Division (see page 5).

Senior 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.

Partners on Registered Fur Management Areas

All Registered Fur Management Area Partnership Agreements 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 6).

Partners, in accordance with approved Partnership Agreements, will be issued a licence and wallet-size cards (WA188s) valid for a one (1) year period (July 1 through June 30). Partners are encouraged to carry the WA188 card and their licence 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 9 before their Partnership Agreement can be approved. For further information, contact a Fish and Wildlife Division District office (see page 5).

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 licence and 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 conduct the registration of the pelts of lynx, fisher, wolverine and otter, the Fur-bearers Registration Certificate (WA324) shall be fully and accurately completed and appropriately submitted in a timely manner.

Fur dealers are 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 District office for further information (see Page 5).

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, are included in the annual Report of Fur Bearing Animals Taken (WA12).

Accurate harvest information helps in managing the fur-bearer resource, and ultimately benefits the trapping industry. Your full 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.

Telephone Numbers of Fish and Wildlife Division

offices. Office hours vary, please contact the individual office for hours of operation.

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

Northwest Region

Fairview	780-835-2737
Fort Vermilion	780-927-4488
*Grande Prairie	780-538-5265
*High Level	780-926-2238
High Prairie	780-523-6521
Manning	780-836-3065
*Peace River	780-624-6405
Red Earth	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	780-594-7876
Edmonton	780-427-3574
Fort Chipewyan	780-697-3511
*Fort McMurray	780-743-7200
*Lac La Biche	780-623-5247
St. Paul	780-645-6313
Smoky Lake	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
Grande Cache	780-827-3356
High River	403-652-8330
Hinton	780-865-8264
Nordeg	403-721-3965
Pincher Creek	403-627-1116
*Rocky Mountain House	403-845-8230
Stony Plain (Spruce Grove)	780-960-8190
Sundre	403-638-3805
Swan Hills	780-333-2229
*Whitcourt	780-778-7112

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Southeast Region

Brooks	403-362-1232
*Calgary	403-297-6423
Camrose	780-679-1225
Cardston	403-653-5158
Coronation	403-578-3223
Drumheller	403-823-1670
Foremost	403-867-3826
Hanna	403-854-5540
Lethbridge	403-381-5266
Lloydminster	780-871-6495
Medicine Hat	403-529-3680
Olds	403-556-4215
Oyen	403-664-3614
Ponoka	403-783-7093
Provost	780-753-2433
*Red Deer	403-340-5142
Stettler	403-742-7510
Strathmore	403-934-3422
Vegreville	780-632-5410
Vermilion	780-853-8137
Vulcan	403-485-6971
Wetaskiwin	780-361-1250

*Area Office

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Information Centre - 780-944-0313

Email: srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca

Websites — albertaregulations.ca or mywildalberta.com or srd.alberta.ca

Fish and Wildlife Division Head Office Mailing Address:

2 Floor, 9920-108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2M4



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). The line is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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 and 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 and Wildlife Division office or call **1-800-642-3800** as soon as possible.

If the information provided concerns a resource violation and results in the laying of a charge, the reporter may be eligible for a reward. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office (page 5).

WMU Descriptions

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

5th Floor Park Plaza, 10611-98 Ave.

Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7

Telephone: (780) 427-4952

Note: The Queen's Printer does not sell maps.

Maps

The Fur Management Zone map, on page 10 of this guide, is provided to help you determine the zone and WMU in which you are trapping.

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

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 5) list the vacant RFMAs in their district. 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 except Partners who must submit their own report on the fur management area for the previous year.

Partners on RFMAs 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. The partnership agreement must be completed each year.

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

- a) they own, lease or occupy, and
- b) for which they have written permission — on Form WA 19A "Authorization to hunt fur-bearing animals" — 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 9.

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.

- 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.

Note:

- A resident under 16 years of age who's parent is the holder of a Resident Fur Management Licence must have written permission from the landholder — on Form WA 19A — in order 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.
- 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.

NOTICE TO TRAPPERS

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

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Youths Accompanying Trapper

Family or 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 (as described on page 9).

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 9.

Five dollars from each Registered Fur Management Licence funds the Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program. See page 15 for details.

LICENCE	FEE	LICENCE	FEE
Resident Fur Management Licence	\$20.00	6 Townships (more than 466 sq. km or 180 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$40.00
Registered Fur Management Licence - Senior Holder	\$40.00	Indian Fur Management	No charge
Registered Fur Management Partner Licence	\$20.00	Metis Fur Management	No charge
3 Townships (189 to 280 sq. km or 73 to 108 sq. mi) add'l fee	\$10.00	Damage Control	No charge
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

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

Quotas

The various species of fur-bearers differ in abundance, distribution and opportunity to harvest. Registered Fur Management Areas (RFMAs) also vary in size. To allow trappers a greater opportunity to manage fur-bearers, 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	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Quota	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Quota	Increase for excess Twp*	Basic Quota Only
Zone 1 WMU 511, 512, 516, 517, 518, 519, 529 WMU 530, 531, 532	10 10	3 3	10 10	4 4	10 8	3 2	1 1
Zone 2 WMU 357, 358, 359, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539 WMU 520, 528, 540, 541, 542, 544	10 10	4 4	12 12	5 5	2 6	1 3	1 1
Zone 3	6	4	4	2	10	3	1
Zone 4 WMU 320 to 328, 332, 334, 429 WMU 330, 336 to 342, 348, 507, 508 WMU 344, 346, 347, 352 WMU 349, 353, 354, 355, 356, 360, 521 WMU 350 and 351	3 3 3 10 10	1 1 1 4 4	5 5 5 6 6	2 2 2 3 3	0 1 2 2 2	0 0 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 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 fur-bearers 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 12 and 13).
- Traps that are not killing devices must be checked at least once every 48 hours, or at least once every 24 hours if set under the authority of a Resident Fur Management Licence.
- 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.

It should be noted that raccoon and skunk are classed as non-licence animals and may be hunted or trapped (see page 16 for these provisions). Traps meeting requirements of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards for raccoon are outlined on page 13.

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 if they are set unlawfully. Any such removal must be reported immediately to a Fish and Wildlife officer.)

It is unlawful to:

- use traps that do not meet the requirements of the AIHTS,
- 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 fur-bearers; 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 district office [see page 5]);

- 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 – 351, 354 – 360 400 – 446, 507, 508, 514, 521, 522, 526 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 current 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.

Trapper Education

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.

Information on program locations may be obtained from the Alberta Trappers' Association, Box 6020, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2P7, phone 780-349-6626, fax 780-349-6634 or www.albertatrappers.com. 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 district Fish and Wildlife Division offices and the Alberta Trappers' Association office.

Mandatory Requirements for First-time Trappers

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

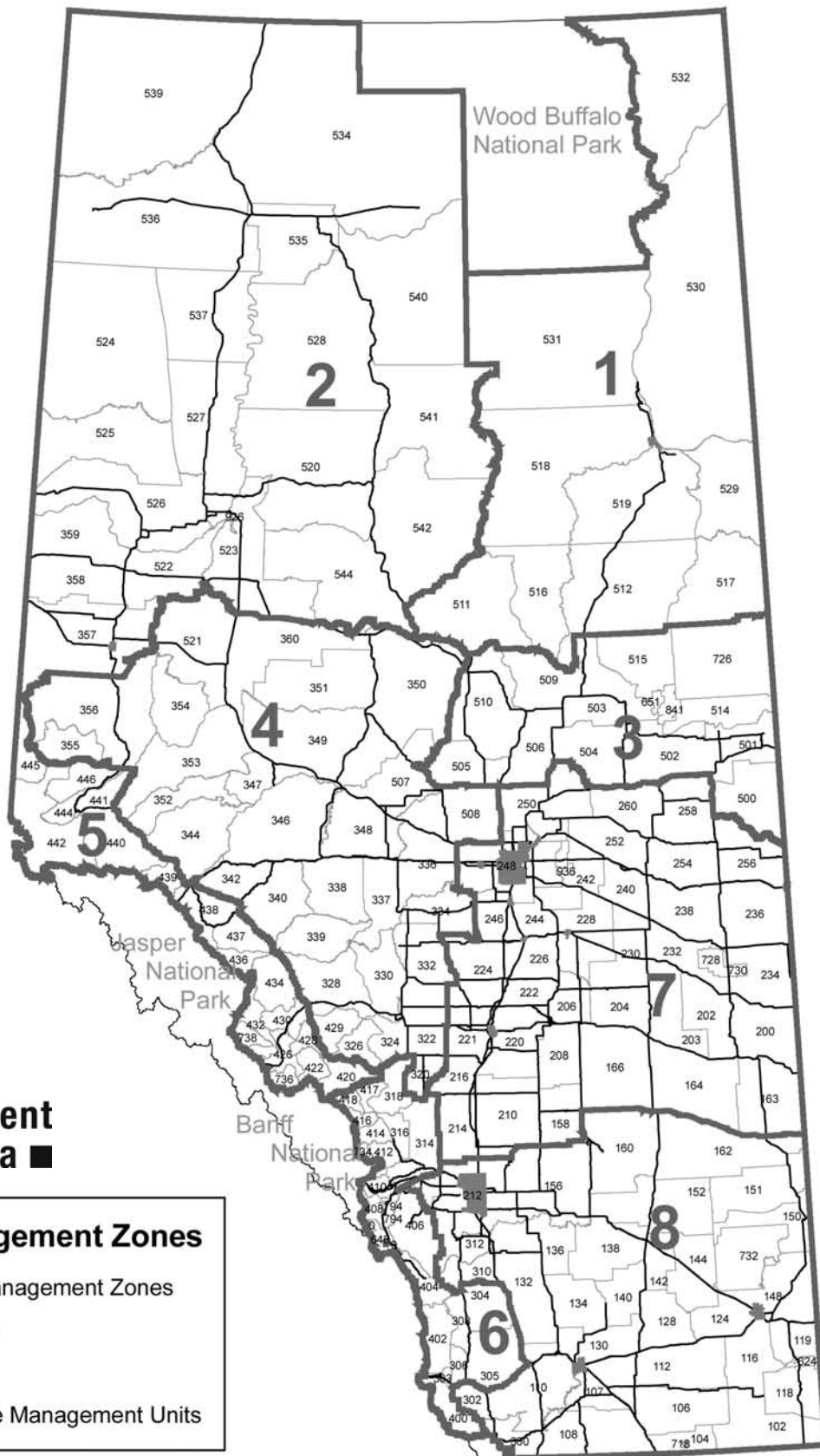
- 1) never before held a licence in Alberta or elsewhere that authorized the trapping of fur-bearing animals, or
- 2) not completed a fur management course.

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 17).




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

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Fur Management Zones

-  Fur Management Zones
-  Roads
-  Cities
-  Wildlife Management Units

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 Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

Base Data provided by the Spatial Data Warehouse Ltd.

Fur-bearer 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	D 1 - Ap 15	D1 - Ap 15	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	O1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28 ³	O1 - F28 ³	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 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ¹	D1 - Ma15 ^{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	O1 - M31 ³	O1 - M31 ³	O1 - F28 ^{3&7}	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 For the period of October 1 to November 30 the use of snares is allowed only in WMUs 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 330, 332, 334, 336, 337, 338, 348, 360, 410, 412, 414, 416, 417, 418, 507, 508 and 521.

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

4 Season extended to February 15, 2011, 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 330, 336 to 360, 507, 508 and 521.

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

Black Bear Seasons and Baiting

Six black bear may be hunted but not trapped in each Registered 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 RFMA 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 43 of the **2010 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations**.

Mandatory Registration

If fisher, lynx, otter or wolverine are killed during an open season they must be registered within 30 days of the close of that season. If they are killed outside of an open season they must be registered within 30 days of the kill. In all cases they must be registered before being sold, processed or exported.

All wolves taken in any of WMUs 300 – 318, 324 – 330, 339 or 400 – 434 under any authority must be registered.

All bobcat taken under any authority must be registered within 14 days after the close of the open season or 30 days after the date which the animal was killed, whichever occurs first.

Registration is a way of recording information about the harvest of fur-bearers. 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 overharvest of sensitive species of fur-bearers, ensuring a viable resource for the future (see page 14 for 2009 – 2010 registration information).

Sale of Wildlife

In Alberta 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 furbearing animals.

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 16), 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 12), it is unlawful to export from Alberta all, or any part of, the skin or pelt of a fur-bearing animal, without first obtaining a provincial Export Permit.

The claws, skulls and teeth of lawfully taken fur-bearing animals may 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 required for exporting any part of a wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary).

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 5).

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. Most 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 5]. CITES permits are still required for exporting any part of a black bear, wolf, lynx, bobcat or otter across an international boundary.)

*Persons exporting fur directly to the European Union without using the services of Canadian fur auction houses, should be aware that special documents may be required. Please contact the receiving jurisdiction for applicable information.

Commercial Export of Wildlife to the United States

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (US FWS) regulates commercial shipments of wildlife that enter or leave the U.S. In particular, taxidermists, trappers and outfitter-guides may experience difficulties transporting wildlife to the U.S. unless such businesses are licenced with the US FWS for transporting commercial shipments of wildlife across the U.S. border. For more information, contact the US FWS at 1-800-344-9453 or view information at:

http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters

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 17) 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/foothold restraining traps in submersion sets for semi-aquatic fur-bearers.
- Allows for the use of design-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 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 and the certification status of these traps are outlined below and are also listed on the FIC web site: www.fur.ca/research/index-e.asp.

PHASE 1. Certified Traps to be regulated for use in Fall 2010:

KILLING TRAPS				
BEAVER (On Land and Underwater)	Belisle Classic 330 Belisle Super X 280 Belisle Super X 330 BMI 280 Body Gripper BMI 330 Body Gripper Bridger 330 Duke 330	LDL C280 LDL C280 Magnum LDL C330 LDL C330 Magnum Rudy 280 Rudy 330 Sauvageau 1000-11F	Sauvageau 2001-8 Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12 Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330	
FISHER	Belisle Super X 120 Belisle Super X 160 Belisle Super X 220	Koro #2 LDL C160 & C220 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum	Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Plus Sauvageau 2001-5	Sauvageau 2001-6 Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8
MARTEN	Belisle Super X 120 Belisle Super X 160 BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper	Koro #1 LDL B120 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum	Rudy 160 Plus Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-6	Sauvageau C120 Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Northwoods 155
RACCOON	Belisle Classic 220 Belisle Super X 160 Belisle Super X 220 Belisle Super X 280 BMI 160 Body Gripper BMI 220 Body Gripper BMI 280 Body Gripper	BMI 280 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 160 Bridger 220 Duke 160 Duke 220 LDL C160 LDL C220	LDL C220 Magnum LDL C280 Magnum Rudy 160 Rudy 160 Plus Rudy 220 Rudy 220 Plus Sauvageau 2001-6	Sauvageau 2001-7 Sauvageau 2001-8 Species-Specific 220 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 Woodstream Oneida Victor Northwoods 155
MUSKRAT (On Land)	Belisle Super X 120 BMI 120 Body Gripper BMI 120 Magnum Body Gripper BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper Bridger 120	Duke 120 Koro Muskrat LDL B120 Magnum Ouell 4-11-180 Rudy 110	Rudy 120 Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau C120 Magnum	Sauvageau C120 Reverse Bend Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120
MUSKRAT (Underwater)	Any jaw type trap (body gripping or leghold) set as a submersion set that exerts clamping force on a muskrat and that maintains a muskrat underwater.			
LEGHOLD RESTRAINING TRAPS				
CANADA LYNX	Belisle Footsnare #6 Oneida Victor Soft Catch #3 (2 springs) Oneida Victor Soft Catch #3 (4 springs)	Oneida Victor Coil Springs #3 (8mm Steel jaws, 4 coil springs and base plate centre mounted anchoring swivel)		

PHASE 2. YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED

Certified Traps to be regulated in the future for trapping the following species:

KILLING TRAPS - TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT YET MANDATORY				
CANADA LYNX	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330			
OTTER (Underwater)	Belisle Super X 220 Belisle Super X 280 LDL C280 Magnum	Rudy 220 Plus Rudy 280 Rudy 330	Sauvageau 2001-8 Sauvageau 2001-11 Sauvageau 2001-12	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
WEASEL (Ermine)	Koro Rodent Trap	Ouell 4-11-180	Victor Rat Trap	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110

LEGHOLD RESTRAINING TRAPS - TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT YET MANDATORY			
BOBCAT	Belisle Footsnare #6		
COYOTE	Belisle Footsnare #6	Bridger #3 – 5/16-inch offset, doubled rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch topside of jaw and 1/4-inch underside of jaw), 4 coil springs and anchoring swivel centre mounted on base plate.	Oneida Victor Softcatch #3 (2 springs)
RACCOON	Duffer	Lil' Grizz Get'rz	
WOLF	Belisle Footsnare #8		

PHASE 3. YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED

Cage and Box Traps to be regulated in the future for live-trapping the following species:

No live capture cage or box trap has been certified to date for Beaver, Raccoon, Fisher, Marten, Muskrat, Otter, Weasel, Lynx, Bobcat or Badger.

Fur-bearer Management Registration Information

Mandatory registration of fisher, lynx and wolverine has been in effect since 1989; river otter was added in 1996 and bobcat in 2006. 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 fur-bearers registered during past seasons. More specific information can be obtained from regional Fish and Wildlife Division Area offices (see page 5).

FUR REGISTRATION				
SPECIES	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Lynx	701	766	1046	1293
Fisher	1312	1198	1337	1334
Wolverine	29	28	37	45
Otter	136	99	183	216
Total	2178	2091	2603	2888

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 and Protected Areas Division, Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture in Edmonton at 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582).

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. If you have specific questions contact a Fish and Wildlife Division District office (see page 5).

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 5) 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 2009 - 2010 Fur Production Based on Export Permits (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

Species	Number of Pelts	Mean Price per Pelt	Total \$ Value
Badger	172	74.01	12,729.72
Beaver	10,618	14.27	151,476.39
Black Bear	56	111.34	6,235.04
Bobcat	21	365.09	7,666.82
Coyote	14,401	37.72	543,205.72
Fisher	1,271	47.32	60,146.90
Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver 18 • Cross 28 • Red 920 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.21 32.68 16.39 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 417.78 915.13 15,075.73
Lynx	1,346	116.44	156,728.24
Marten	9,485	42.78	405,720.88
Mink	591	13.76	8,130.68
Muskrat	9,283	6.99	64,841.76
Otter	265	45.57	12,074.73
Raccoon	83	17.63	1,463.57
Skunk	31	2.06	63.86
Squirrel	19,058	1.44	27,443.52
Weasel (Ermine)	3,243	4.22	13,693.57
Wolf	360	92.38	33,256.80
Wolverine	51	235.89	12,030.39
Total			1,533,317.21

N/A - Price not available
Number of Registered Trappers 1569
Number of Resident Trappers 685

Number of Metis and Indian Licences
(Settlements and Reserves only) 62
Total Licenced Trappers 2316

During the 2009 - 10 trapping season, trappers continued to support the ongoing monitoring of the fisher population through fisher carcass collection. The fisher carcass collection program resulted in the analysis of 367 samples from across the province. There were 1334 fisher pelts registered this past trapping season, which means approximately 30% of the harvest was submitted for analysis.

From the samples submitted there were 93 adult females and 67 adult males and 103 juvenile females and 104 juvenile males. The

2009-10 season yielded a juvenile to adult female ratio of 2.22 :1. This ratio indicates a lower reproduction rate than the target of 3:1, juveniles to females. As a result of the fisher carcass collection program analysis, there will be no change to the fisher quotas for the 2010-11 trapping season.

The continued support of Alberta trappers is essential so that a meaningful analysis can be completed annually for the provincial fisher population, ensuring the continuation of the resource for future years.

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						

Trapping and Cougar Management

In recent years, the number of cougars accidentally killed by trappers in Alberta has increased. Cougars are carefully managed as a hunted game animal Alberta, and no trapping season exists. In areas where incidental mortality of cougars is high, hunting quotas for cougars may need to be reduced to prevent population declines. As important stewards of Alberta's wildlife resources, trappers should take precautions to limit the number of cougars and other non-target species that are accidentally captured.

Most cougars are captured in snares set for wolves or coyotes, or in large conibears set for lynx, bobcats, or wolverines. Cougars are not trap-shy and are much more easily captured than wary species such as wolves. Therefore, trappers should take steps to reduce the chance that a cougar will find their traps. Avoid placing snares or large conibears in areas where ungulates are wintering. When possible, place your sets in open areas where cougars will feel uncomfortable. Keep snares and traps well away (>200 m) from baits; use canid-specific gland lures, urine, and

scats to lure wolves and coyotes to your sets. If you see cougar tracks near your sets, close the snares or pull the traps until the cougar has moved on. Consider moving your sets to a new area if you're seeing regular cougar activity. By taking these few simple precautions, trappers can reduce the chance that they will accidentally catch a cougar, leaving more of these animals for enjoyment by all Albertans. For more information on cougars and cougar management in Alberta, download the Management Plan for Cougars in Alberta at: <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fishwildlife/livingwith/huntingalberta/pdf/MgmtPlanCougars.pdf>

Reminder: All cougar harvests (even accidental) must be registered at a Fish and Wildlife Division District office immediately!

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Alberta Trappers' 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;
- 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 5) 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 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.

The Stakeholders [Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA), Alberta Forests Products Association (AFPA), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Atco Electric, and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)] meet annually to review the compensation program and to make the required changes to the memorandum of understanding (Policy and Procedures). Trappers must cooperate with industry to ensure the success of the program. If you have any questions about this program, please contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5) or the Alberta Trappers' Association, Box 6020, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2P7 (phone 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 11.

Please contact your district Fish and Wildlife Division office when fur-bearers 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.

Coyotes¹ 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.

¹ For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, please refer to the **2010 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations**.

Red fox 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 or 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 (but not trapped), 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 9.

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 from November 1 to February 28.

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 capture only the intended species of fur-bearer;
- make only as many sets as they can manage effectively;
- anchor traps or snares securely to hold the largest animal that they may catch; and
- 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.

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 deliver it to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office as soon as possible (see page 5). The trapper will be required to complete a statutory declaration and the pelt will be registered and tagged. Circumstances will determine whether the animal may be returned to the trapper for sale purposes. The animal does not have to be skinned.

Swift Fox 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 Division Office. In addition, permission must first be obtained from an officer to use such an animal as bait.

Trapping in Protected Areas

In certain cases trapping is allowed within specific protected areas where this activity is not normally allowed. This may involve a Provincial Park or Recreation Area (or portions of such areas) that fall within an RFMA. If trapping is allowed in such an area individuals who wish to trap on those portions of the RFMA may be required to obtain a Firearms Carry and Discharge Permit from Parks and Protected Areas. Please contact your local Parks and Protected Areas Office to confirm if trapping is allowed in a protected area and if this permit is required.

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 fur-bearers;
- dispose of animal carcasses properly; and
- report the presence of diseased animals to a district Fish and Wildlife Division 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.

Five operational committees develop programs and deliver project activities within the structure of the Institute. These programs are trap research and development, communications, sealing, aboriginal communications and international relations and conservation.

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 701, 331 Cooper Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G5
- by telephone: 613-231-7099
- by fax: 613-231-7940
- by e-mail: info@fur.ca or
- visit website: www.fur.ca

Diseases

Diseases and parasites are normal parts of the life of a fur-bearer. Usually, they are not a problem either for the fur-bearer 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 fur-bearer. 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 fur-bearers suspected of being diseased should be submitted for examination to the nearest district Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5).

Campfires

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

TRAPPER BULLETIN

RELEASE OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

Trapping has been a part of Alberta's heritage for over a century. People across the province are involved in trapping as licenced Registered or Resident trappers and harvest over \$2 million in fur each year. All trappers in Alberta must meet mandatory requirements to obtain a licence including either having passed a test which deals with humane trapping and fur management, or have completed a Trapper Education course.

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;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of fur bearers;
- carefully select trap-set locations to reduce capture of non-target species;
- report the presence of diseased animals to a Fish and Wildlife Division district office; and
- know and practice proper killing and releasing methods.

Trappers should be prepared to release non-target animals that are not seriously injured. Carefully assess the risk factors involved in releasing an animal or bird to ensure personal safety and the welfare of the animal or bird.

Methods of releasing animals include:

Using a forked stick

- position the stick around the animal's neck and apply only enough pressure to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.



Using a snare pole

- the noose of the snare pole is slipped over the animal's jaws or neck and tightened to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.



Using a tarp, coat or blanket

- this method is especially useful for releasing small animals or birds, particularly Birds of Prey.
- the material should be large and strong enough only to immobilize the animal or bird without harm.
- once immobilized, the animal or bird can be released from the capture device.

Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not furbearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division Office. Accidental captures of Birds of Prey, i.e. Eagles, or Endangered Species such as Swift Fox that cannot be readily released due to injury should be delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or a qualified veterinarian for care.

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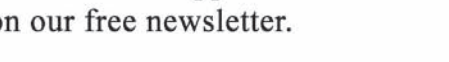
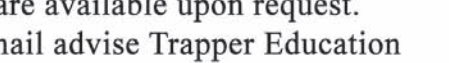
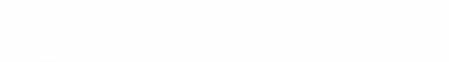
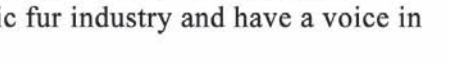
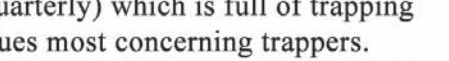
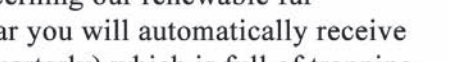
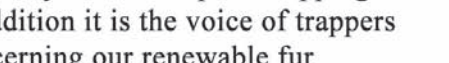
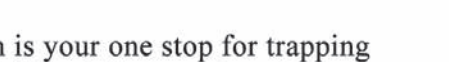
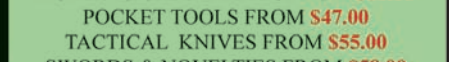


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The Alberta Trappers Association is your one stop for trapping supplies or shipment of fur. In addition it is the voice of trappers to industry and Government concerning our renewable fur resource. For a fee of \$35 per year you will automatically receive the Alberta Trapper Magazine (quarterly) which is full of trapping tips, stories and identifies the issues most concerning trappers. Join us and be part of the dynamic fur industry and have a voice in your future.

Fall Hours : 8 AM – 4 PM Monday-Friday

Winter Hours starting December: 8 AM- 4 PM Monday-Saturday

Trapper Education

The newest, most complete trapping manual in the country is now available at the Alberta Trappers Association. Contact the store for more details. \$40.00 plus GST

Become a Trapper

For courses this year contact the Alberta Trappers Association for details or check the website below.

Workshops are available upon request.

If you have e-mail advise Trapper Education to get on our free newsletter.

For more information Call 780-349-6626 or www.albertatrappers.com
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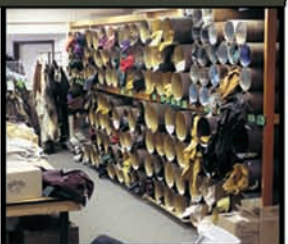


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