

# Trapping Seasons And Regulations

WAC 232-28-516

WAC 232-12-141

WAC 232-12-024

Brian Calkins

Small Game/Hunter Access Section Manager  
Game Division, Wildlife Program

# Overview

Trapping is only legal method of harvest for:

Beaver, Mink, Muskrat, River Otter, Marten, Badger, Weasel

Other methods may be used to harvest:

Red fox, Raccoon, Bobcat

Unclassified species can also be trapped



# Overview

## Trapper Numbers:

- Peaked around 1980
- Declined to ~500 in 1990s
- Dropped to ~200 in 2001
  - Trap type restrictions
- Current: Approaching 500 licensed trappers
- Fur prices drive interest



# Overview

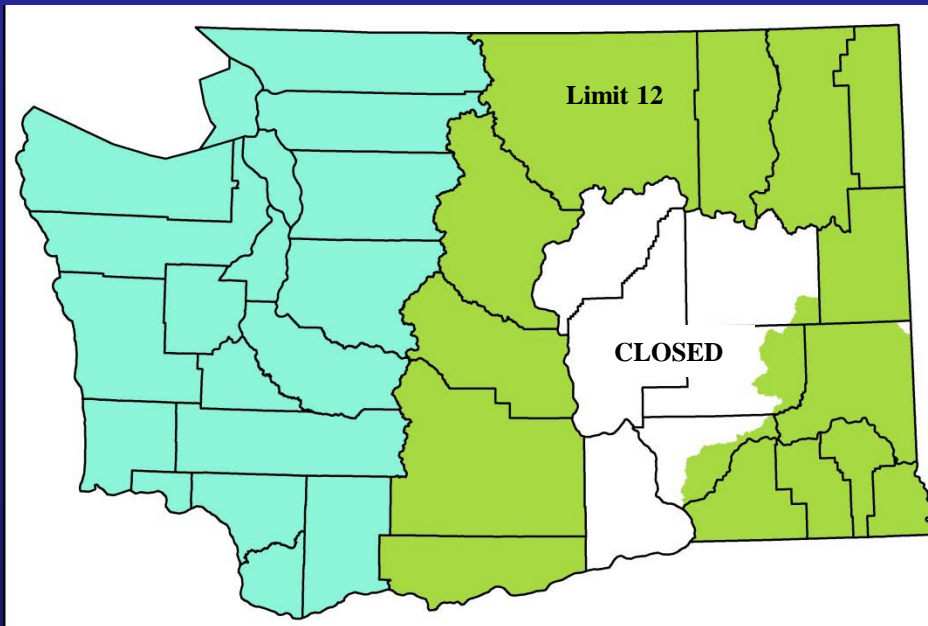
## 2013 vs 1999 Fur Harvest

<b>Species</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2013 vs 1999</b>
Beaver	4819	1682	35%
Muskrat	3572	2322	65%
River Otter	727	273	38%
Coyote	838	16	2%
Marten	140	35	25%
Mink	462	202	44%
Raccoon	571	426	75%
Nutria	712	59	8%

# Proposed Changes

## Trapping seasons and regulations, WAC 232-28-516:

- Maintain Nov. 1 – Mar. 31 season
- Remove eastside river otter limits/closures



# Proposed Changes

## Wild animal trapping rules, WAC 232-12-141:

- Remove body gripping trap exceptions/rules
  - Was a restatement of statute
- Clarifying language
  - Furbearer meat can be used as bait



# Proposed Changes

## **Pelt sealing requirements, WAC 232-12-024:**

- Remove language causing confusion regarding what must be presented at time of tagging
- Allow the department to permit others to seal pelts.
  - Standards and guidelines to be developed



# Questions?

