

Message from the Minister



Trapping is a long-standing tradition in Alberta, and fundamental to the economic, social and ecological history of the Province. It is a way of life that remains a vibrant part of our culture, which is so important to many of our rural communities and families across the province.

The Government of Alberta remains committed to an internationally recognized standard of ethical and humane trapping as part of a responsible and effective wildlife management strategy that supports the province's overall conservation efforts.

Trappers are important partners in conservation, as they help manage Alberta's furbearer populations and reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Active trappers are uniquely connected to our landscape and see changes to furbearer density, distribution and abundance before most people. Detailed information on effort and catch reported by trappers helps the province more accurately set quotas, ensuring sustainable harvest of target species.

The values of respect and stewardship are very closely held by those in the trapping community. These values help ensure that trapping activity in Alberta conforms to the highest ethical and humane standards and that international demand for Alberta's wild furs remains strong.

Please accept my best wishes for a safe and rewarding trapping season.

Sincerely,
Jason Nixon
 Minister of Environment and Parks



ATTENTION TRAPPERS

Subscribe today and save over 50% off the cover price

ALBERTA OUTDOORSMEN MAGAZINE

Featuring columns by Alberta Trappers
 Richard Mellon, Brian Bildson and Rob Miskosky.

Subscribe online at
albertaoutdoorsmen.ca
 or by calling 780-413-0331

Table of Contents

Important Information for 2019 – 2020	5
Definitions.....	5
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) Descriptions	5
Maps	5
Further Inquiries.....	6
Licensing Requirements	7
Registered Fur Management Licence	7
Fur Dealers	7
Resident Fur Management Licence.....	8
Indian Fur Management Licence	8
Métis Fur Management Licence	8
Trapper Education.....	8
Mandatory Requirements for First-Time Trappers.....	8
Trapping by Youths	8
Licence Fees.....	9
Code for Responsible Trapping	10
Humane Trapping	10
Agreement on International Humane	
Trapping Standards (AIHTS)	10
Certified Traps - AIHTS Implementation	10-12
Regulatory Requirements for the Use of Trapping Devices.....	13
Additional Regulations	13
Natural Areas and Ecological Reserves	13
Fur Handlers.....	13
Fur Management Zone Map.....	14
Furbearer Seasons	15
Black Bear Seasons and Baiting	15
Primeness of Pelts	16
Limits	18
Mandatory Registration	18
Fisher Head and Wolverine Carcass Collection Program.....	19
Sale of Wildlife.....	19
Exporting.....	19
Furbearer Management Registration Information	20
Trapping and Cougar Management	21
Control of Problem Wildlife	21
Best Trapping Practices.....	22-25
Release of Non-Target Species	25
Trapping in Protected Areas	26
Accidental Trapping.....	26
Diseases.....	26
Community Relations	26
Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program	28
Fur Institute of Canada.....	28

NOTE: This pamphlet is neither a legal document nor a complete listing of current Alberta trapping regulations. It is a summary of the Wildlife Regulation published to assist trappers to understand the rules of trapping. Details of the regulations may be obtained from the nearest district Fish and Wildlife office (see page 6) or by viewing the Wildlife Regulation at the Alberta Queens Printer website: www.qp.alberta.ca.

The *Alberta Guide to Trapping Regulations* is published annually by Alberta Environment and Parks. 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 Environment and Parks.

Pub. No. I/560 ● ISBN 978-1-4601-4144-1 (Printed Edition)
 ● ISBN 978-1-4601-4145-8 (Online Edition / PDF)
 ● ISSN 1489-4114 (Printed Edition) ● ISSN 2368-3643 (Online Edition)

Important Information for 2019 - 2020

- 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 (pages 10-12).
- Trappers are reminded that for the voluntary fisher collection program (see page 19) only the heads of fisher are currently being collected.
- First time trappers must successfully complete the Alberta Trapper Education Course. If you are interested in taking the Alberta Trapper Education Course, contact the Alberta Trappers

Association office in Westlock at (780) 349-6626, or visit <http://albertatrappers.com/trapper-courses.html> for a list of course locations and dates.

- Certified killing and restraining traps are now mandatory for Bobcat (see pages 11 and 12).
- Use of certified restraining traps for wolf and beaver (cages) will become mandatory in the fall of 2020 (see page 12).

Definitions

The following definitions will help you understand this Guide:

Fur Management Zone (FMZ) — Alberta is divided into eight (8) Fur Management Zones, based on similar environmental features. Season timing and length is established on the basis of these zones, reflecting differences in furbearer status, trapping pressure and seasonal pelt quality.

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 person with written permission from a Senior Holder (see Senior Holder definition) to trap on the Senior Holder's Fur Management Area. A partner must be a Resident and must obtain a licence. Partners who are first-time trappers must meet mandatory requirements, outlined on page 8, before their partnership agreement can be approved. For further information, contact the Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch (see page 6).

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 Policy Branch (see page 6).

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.

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 office (see page 6), online under Wildlife Regulation on the Alberta Queen's Printer website (www.qp.alberta.ca) or purchased from **The Alberta Queen's Printer** at the following address:

Alberta Queen's Printer
10611 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Telephone: (780) 427-4952

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

Maps

The Fur Management Zone map, on page 14 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.