

WAC 220-417-010

Trapping Seasons and Regulations

Stephanie Landry, PhD *(she/her)*

Furbearer Section Manager, Wildlife Program

August 9, 2024



Cascade Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes cascadensis*)

- Smaller, native subspecies of red fox (*V. vulpes*)
- State endangered (WAC 220-610-010)
- Historically occurred in subalpine meadow, upper montane forest, and alpine habitats of the Cascade Range of Washington and southern British Columbia
- Now occurs only in the South Cascades (south of the I-90 corridor), within $\leq 50\%$ of its historical range in WA



Figure 2. The Cascade red fox exhibits three common color phases including the red phase (left; photo by Cascade Carnivore Project), cross phase (center; photo by Anthony Carado) and black phase (right; photo by Anthony Carado).

Red Fox Harvest

Hunting:

- From our 2023 small game hunter harvest surveys, we had an estimated 18 (range: 8-53) fox taken by gun statewide by an estimated total of 29 (range: 16-54) hunters.
- WAC 220-416-010 small game seasons and regulations: Fox hunting is open statewide **EXCEPT** closed within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- This rule provides additional protection to **WAC 220-610-010 Wildlife classified as endangered species** to prevent the harvest of the state endangered **Cascade Red Fox**



Red Fox Harvest

Trapping:

- In 2020, 2 fox were reported trapped statewide (Garfield Co and Franklin Co).
- In 2021, only 1 fox was reported trapped statewide (Snohomish Co).

Very few fox are trapped on an annual basis statewide in WA.

Trapping Emergency Rule

- There was a potential Cascade Red Fox based on its location in the Wenatchee National Forest that was captured in early February 2024
- Because of this incident, we acted immediately to put an Emergency Rule into effect on February 16, 2024:
 - fox trapping CLOSED within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests to prevent accidental take of state endangered Cascade red fox
- The E-Rule remains active for 120 days – expired June 15, 2024
- The program renewed the E-Rule on June 16, 2024, to provide guidance while rulemaking continues

Trapping Rule

WAC 220-417-010 Trapping Seasons and Regulations:

- Fox trapping is open statewide **EXCEPT CLOSED** within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests
- Rule change is scheduled to go into effect on Nov. 1, 2024, the season opening date
- The Commission decision is scheduled for September 27, 2024

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	RESTRICTIONS
Badger, Beaver, Bobcat, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, (Red Fox), River Otter, and Weasel	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year	
Marten	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year	CLOSED in Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Gray's Harbor counties.
<u>Red Fox</u>	<u>Nov. 1 - Mar. 31</u> <u>during the current</u> <u>license year</u>	<u>CLOSED within the</u> <u>exterior boundaries</u> <u>of Mount Baker-</u> <u>Snoqualmie,</u> <u>Okanogan,</u> <u>Wenatchee, and</u> <u>Gifford Pinchot</u> <u>National Forest.</u>

Public Comment - Support

General support

Support of closure until Cascade red fox population recovers

Public Comment - Opposition

General opposition

Not a necessary change

No indication of when trapping should reopen

Teach hunters and trappers how to distinguish the foxes (via DNA only)

Only close National Forests south of I-90 where there are Cascade red fox

Eliminate the use of foothold traps (already in rule)

Close all hunting and trapping

Ban fox trapping statewide



Questions?



Rollin Geppert

Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.