

TRAPPING AND FURBEARER RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2020-2024

General Rule

- Proposing that Trapping and Furbearer Rule be a four-year rule.
- Mandatory trapper education. Every trapper purchasing a furbearer license will be required to pass a trapper education course. There will be three components offered: (1) A general trapper education course, (2) a NM specific rules and regulations section, and (3) a NM species identification course.
- Area Closures. Land sets will be prohibited on/within the following high recreational use areas:
 - o The Sandia Ranger District
 - o The eastern portion of the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument
 - o Forest Service lands within ½ mile of:
 - NM Hwy 475 (road to Ski Santa Fe) on the Santa Fe national Forest
 - NM Hwy 150 (road to Taos Ski Basin) on the Carson National Forest
- Setback Distances. The setback distance for land sets will be ½ mile from the following high recreational use features:
 - o Designated trailheads
 - o Designated and signed roadside rest areas
 - o Picnic areas
 - o Occupied dwellings (unless permitted by the occupant or set by the occupant)
 - o Established and maintained public campgrounds or boat-launching areas
- Bag limits
 - o Explicitly prohibit take of NM Threatened and Endangered Species
 - o Clarify that it is unlawful to intentionally take mink, river otter, black-footed ferret, coatimundi, or American marten
 - o Allow the director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson, to set a bag limit for a given species for one regulatory year
- Seasons
 - o Raccoon: Open the May 16 – August 31 season to restricted trap types (cage traps and foot-encapsulating/dog proof traps)
 - o Nutria (an invasive species): April 1 – March 31

Manner and Method

- Traps must be permanently marked or have a tag securely attached with the trapper's identification information
- Water sets. Require that water sets be fully in water. A water set for a body-grip trap with jaw spread between 8-12 inches must be submerged in water above the pivot point. A water set for a foothold trap must be fully submerged in water, and can have an inside jaw-spread no greater than 7.5 inches.
- Visible bait. No land set shall be placed within 30 feet of bait which is greater than two ounces in weight and visible to airborne raptors.

- Regulations on trap type, sizes, and modifications that align with Best Management Practices developed as a result of the Agreed Minute signed by the United States and the European Union to identify more humane traps and trapping methods include:
 - o Clarifications on foothold trap size restrictions and modification requirements. The following are illegal:
 - Land set foothold traps with an outside jaw-spread greater than 6.5 inches if un-laminated, or greater than 7 inches if laminated.
 - Foothold traps with an inside jaw spread greater than 5.5 inches that are not modified with a 3/16 inch offset or padded jaws.
 - o All foothold traps must have at least two separate swivel points, one of which must be within 6 inches of the trap.
- Break-away devices will be required for all snares set on land.
- All traps are required to have an anchoring or drag system that prevents a trapped animal from escaping with the trap.
- It is mandatory that trappers report any incidental wolf capture
- Prohibit use of poison for taking wildlife

These proposed changes will be updated and posted to the Department website as further details become available.

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please send an email to:

dgf-furbearer-rules@state.nm.us