

# Furbearers

## Licenses

All trappers, both resident and nonresident, **MUST purchase their trapper license from a Department office or from the Department's website or via Form 3. Trappers who do not report their trapping results by the deadline of April 7, must still file and pay an \$8 late fee in order to purchase a trapper's license.**

Residents ages 12 to 17 who hunt or trap protected furbearers must purchase a Junior Trapper License. Residents age 18 or older who hunt or trap protected furbearers must buy a Trapper License. Residents need no license to take unprotected furbearers. See **Unprotected Furbearers** below. There is no closed season or bag limit on unprotected furbearers or unprotected species.

Nonresidents who trap protected or 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 firearms or bows to hunt for and possess coyote, rabbit, prairie dog or skunk, but may not set traps or snares unless they also have a nonresident Trapper License. Nonresidents should call any Department office for licenses.

## License Fees **Resident \$20 Nonresident \$345**

Nonresident Trapper Licenses are NOT available to residents of a state that does not permit a New Mexico resident to purchase a nonresident Trapper License. For more information, call any Department office.

Junior Trapper	Resident	Nonresident
(Residents age 12-17)	<b>\$9</b>	<b>Not Issued</b>

A Habitat Stamp is required for hunting, fishing and trapping on U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands and must be purchased separately. A Habitat Management and Access Validation must be purchased separately.

## 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. There are other protected furbearers, but their take is prohibited. These include, but are not limited to pine marten, river otter, black-footed ferret and coatimundi.

## Unprotected Furbearers

Unprotected furbearers are coyote and skunk.

## Legal Means of Harvest

Furbearers may be taken with dogs, firearms, bow and arrows, traps and snares. Calls, including mechanically or electronically recorded calling devices, are legal in hunting protected furbearers. Dogs may be used to take protected furbearers only during open trapping season. There is no "pursuit or training season" outside the regular open season except for raccoon. See **Seasons** on page 59.

## Trap Inspection

A licensed trapper or his representative (agent) must make a visual inspection of each trap every calendar day. All traps must be personally checked by the trapper every other calendar day and all wildlife removed.

A release device or catch pole shall be carried to release domestic animals, non target or undesirable 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 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 that from March 16 to November 1, a landowner may remove any trap or snare from privately owned or leased land if such a trap or snare could endanger livestock. Domestic animals may be released from any trap.

## Trap Identification

The following restrictions apply in the setting of any trap or snare that could reasonably be expected to catch a protected furbearer. Each trap or snare used to take furbearers must be permanently marked with either the user's name and address or Trapper ID number that is issued only by the Department. To get a free Trapper ID number, call the Department at (505) 476-8038. The identification number or name and address must be stamped on the bottom of the frame or included on a metal tag riveted, welded or otherwise securely attached to the trap frame, chain or cable.

## Land Sets

No foot-hold trap with an outside spread larger than 7 inches if laminated above the jaw surfaces or tooth-jawed traps, shall be used in making a land set. All foot-hold traps with an inside jaw spread equal to or greater than 5.5 inches shall be offset unless they have padded jaws.

No land set may be placed within one-quarter  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of a designated and signed roadside rest area, picnic area or an occupied dwelling without prior, written permission of the occupant of the dwelling, except for a land set placed by a landowner on his own land. No land set shall be placed within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of an established and maintained public campground, or boat-launching area. It shall be unlawful to make a land set within 25 yards of any public road or trail (including any culvert or structure located beneath it) except on private land with written permission from the landowner. "Trail" shall mean any path opened for public use and maintained annually by public funds or any path published on a map by a municipal, state or federal agency and open for public travel. "Public road" shall mean any thoroughfare that was constructed and annually maintained with public funds whether it is currently open or closed to vehicle use and any thoroughfare published on a map by a municipal, state or federal agency and open for public travel. When a fence is present within 25 yards of the edge of the road, sets may 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 between 6 and 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 7.5 inches or body-gripping trap with a jaw spread greater than 12 inches shall be used in making a water set.

## Visible Bait, Trap Flags

It shall be illegal to place, set or maintain any steel trap or snare within 25 feet of bait that is visible from any angle and that consist of the flesh, hide, fur, viscera, or feathers of any animal unless 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.

# Furbearers continued

## Possession of Live Furbearers

It is illegal to import into or possess protected furbearers in New Mexico. The Director of the Department may issue a permit for retention of raccoons or other activity permitted by rule. A person must receive a permit prior to possessing a raccoon.

## No Bear or Cougar Trapping

There are no open trapping seasons on bear or cougar. Livestock owners or others suffering depredation from bear or cougar should call the nearest Department Area Office for assistance. See page 3 for phone numbers.

## Tagging of Bobcat Pelts

Every person who takes a bobcat in New Mexico shall present the pelt for tagging in New Mexico prior to leaving the state or no later than April 14, annually. Every person who presents a bobcat for tagging shall display a current Trapper License (except residents 11 years of age or younger). Tags may be obtained from Department offices in Raton, Roswell, Las Cruces, Albuquerque and Santa Fe. In addition pelts may be tagged by New Mexico licensed furbearer dealers following policies set forth by the Department.

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 shall be unlawful to present for tagging, or to have tagged with a New Mexico tag, any pelt from a bobcat taken outside the state of New Mexico. It shall be unlawful for fur dealers to tag any bobcat contrary to this rule.

## Accidental Trapping of River Otters and Other Species

If you happen to trap a legally protected mammal (other than Mexican Gray Wolf, but including River Otter, Lynx, Coatimundi, Pine Marten or Black-footed Ferret) or bird or trap a protected furbearer during closed season, you must release it. Trappers must carry a device for release of non-target animals. If, however, it is badly injured or its release would be dangerous to accomplish, you must advise the Department as soon as possible. The Department will release the animal and, if necessary, treat its injuries.

Trappers will not be held criminally liable if they accidentally capture a river otter or other species. Any legally protected mammal inadvertently taken in a trap must be reported to the Department and released alive or turned over to the Department if dead.

## Mandatory Harvest Reporting

By Feb. 15, anyone who is licensed to hunt deer or elk must report the results of their hunting season. By April 7, anyone who is licensed to take furbearers, must report the results of their trapping or hunting season. This is true whether or not they hunted, trapped or harvested animals. Harvest reports filed after these deadlines will be charged \$8. Beginning Jan. 4, 2013, hunters and trappers may call (888) 248-6866 or anytime visit [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) to report their results.

Deer, elk and furbearer hunters and trappers who do not report, will be ineligible for ALL draw hunts, population management authorizations, private land authorizations or trapper licenses the following year.

## What You Must Know Before You Hunt or Trap

**Closed Areas:** All of **Los Alamos County** is closed to furbearer trapping 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** areas; **Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center**; **New Mexico state parks**; **national parks and monuments**; **national wildlife refuges** and **State Game Commission owned WMAs**. **Fort Bliss/McGregor Range** only allows furbearer hunting and is closed to trapping (see Military Reservations page 15). The **Gila**, **Cibola**, **Lincoln** and **Apache Sitgreaves** national forests are all closed to beaver trapping.

## Seasons

**Badger, Weasel, Fox, Ringtail and Bobcat**

Nov. 1, 2012 - March 15, 2013

**Beaver, Muskrat and Nutria**

April 1 - April 30, 2012 and Nov. 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

## Raccoon

**-Trapping and Hunting:** April 1-May 15, 2012 and Sept. 1, 2012-March 31, 2013, statewide.

**-Pursuit Only:** April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013, statewide.

**There is no open season on pine marten, river otter, black-footed ferret or coatimundi.**

## Know the Difference Between a Bobcat and a Lynx

### Bobcat

- Underside of tail is white all the way to the tip
- Ear tufts are under 1 inch long
- Cheek tufts are not prominent
- Brownish in color, usually black spots on the belly
- Total length is 25 to 37 inches
- Feet appear small with no hair between pads
- Track size is under 2.5 inches wide
- Stride length is 20 inches

### Lynx

- Tail has black tip, not white underneath
- Ear tufts are at least 1.5 inches long
- Cheek tufts are prominent
- Grayish color, no spots on the belly
- Total length is 32 to 37 inches
- Feet appear quite large, pads covered with hair
- Track size is 3.5 to 4.5 inches wide
- Stride length is 28 inches



This is a lynx. Note the long ear and cheek tufts, black-tipped tail, large fur-covered feet and no spots on the belly.