

# Furbearers

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## Trapping Licenses

Resident and nonresident trappers and furbearer hunters must purchase a Trapper License, available online, by telephone, at NMDGF offices and license vendors. Trappers who do not report trapping results by April 7, 2017 will be rejected from the draw. An \$8 late fee will be charged to file results before a new Trapper License may be purchased.

New Mexico residents younger than 12 years of age do not require a license to trap protected and unprotected furbearers. New Mexico residents 12–17 years of age must purchase a Junior Trapper License to trap **protected furbearers**, however, to hunt a Hunter Education number is required (Mentored Youth number is not eligible.) No license is required for New Mexico residents to take **unprotected furbearers** (see 'Unprotected Furbearers' below).

Nonresidents who hunt protected furbearers or who trap protected and unprotected furbearers in New Mexico **must have a Nonresident Trapper License**. Nonresidents who hold a Nonresident Nongame License or any current New Mexico nonresident hunting license may use any legal sporting arm to hunt and possess coyote, prairie dog, rabbit or skunk, but may not set traps or snares unless they also have a Nonresident Trapper License. Nonresidents of states not allowing New Mexico residents to trap may not legally purchase a New Mexico Nonresident Trapper License.

For information and licenses, telephone: 1-888-248-6866.

License Fees:	Resident	Nonresident
Trapper License . . . . .	\$20 . . . . .	\$345
Junior Trapper License . . . . .	\$9 . . . . .	Not Issued

A Habitat Stamp is required on Forest Service and/or BLM lands. A Habitat Management & Access Validation also is required for Trapper Licenses, but not for Junior Trapper Licenses (page 8).

**Bag Limit:** There is no bag limit on any protected furbearer.

**Protected Furbearers:** Protected furbearers that may be taken during open season are raccoon, badger, weasel, fox, ringtail, bobcat, muskrat, beaver and nutria. **Taking of all other protected furbearers is prohibited.** These include, but are not limited to, mink, pine marten, river otter, black-footed ferret and coatimundi.

**Unprotected Furbearers:** Unprotected furbearers include coyote and skunk. There is no closed season or bag limit on unprotected furbearers or unprotected species (feral hogs).

**Legal Means of Harvest:** Furbearers may be taken with firearms, bow and arrows, crossbows, traps and snares. Calls (including mechanically or electronically recorded calling devices) are legal for hunting protected furbearers. Dogs may be used only during open trapping season for protected furbearers. There is no "pursuit or training season" other than the regular open season—except for raccoon (page 125).

**Trap Inspection:** A licensed trapper or his/her representative (agent) must personally visit and inspect each trap every calendar day and remove all wildlife. Every other calendar day all traps must be checked personally by the trapper.

### *Trap Inspection—continued.*

A release device or catch pole shall be carried to release domestic or nontarget animals. If wildlife is held captive in the trap, the trapper or agent(s) must remove the wildlife.

Each trapper will be allowed one or more agents, who must possess written permission from the trapper and a valid Trapper License. The permission must include the trapper's full name, address, Trapper License Number, Trapper Identification (ID) Number and general location or route of traps.

**Trap Tampering and Furbearer Removal:** It shall be illegal to destroy, disturb or remove any trap, snare or trapped wildlife belonging to a licensed trapper, without permission of the owner of the trap or snare—except from March 16–Oct. 31, when landowners may remove any trap or snare from their privately owned or leased land, provided such a trap or snare could endanger livestock. Domestic animals may be released from any trap at any time.

**Trap Identification:** For any trap or snare that reasonably could be expected to catch a protected furbearer, the following restrictions apply. Each trap or snare must be permanently marked with either the trapper's CIN (page 4), a Trapper ID number (previously issued by NMDGF) or the trapper's name and address. The trapper's identification information must be stamped on the bottom of the frame of the trap or on a metal tag which is riveted, welded or otherwise securely attached to the trap frame, chain or cable.

**Land Sets:** No foot-hold trap with an outside spread more than 7 inches, if laminated above the jaw surfaces, shall be used in making a land set. No tooth-jawed traps are permitted. Any foot-hold trap with an inside jaw spread 5½ inches or larger shall be offset, unless it has padded jaws.

No land set may be placed within one-quarter mile of a designated and signed roadside rest area, picnic area or an occupied dwelling, without the prior written permission of the occupant of the dwelling—except for land sets placed by the occupant/landowner on his/her own land. No land set shall be placed within one-half mile of an established and maintained public campground or boat-launching area. It is unlawful to make a land set within 25 yards of any public road or trail (including culverts or structures located beneath)—except on private land with written permission from the landowner. "Trail" shall mean: any path opened for public use and maintained annually with public funds or any path published on a map by a municipal, state or federal agency that is open for public travel. "Public road" shall mean: any thoroughfare constructed and annually maintained with public funds (regardless of whether it is currently open or closed to vehicular use) and any thoroughfare published on a map by a municipal, state or federal agency that is open for public travel. When a fence is present within 25 yards of the outside edge of a road, sets must be made on the side of the fence opposite the road.

No body-gripping trap with an inside jaw spread greater than 7 inches may be set on land. Body-gripping traps with inside jaw spreads of 6–7 inches set on land shall be used in conjunction with a cubby set, such that the trap trigger is recessed in the cubby at least 8 inches from an entrance.

**Water Sets:** No steel trap with an inside jaw spread larger than 7½ inches or body-gripping trap with a jaw spread larger than 12 inches shall be used in making a water set.

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**Visible Bait and Trap Flags:** It is illegal to place, set or maintain any steel trap or snare within 25 feet (visible from any angle) of bait that consists of the flesh, hide, fur, viscera or feathers from any animal—unless the trap or snare is used in conjunction with a cubby set—where the bait cannot be seen, except from a height of 3 feet or less above ground level and at a maximum distance of 25 feet. The bait must be inside the cubby, but the steel trap or snare may be outside. Bones that are entirely free of flesh, hide, fur or feathers may be used as visible bait. The restriction on visible bait shall not apply to a trap flag that is suspended above the ground and that is made from materials other than animal parts.

**Possession of Live Furbearers:** It is illegal to import and/or possess live protected furbearers in New Mexico. The director of NMDGF may issue a permit for retention of raccoons or other activity permitted by rule. Individuals must obtain a permit prior to possessing a live raccoon.

**No Trapping of Bear:** There are no open trapping seasons for bear. Livestock owners or others suffering depredation should call the nearest NMDGF area office for assistance (see page v).

**Cougar Trapping and Snaring:** Hunters with a valid cougar license may use traps or foot snares to harvest cougar on state trust land or private deeded land with written permission from the landowner (pages 117–120). Neck snares are not a legal method of take. **Foot snares are prohibited in GMU 27 and those portions of GMU 26 (San Luis Mountains) designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical habitat for jaguars.** Jaguar critical habitat area in GMU 26 can be viewed at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html> by clicking the "online mapper" link and entering 'San Luis Mountains' in the "Find address or place" search menu..

**Tagging Bobcat Pelts:** Any person taking a bobcat in New Mexico must present the pelt for tagging by April 14 or prior to leaving the state—whichever occurs first. Persons presenting a bobcat for tagging must display a current Trapper License (except residents 11 years of age or younger). Tags may be obtained from NMDGF regional offices (see page v, 'Regional Offices'). Pelts also may be tagged by New Mexico licensed furbearer dealers—following the policies established by NMDGF.

**No person shall transport across state lines, sell, barter or otherwise dispose of any bobcat pelt taken in New Mexico unless it has been properly tagged.** It is unlawful to present for tagging any bobcat pelt taken outside the State of New Mexico. It also is unlawful for licensed fur dealers to tag any bobcat contrary to this rule.

**Accidental Trapping of Protected Species:** If at anytime you trap a river otter, lynx, coatimundi, mink, pine marten or black-footed ferret, a federally protected bird, or a protected furbearer during closed season—you must release it. If you accidentally trap a Mexican gray wolf—follow the instruction provided on page 127. Trappers must carry a device for releasing nontarget animals. However, if the animal is badly injured and/or releasing it would be dangerous, NMDGF must be contacted as soon as possible. **Trappers will not be held criminally liable if a protected species is accidentally captured and they voluntarily report the event or release the animal.**

**Mandatory Harvest Reporting:** Whether or not the season was successful, reporting is required. Anyone licensed to take furbearers must report the results of his/her hunting and trapping seasons by April 7, 2017. Season results can be reported online and by telephone. Trappers who do not report trapping results by April 7, 2017 will be rejected from the draw. An \$8 late fee will be charged to file results before a new Trapper License may be purchased.

## What You Must Know Before You Hunt or Trap

**Closed Areas:** Los Alamos County, except the northern quarter and a strip along the west bank of the Rio Grande (north of Water Canyon from the Rio Grande to a line 1,000 feet below the canyon rim); the Valles Caldera National Preserve; portions of the Wild Rivers Recreation Area; Orilla Verde and Santa Cruz Lake recreation areas; the Valle Vidal and Greenwood Area; Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center; New Mexico state parks; national parks and monuments; national wildlife refuges and New Mexico State Game Commission-owned WMAs. Fort Bliss/McGregor Range only allows furbearer hunting and is closed to trapping. The Gila, Cibola, Lincoln and Apache Sitgreaves National Forests are all closed to beaver trapping.

## Seasons (Statewide)

**Badger, Weasel, Fox, Ringtail and Bobcat:** Nov. 1, 2017–March 15, 2018.

**Beaver, Muskrat and Nutria:** April 1–30, 2017 and Nov. 1, 2017–March 31, 2018.

**Raccoon Trapping and Hunting:** April 1–May 15, 2017 and Sept. 1, 2017–March 31, 2018.

**Raccoon Pursuit Only** (statewide): April 1, 2017–March 31, 2018.

## Raccoon Hunting with the Aid of Artificial Light

Only during raccoon trapping and hunting season, may raccoon hunters possessing a valid Trapper License hunt raccoons with the aid of artificial light. Artificial light must be a headlamp or handheld flashlight. Artificial light cannot be cast from a vehicle. Legal sporting arms are limited to a rimfire rifle or handgun no larger than .22 caliber, shotguns, bows and crossbows. Hunting any other furbearer with the aid of artificial light or after legal shooting hours is unlawful.



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## Know the Difference between Bobcat and Lynx



### Bobcat

- Underside of the tail is white to the tip.
- Ear tufts are less than 1 inch in length.
- Cheek tufts are not prominent.
- Brownish color with black spots (usually) on the belly.
- Total length from 25–37 inches.
- Feet appear small with no hair between pads.
- Track size is less than 2½ inches wide.



### Lynx

- Tail has a black tip and is not white underneath.
- Ear tufts are at least 1½ inches in length.
- Cheek tufts prominent.
- Grayish color with no spots on the belly
- Total length from 32–37 inches.
- Feet appear large with pads covered by hair.
- Track size is 3½–4½ inches wide.
- Stride length is 28 inches.