

## Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program

The Alberta Trappers' Compensation Program provides a framework to compensate operators (trappers) of Registered Fur Management Areas for trapping business losses related to industrial activity on Crown lands, and cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires.

A seven-member Board manages the program with members appointed from:

- Alberta Forest Products Association (AFPA)
- Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA)
- Alberta Treaty Indian Trapping Community
- Alberta Metis Trapping Community
- ATCO Electric
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)
- Independent Chairman selected by the stakeholders

In 1997, stakeholders in the program agreed that the Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA) would administer the program that was established by the Alberta government in 1981. Industry and government jointly share funding. The role of the Board is to:

- review program specifications and make recommendations to program participants for adjustments to compensation rates, payment schedules, etc.,
- review, adjust and settle trapper claims,
- mediate and resolve claim-related disputes,
- document undisputed claim settlements, and
- review fund status, financial statements, submit annual reports and make recommendations for disbursement of funds to settle claims.

The program recognizes claims in five (5) categories:

- Damage to trapper assets;
- Theft, vandalism, and arson;
- Temporary disruptions to normal trapping operations;
- Long-term loss of income caused by industrial disturbances;
- Cabins lost to naturally caused forest fires (funded by trappers).

For claims related to the damaged asset and temporary disruption categories, the trapper must first negotiate directly with the company responsible. Should this action fail, the claim must be submitted through a district Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5) to the Alberta Trappers' Compensation Board to receive consideration. All theft and vandalism must be promptly reported to the RCMP. A corresponding file number must then be provided to a Fish and Wildlife Officer who, in turn, forwards the claim to the Board. Requests for compensation must be made on the approved ATA Claim Form (ATA #02-01), available at district Fish and Wildlife Division offices, and include any attachments relevant to the claim. This may include:

- Photographs — especially for theft, vandalism, and arson, or trail disruptions, etc.;
- Description of equipment stolen and estimated value of items;
- Dates of disturbance and/or when discovered;
- Names of companies involved or others that can verify loss.

The Stakeholders [Alberta Trappers' Association (ATA), Alberta Forests Products Association (AFPA), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Atco Electric, and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)] meet annually to review the compensation program and to make the required changes to the memorandum of understanding (Policy and Procedures).

Trappers must cooperate with industry to ensure the success of the program. If you have any questions about this program, please contact a Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5) or the Alberta Trappers' Association, Box 6020, Westlock, Alberta T7P 2P7 (phone 780-349-6626 or fax 780-349-6634).

## Control of Problem Wildlife

Regulations allow landholders (residents only) to take immediate action to control some problem wildlife. The following privileges are beyond those permitted under fur management licences during the seasons set out on page 11.

Please contact your district Fish and Wildlife Division office when fur-bearers other than the species shown in this section are destroying property. A damage control licence may be necessary.

Section 38 of the *Wildlife Act* specifies that no person shall hunt wildlife or discharge firearms on or over occupied lands, or enter on such lands for the purpose of doing so without the consent of the owner or occupant.

**Beaver** may be hunted and trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with written permission from the owner or occupant of the land.

**Wolf**<sup>1</sup> may be hunted (but not trapped) without a licence during all seasons, as follows:

- on privately owned land by the owner or occupant of the land, or by a resident with permission from the owner or occupant.
- on public land by a person authorized to keep livestock on that land, or by a resident who has written permission from that authorized person.

The above authorities to hunt wolves extend to lands within 8 km (5 mi.) of the land described above, provided the authorized person or resident has right of access.

**Coyotes**<sup>1</sup> may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence, at all times of the year throughout the province:

- a) by a resident who has right of access to hunt on lands that are not public lands within the Green Area;
- b) by the owner or occupant of privately owned land, on the privately owned land;
- c) by a person maintaining livestock on public land, on that public land; or
- d) \*on lands described in c) that are in the Green Area, by a resident who is authorized in writing by the person described in c).

\* These pelts must be salvaged.

<sup>1</sup> For further information and other seasons regarding the hunting of wolf and coyote, please refer to the current *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations*.

**Red fox** may be hunted (but not trapped), without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

**Badger and Red Squirrel** may be hunted or trapped, without a licence and during all seasons, by a resident on privately owned land to which the resident has the right of access.

**Skunk and raccoon** may be hunted or trapped during all seasons by the owner or occupant of land, or by a person authorized by the owner or occupant, or by the holder of a licence authorizing the trapping of fur-bearing animals.

**Rabbit or hare** may be hunted (but not trapped), throughout the province, at any time of year, without a licence on land which the person has the right of access for hunting. A resident may use snares to take rabbit or hare, provided the snare meets the requirements set out on page 9.

**Bobcat** may be hunted (but not trapped) by a resident on land which the resident has the right of access for hunting in WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 112, 116, 118 and 119 and that part of WMU 110 east of Highway No. 2 and south of Highway No. 3 from November 1 to February 28.

## Community Relations

To foster and maintain good relations within their communities and to gain public support, trappers should:

- respect the rights and property of others;
- protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- help farmers and other landowners who are having problems with nuisance animals;
- encourage and support trapper education and public awareness programs;
- support trappers and other wildlife conservation organizations;
- support and cooperate with government wildlife agencies; and
- report illegal activities.

## Additional Information

Trappers are encouraged to:

- make sets that are designed to capture only the intended species of fur-bearer;
- make only as many sets as they can manage effectively;
- anchor traps or snares securely to hold the largest animal that they may catch; and
- install a centre-mounted, swivelling, short chain (no longer than 30 cm, or 12 in., equipped with a shock absorber) for land foothold trap sets that are solidly anchored.

## Accidental Trapping

Trappers **who accidentally take a fur-bearing animal during a closed season, after a quota has been filled or a species they are not licensed to trap**, are required to deliver it to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division district office as soon as possible (see page 5). The trapper will be required to complete a statutory declaration and the pelt will be registered and tagged. Circumstances will determine whether the animal may be returned to the trapper for sale purposes. The animal does not have to be skinned.

Swift Fox has been reintroduced into Fur Management Zone 8, and trappers are encouraged to take all reasonable care to prevent accidental capture, and to report any contact with this species. Injured swift fox should be immediately delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office, or a qualified veterinarian for care.

Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not fur-bearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division Office. In addition, permission must first be obtained from an officer to use such an animal as bait.

## Trapping in Protected Areas

In certain cases trapping is allowed within specific protected areas where this activity is not normally allowed. This may involve a Provincial Park or Recreation Area (or portions of such areas) that fall within an RFMA. If trapping is allowed in such an area individuals who wish to trap on those portions of the RFMA may be required to obtain a Firearms Carry and Discharge Permit from Alberta Parks. Please contact your local Alberta Parks Office to confirm if trapping is allowed in a protected area and if this permit is required.

## A Code for Responsible Trapping

During trapping operations, trappers should:

- show compassion for the animals they capture;
- develop skills so that furs are properly prepared for market;
- know and practice proper releasing and killing methods;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of fur-bearers;
- dispose of animal carcasses properly; and
- report the presence of diseased animals to a district Fish and Wildlife Division office.

## Fur Institute of Canada



The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) is a non-profit organization, established in 1983 on the initiative of the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Wildlife Ministers, to pursue the work of the Federal-Provincial Committee For Humane Trapping. The Institute is an umbrella organization for the Canadian fur industry and its mandate ensures that all sectors are represented, particularly on the Board of Directors.

The overall mission of the FIC is to promote the sustainable and wise use of Canada's fur resources. The Institute supports the following values:

- The sustainable use and conservation of renewable resources;
- The continued improvement of animal welfare through ongoing research and the development of national and international trapping standards;
- The conservation and management of natural resources based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge;
- Professionalism through continued education, licensing and research;
- Respect for people, animals and the environment;
- Respect for tradition, heritage and culture;
- Respect for the right of Aboriginal people to pursue their aboriginal and treaty rights.

Five operational committees develop programs and deliver project activities within the structure of the Institute. These programs are trap research and development, communications, sealing, aboriginal communications and international relations and conservation.

The Fur Institute of Canada is committed to delivering information to the media, the general public and governments pertaining to the economic, social, cultural and environmental contributions made by today's fur trade.

For further information, contact the Fur Institute of Canada

- by mail: Suite 701, 331 Cooper Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G5
- by telephone: 613-231-7099
- by fax: 613-231-7940
- by e-mail: [info@fur.ca](mailto:info@fur.ca)
- visit website: [www.fur.ca](http://www.fur.ca)

## Diseases

Diseases and parasites are normal parts of the life of a fur-bearer. Usually, they are not a problem either for the fur-bearer or for the person trapping an infected animal. Indeed, most parasites and diseases go completely unnoticed by trappers. However, there are situations where an animal may be infected with a disease that can be transferred to people. Such diseases are most often caused by bacteria and can be recognized readily by the presence of small white spots in the liver and spleen of an infected fur-bearer. Such animals should be handled carefully (preferably with gloves on). Any person who handles wildlife and then has persistent "flu-like" symptoms or redness, swelling, heat or pain in hands or arms should contact a medical doctor. Remember to tell the doctor the person has handled wildlife.

Carcasses from all fur-bearers suspected of being diseased should be submitted for examination to the nearest district Fish and Wildlife Division office (see page 5).

## Campfires

### Summer or Winter

## Make Sure Your Fire Is Out!

Nearly half of the forest fires in Alberta are caused by people. Nobody means to start a forest fire and most never know the blaze was a result of their carelessness. Campfires built in a poor location, left unattended or not completely extinguished can cause forest fires. Even when there's water nearby or snow on the ground!

Make sure your fire is out and if you see smoke or fire in a forested area, call the hot line —

**310-FIRE**

**Call Collect Call Immediately**

# TRAPPER BULLETIN

## RELEASE OF NON-TARGET SPECIES

Trapping has been a part of Alberta's heritage for over a century. People across the province are involved in trapping as licenced Registered or Resident trappers and harvest over \$2 million in fur each year. All trappers in Alberta must meet mandatory requirements to obtain a licence including either having passed a test which deals with humane trapping and fur management, or have completed a Trapper Education course.

### A Code for Responsible Trapping

During trapping operations, trappers should:

- show compassion for the animals they capture;
- develop skills so that furs are properly prepared for market;
- record all trap-set locations and captures of fur bearers;
- carefully select trap-set locations to reduce capture of non-target species;
- report the presence of diseased animals to a Fish and Wildlife Division district office; and
- know and practice proper killing and releasing methods.

Trappers should be prepared to release non-target animals that are not seriously injured. Carefully assess the risk factors involved in releasing an animal or bird to ensure personal safety and the welfare of the animal or bird.

### Methods of releasing animals include:



#### Using a forked stick

- position the stick around the animal's neck and apply only enough pressure to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.



#### Using a snare pole

- the noose of the snare pole is slipped over the animal's jaws or neck and tightened to immobilize the animal.
- the capture device can then be released from the animal.

#### Using a tarp, coat or blanket

- this method is especially useful for releasing small animals or birds, particularly Birds of Prey.
- the material should be large and strong enough only to immobilize the animal or bird without harm.
- once immobilized, the animal or bird can be released from the capture device.

*Trappers who accidentally capture any wildlife that are not furbearing animals are reminded to report the incident as soon as practical to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division Office. Accidental captures of Birds of Prey, i.e. Eagles, or Endangered Species such as Swift Fox that cannot be readily released due to injury should be delivered to the nearest Fish and Wildlife Division office or a qualified veterinarian for care.*