



# FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS AND RULES

Effective from October 1, 2015 to March 31, 2018, both dates inclusive

## ANNUAL LICENSE FEES

Resident Trapping License .....	\$41.60
Non-Resident Trapping License .....	\$200.00
Resident Youth Trapping License.....	\$18.50
Fur Dealer's License .....	\$200.00
Application Fee (If purchased through Olympia office) .....	\$105.00

Trapping and Fur Dealer's licenses are available at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Olympia headquarters office (in person or by mail) and at all WDFW license dealers. A trapping license is valid from April 1 to March 31 of the next year.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Bradley Smith, Chair, Bellingham	Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair, Mt. Vernon	David Graybill, Leavenworth
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Commission Phone (360) 902-2267		

## STATEWIDE TRAPPING SEASONS

FURBEARER SPECIES	SEASON DATES
Badger, Beaver, Bobcat, Marten, Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red Fox, River Otter and Weasel	Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year

The trapping season authorizes taking of furbearing animals for their hides and pelts only. Furbearers may not be taken from the wild and held alive for sale or personal use without a permit pursuant to WAC 232-12-064. Any wildlife trapped for which the season is not open shall be released unharmed. Any wildlife that cannot be released unharmed must be left in the trap, and a WDFW regional representative must be notified immediately. Lawfully trapped wild animals must be lethally dispatched or immediately released. A firearm may be used to dispatch trapped animals.

People buying a Washington State Trapping License for the first time must pass an exam in safe, humane, and proper trapper techniques. For information on trapper education materials contact the Hunter Education section of the WDFW office in Olympia at (360) 902-8111.

## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Director

Jim Unsworth

### Wildlife Program

Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director

**Olympia Office:** (360) 902-2200

**Visitors**– Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. SE, 1st Floor  
Olympia, WA

**Mailing Address**– 600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

### Regional Offices:

#### Region 1

(509) 892-1001  
2315 North Discovery Place  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566

#### Region 2

(509) 754-4624  
1550 Alder St. NW  
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

#### Wenatchee District Office

(509) 662-0452  
3860 Chelan Hwy N  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-9607

#### Region 3

(509) 575-2740  
1701 S 24th Ave.  
Yakima, WA 98902-5720

#### Region 4

(425) 775-1311  
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.  
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1541

#### Region 5

(360) 696-6211  
2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA 98661-4624

#### Region 6

(360) 249-4628  
48 Devonshire Rd.  
Montesano, WA 98563

### Website

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

## IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TRAP FOR WILD ANIMALS:

- With body-gripping traps EXCEPT by permit to abate an animal problem under WAC 232-12-142. This includes, but not limited to, padded foothold traps, unpadded foot-hold traps, all snares, and conibear type traps. (Common rat and mouse traps are not considered body-gripping traps.)
- Unless traps are checked and animals removed within 72 hours (kill traps).
- Unless animals captured in restraining traps (any nonkilling set) are removed within 24 hours of capture.
- Using game birds, game fish, or game animals for bait, except nonedible parts of game birds, game fish, or game animals may be used as bait. (The meat of furbearers is not considered edible.)
- Within thirty feet of any exposed meat bait or nonedible game parts which are visible to flying raptors.

**IDENTIFICATION OF TRAPS AND DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITIES.**—Trappers shall attach to the chain of their traps or devices a legible metal tag with either their WDFW identification number (trapper ID or Wild ID) or the name and address of the trapper in English letters not less than one-eighth inch in height. When a property owner, lessee, or tenant presents a trapper identification number to the WDFW and requests the identification of the trapper, the WDFW shall provide the requestor with the name and address of the trapper. After disclosing the trappers name, WDFW will also release the requesting individual's name and address to the trapper. It is unlawful to take a wild animal from another person's trap without permission, or to spring, pull up, damage, possess or destroy the trap; however, it is not unlawful for a person to remove a trap placed on property owned, leased, or rented by the person.

**SEALING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER.**—It is unlawful to possess or export from the state of Washington bobcat or river otter pelts taken in Washington without a Department identification seal attached. Bobcat and river otter pelts, on or off the carcass, must be sealed within 20 days after the close of the appropriate hunting or trapping seasons in which they were harvested. All bobcat and river otter pelts must be presented by the person harvesting them to an authorized Department employee or other authorized individual for sealing. Pelts must be presented in a way that the hide can be sealed. No frozen hides or carcasses will be accepted. To make sure office personnel are available for pelt sealing, hunters and trappers should contact a Department office prior to bringing in a bobcat or river otter.

**TRAPPER'S LICENSE AND PERMISSION TO TRAP ON PRIVATE LAND.**—A state trapping license allows the holder to trap furbearing animals throughout the state; however, a trapper may not place traps on private property without permission of the owner, lessee or tenant where the land is improved and apparently used, or where the land is fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders or to indicate a property boundary line, or where notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner.

**CLOSED AREAS** – Most public lands are open to trapping, but some areas may be closed. Closed areas include, but are not limited to state and national parks, most federal wildlife refuges and state game reserves. Trappers should check with land managers prior to trapping. Maps and legal descriptions of state game reserves can be found online at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/>. Legal descriptions of state game reserves are found in the Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Pamphlet and [Chapter 232-16](#) of the Washington Administrative Code.

**TRAPPER REPORT OF CATCH.**—All licensed trappers must report their trapping activity (regardless of success or whether they trapped or not) by April 20. Reports must be made using the Department's Trapper's Report of Catch form or online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/trapping/index.php>. If a trapper chooses to report using the Trapper's Report of Catch form, it is the responsibility of the licensed trapper to ensure the form is received (postmarked by April 20) by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091. Any trapper not reporting by April 20 will be in noncompliance of reporting requirements. False reports will be considered the same as noncompliance. Failure to report trapping activity is an infraction, punishable under RCW 77.15.160.

*This pamphlet is a summary of the trapping seasons and regulations (Chapters 232-12, 232-16 and 232-28 of the Washington Administrative Code) adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. This pamphlet does not contain nor is it intended to contain all Department regulations. Caution: Emergency regulation changes may occur while seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.*

