

# Alberta Guide to **2006-2007** **TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

*Official Summary of  
Alberta Government  
Trapping Regulations*

- photo Duane Rosenkranz

Alberta

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## Minister's Message

Welcome to the 2006 Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations, which contain key information to ensure you enjoy a safe, responsible and rewarding trapping season.

Alberta's trappers are a vital part of the effective stewardship of our province's natural resources. Your respect for animals and the landscape contributes to our sustainable management of fur-bearing animals and their habitats. Your care and consideration helps ensure that trapping will continue to be an important activity in Alberta today and for future generations.



The Government of Alberta relies on the Alberta Trappers' Association to administer and deliver humane trapping and trapper education programs to the province's trappers. I am especially appreciative of the emphasis the association places on trapper education, as well as the efforts of trappers and the association to promote the lifestyle and the benefits of trapping.

As long as there are people who love nature and the outdoors, there will be interest in trapping. With your help, we can ensure that plentiful animal resources will always be available to serve that interest.

Thank you for taking the time to review this guide to prepare yourself for 2006. I hope each of you enjoys a safe and successful season.

Honourable David C. Coultts  
Minister  
Sustainable Resource Development



### Fish & Wildlife Division Head Office Mailing Address

Great West Life Building  
9920 – 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4

## 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

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

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.

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

**Partner Licence Holder** - a licence issued to a partner on a Registered Fur Management Area upon approval by the Senior Licence Holder of the area.

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

## 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.

## Important Changes for 2006 – 2007

- The fisher quota has been adjusted in Zones 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Bobcat must now be registered.
- There has been changes in Fur Management Zones 4, 5, and 6 regarding wolf and coyote trapping. (See page 11)

### 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 the Fish and Wildlife Division (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 register 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 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 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. 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	780-523-6521
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 (8:15 – noon)	780-826-3142
Cold Lake (1:00 – 4:30)	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	403-673-3663
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 (Spruce Grove)	780-960-8190
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	403-653-5158
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 (8:15 – noon)	403-556-4215
Oyen (Tue, Wed every other Thur)	403-664-3614
Ponoka (open 1/2 days, call to verify hours)	403-783-7093
Provost (1:00 – 4:30, Tue; 8:15 – 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 Tue, Wed; 8:15 – noon Thurs)	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 ..... [srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca](mailto:srd.infocent@gov.ab.ca)  
**World Wide Web** — <http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca> Go to Fish and Wildlife, Living with Fish and Wildlife, then Trapping in Alberta.

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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), which may be viewed either at your nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 4), online under Regulations on the Queen's Printer website ([www.qp.gov.ab.ca](http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca)) or purchased from **The Queen's Printer** at the following address:

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 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

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 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 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 fur management area 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

- 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 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.

#### 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.



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**Alberta Trappers Assoc.**  
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Wetlock, AB T7P 2K1  
tel: 780-318-8226

**The North West Co.**  
10081 100 Avenue  
Grande Prairie,  
AB T8V 0V2  
tel: (780) 814-8188

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## 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 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
<b>Zone 1</b> WMU 511, 512, 516, 517, 518, 519, 529 WMU 530, 531, 532	7 7	3 3	6 6	3 3	10 8	3 2	1 1
<b>Zone 2</b> WMU 357, 358, 359, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 534, 535, 536, 537, 539 WMU 520, 528, 540, 542, 544	7 8	3 4	6 6	3 3	2 6	1 3	1 1
<b>Zone 3</b>	4	2	2	1	10	3	1
<b>Zone 4</b> WMU 320 to 334, 429 WMU 336 to 342, 348, 507, 508 WMU 344, 346, 347, 352 WMU 349, 353, 354, 355, 356, 360, 521 WMU 350 and 351	2 2 2 6 7	1 1 1 3 3	4 4 4 4 4	2 2 2 2 2	0 1 2 2 2	0 0 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1
<b>Zone 5</b>	1	1	4	2	0	0	1
<b>Zone 6</b>	0	0	3	1	0	0	1
<b>Zones 7 &amp; 8</b>	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.**

### 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 an 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).

## 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 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 Division district office [see page 5].); 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, 522, 525, 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.

## Mandatory Requirements for First-time Trappers

A “first-time trapper” is a person who has:

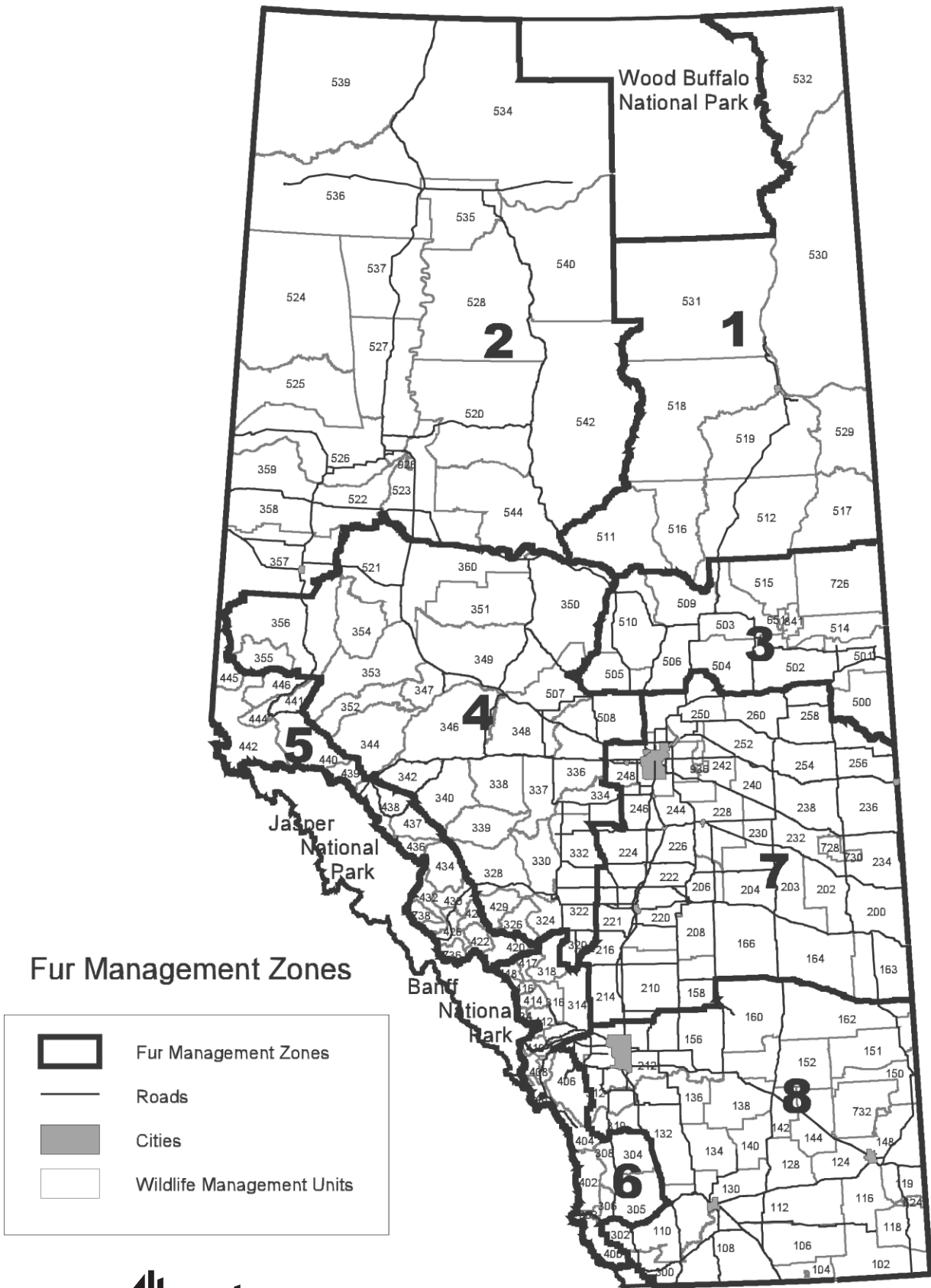
- 1) never before held a licence — in Alberta or elsewhere — that authorized the trapping of fur-bearing animals, or
- 2) not completed a fur management course.

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.





## 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
<b>Badger</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D1 - Ap15	D 1 - Ap 15	D1 - Ap 15	D1 - M31
<b>Beaver</b>	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma31	O15 - Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
<b>Bobcat</b>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	D1 - J31	CLOSED	N1 - F28
<b>Coyote</b>	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28 <sup>3</sup>	O1 - F28 <sup>3</sup>	O1 - F28 <sup>3</sup>	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
<b>Fisher</b>	N1 - J31 <sup>2&amp;4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>2&amp;4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>2</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>2</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>2</sup>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>Red/Arctic Fox</b>	O1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	O1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
<b>Lynx</b>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	D1 - F15 <sup>2</sup>	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>Marten</b>	N1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>2</sup>	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>Mink</b>	N1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>4</sup>	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31	N1 - J31
<b>Muskrat</b>	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O1 - Ma15	O15 - Ma15	O15 - Ap30	O15 - Ap30
<b>Otter</b>	D1 - Ma15 <sup>1</sup>	D1 - Ma15 <sup>1</sup>	D1 - Ma15 <sup>1</sup>	D1 - Ma15 <sup>1&amp;6</sup>	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
<b>Red Squirrel</b>	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28
<b>Weasel</b>	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28 <sup>5</sup>	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N1 - F28	N15 - F14 <sup>5</sup>	N15 - F14 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Wolf</b>	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	O1 - M31	O1 - M31 <sup>3</sup>	O1 - M31 <sup>3</sup>	O1 - F28 <sup>3&amp;7</sup>	O1 - F28	O1 - F28
<b>Wolverine</b>	N1 - J31 <sup>1&amp;4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>1&amp;4</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>1</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>1</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>1</sup>	N1 - J31 <sup>1</sup>	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, 2007, 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 *Metis Settlements Act*, which fall within the area described.

6 This season applies only to WMUs 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 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 38 of the 2006 **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 – 316 or 400 – 426 under any authority must be registered and the skulls must be submitted within 30 days of the kill.

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. The skin must be submitted complete with the evidence if sex attached and visible.

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 furbearers, ensuring a viable resource for the future (see page 14 for 2005 – 2006 registration information).

## 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 furbearing 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 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. 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 5]. 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 13.

## 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 5). 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 5) 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 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 such as beaver, muskrat and otter, provided these sets meet the standard by 2007.
- 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, 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 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](http://www.fur.ca/research/index-e.asp).

## STARTING FALL 2007 - Certified Traps to be regulated for use in Fall 2007:

KILLING TRAPS				
<b>BEAVER</b> (Underwater and On Land)	Belisle Classic 330 Belisle Super X 280 Belisle Super X 330 BMI 330 Body Gripper	Bridger 330 LDL C280 LDL C330 Rudy 280	Rudy 330 Sauvageau 2001-11	Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
<b>BEAVER</b> (On Land Only)	Sauvageau 1000-11F			
<b>BEAVER</b> (Underwater Only)	Duke 330	BMI 280 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-8	
<b>FISHER</b>	Belisle Super X 120 Belisle Super X 160	Belisle Super X 220 Koro #2	LDL C160 Magnum LDL C220 Magnum	Sauvageau 2001-5 Sauvageau 2001-8
<b>MARTEN</b>	Belisle Super X 120 BMI 126 Magnum Body Gripper	LDL B120 Magnum Rudy 120 Magnum		Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5
<b>RACCOON</b>	Belisle Classic 220 Belisle Super X 160 Belisle Super X 220 BMI 160 Body Gripper BMI 220 Body Gripper	Bridger 160 Bridger 220 Duke 220 LDL C160 LDL C220	LDL C220 Magnum Rudy 160 Rudy 220 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
<b>MUSKRAT</b> (On Land)	Belisle Super X 120 BMI 120 BMI 120 Magnum	BMI 126 Magnum Bridger 120 LDL B120 Magnum	Rudy 120 Magnum Sauvageau C120 Magnum Sauvageau 2001-5	Triple M Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110 Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120
<b>MUSKRAT</b> (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				
<b>LYNX</b>	Belisle Footsnare Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs	Oneida Victor #3 equipped with a minimum of 8mm thick, non-offset steel jaws, 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate		

## YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE DETERMINED

Certified Traps to be regulated after 2007 for trapping the following species:

KILLING TRAPS	
TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT MANDATORY FOR USE IN FALL 2007	
<b>OTTER</b>	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
<b>WEASEL</b> (Ermine)	Victor Rat Trap
<b>LYNX</b>	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330
<b>BOBCAT, BADGER</b>	No killing traps certified to date.
LEGHOLD RESTRAINING TRAPS	
TRAPS CERTIFIED BUT NOT MANDATORY FOR USE IN FALL 2007	
<b>COYOTE</b>	Belisle Footsnare Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs Bridger #3 equipped with 5/16-inch offset, doubled rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaw), with 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on base plate.
<b>WOLF</b>	No leghold restraining trap certified to date.
<b>BOBCAT</b>	Belisle Footsnare

### Exports to European Union

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.

## 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, Alberta Community Development in Edmonton at 780-427-3582 (toll-free 1-866-427-3582).



## Fur-bearer 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 fur-bearers registered during past seasons. More specific information can be obtained from regional Fish and Wildlife Division offices. (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.

FUR REGISTRATION				
SPECIES	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Lynx	1874	1696	665	625
Fisher	2035	1656	1073	1242
Wolverine	37	44	33	34
Otter	328	281	166	261
<b>Total</b>	<b>4274</b>	<b>3677</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>2162</b>

## Alberta 2005 - 2006 Fur Production Based on Export Permits (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006)

Species	Number of Pelts	Mean Price per Pelt	Total \$ Value
Badger	323	21.37	6,902.51
Beaver	17,829	29.85	532,195.65
Black Bear	122	100.48	12,258.56
Bobcat	63	159.36	10,039.68
Coyote	28,807	46.43	1,337,509.01
Fisher	1,461	95.95	140,182.95
Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silver 7</li> <li>• Cross 43</li> <li>• Red 2,196</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15.69</li> <li>27.30</li> <li>26.11</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>109.83</li> <li>1,173.90</li> <li>57,337.56</li> </ul>
Lynx	817	147.51	120,515.67
Marten	5,519	91.25	503,608.75
Mink	899	18.44	16,577.56
Muskrat	16,652	9.43	157,028.36
Otter	375	103.07	38,651.25
Raccoon	96	13.11	1,258.56
Skunk	34	11.72	398.48
Squirrel	52,936	1.45	76,757.20
Weasel (Ermine)	2,581	4.58	11,820.98
Wolf	367	84.46	30,996.82
Wolverine	24	169.52	4,068.48
<b>Total</b>			<b>3,059,391.76</b>

N/A - Price not available

Number of Registered Trappers

Number of Resident Trappers

1581

762

Number of Metis and Indian Licences

(Settlements and Reserves only)

**Total Licenced Trappers**

67

**2410**

During the 2005-2006 trapping season registered trappers submitted 353 carcasses for analysis which is up from the 320 submitted the previous year. A breakdown of the sample had 85 adult males, 81 adult females and 173 juveniles. The ratio of juveniles to adult females in the trapped sample was 2.1:1 which is up dramatically from that of the previous year. In 2004-2005 the ratio of juveniles to adult females was 0.9:1. The increase in quota limits for 2006-2007 season is a direct reflection on the increase in productivity of the fisher population. Fish and Wildlife in conjunction with the Alberta Trappers Association work together to adjust quotas to maximize the harvest potential for trappers while at the same time providing protection for the continued presence of this valuable resource. For the past two years Alberta Registered Fur Managers have submitted 30% of the total harvest for analysis. It is important that trappers continue to take part in the collection process. The more information available, the better the decisions that can be made with 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 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 Fish and Wildlife Division district office (see page 5).

## 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:

*continued on page 16*

- 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 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 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.

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 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 5) 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 11.

Please contact your Fish and Wildlife Division district 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.

**Wolf**<sup>1</sup> 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**<sup>1</sup> 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 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.

#### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, please refer to the *2006 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*.



## 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.

## 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.

During the 2005 – 2006 season, 12 courses (174 participants) and 3 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, Website [www.albertatrappers.com](http://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 Fish and Wildlife Division district offices and the Alberta Trappers' Association office.

## 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 Fish and Wildlife Division district 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](mailto:info@fur.ca) or
- visit website: [www.fur.ca](http://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 and 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 Edmonton, AB 780-422-2079) at Fish and Wildlife Division offices (see page 5) and on the Internet (<http://www/srd.gov.ab.ca/fw/index.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 12).

# 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.

Alberta

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.

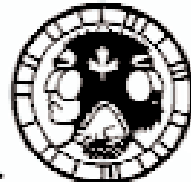
#### Using a tarp, coat or blanket

- 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 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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 (780) 349-6626

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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 November 20th : 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

Courses this year are in St. Paul, Lethbridge College, Lac La Biche, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Edmonton, Grande Cache, High Prairie, Slave Lake, Edson, Eureka River, Wabasca, Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.  
Contact the ATA 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 780-349-6634 or [www.albertatrappers.com](http://www.albertatrappers.com)  
9919-106 Street, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2K1