

# TRAPPING REGULATIONS

## REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2022-2024

1. New online trapping harvest reporting system.
2. Fisher trapping seasons in Regions 3, 5, 7A, and portions of Region 6 have been closed.
3. Prohibition on setting a snare within 10 m of any bait in Region 5.
4. Revisions to compulsory inspection and reporting requirements for furbearers trapped during an open season, and when trapped at a time not within an open season.
5. Compulsory inspection for bobcat and lynx in Region 5 and 8.
6. New certified traps for beaver, raccoon, and wolf.

## DEFINITIONS

**EGG TRAP** - means a holding device set in a manner to capture a raccoon by a front paw.

**FOOT SNARE** - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the foot or leg.

**FURBEARING ANIMAL OR FURBEARER** - means any fox, beaver, marten, fisher, lynx, bobcat, mink, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel (excluding ground squirrels), weasel (least, short-tailed, and long-tailed), wolverine, wolf, coyote, and black bear.

**KILLING SNARE** - means a snare that is designed to capture the animal for which it is set by the neck.

**KILLING TRAP** - means a trap or trapset that is designed to kill an animal.

**FOOT-HOLD TRAP** - means a trap or device, other than a snare, which is set in such a way as to capture the animal for which it is set by the leg or foot.

**MODIFIED FOOT-HOLD TRAP** - means a trap which has a minimum space of 5 mm between the jaws of the trap when in the closed position, or has manufactured pads of a rubber-like substance fastened to the trap jaws, or has lamination of the trap jaws to increase the surface area of the jaw face.

**TRAPPING** - means the act of setting or placing a trap in an operative condition or killing by the use of a firearm.

## BC FUR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- » In British Columbia, some 1,200 trappers actively manage furbearing animal species, following standards, legislation, and regulations developed by the Ministry of Forests. About half of the province's trappers are Indigenous.
- » The Fur Management Program includes:
  - The BC Trappers Association's (BCTA) Trapper Education Program courses for new and experienced trappers.
  - The "Furbearer Management Guidelines" available for beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, river otter, weasel, wolf, and wolverine. These guidelines outline the role that trappers can play in the wise management of these species. The guidelines can be found on the Trapping in B.C. website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping).

## REGULATING HARVEST

- » In general, trapping seasons have been developed by considering a variety of criteria including pelt primeness, relative vulnerability of age and sex classes to harvesting, abundance, and capture technology.
- » The registered trapline system continues to be the primary system for setting harvest guidelines and managing furbearing animals. Harvest levels are

guided by species management strategies, with furbearers being divided into three classes:

**CLASS 1 SPECIES** - can be managed on individual traplines. This class includes beaver, fox, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, and weasel.

**CLASS 2 SPECIES** - move between and among traplines and thus are not manageable on individual traplines. Harvests will be regulated regionally, in consultation with local trappers. This class includes lynx, bobcat, wolverine, fisher, and river otter.

**CLASS 3 SPECIES** - also move between and among traplines, but generally are not vulnerable to over-trapping. This class includes the wolf and coyote. Trappers will be encouraged to trap these species, especially in areas of chronic animal damage control problems.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS & INFORMATION

### CHECKING TRAPS

- » A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap commits an offence by failing to examine:
  - (a) every 72 hours, every holding or non-killing trap, except an egg trap, set by that licence holder, (b) every 24 hours, every egg trap set by that licence holder, and (c) every 14 days, every killing trap or killing snare set by that licence holder.
- » A holder of a licence, permit or other authorization to trap on private property commits an offence unless the person examines the holding or non-killing traps the person has set on private property at least once every 24 hours.
- » It is an offence to trap a furbearing animal, and if the animal is alive when the trap is checked, fail to immediately release or kill the animal.
- » Except as authorized by regulation, it is an offence to trap a furbearing animal, and if the animal is alive, to transport it to another area and release it without a permit.

### USE OF FIREARMS

- » It is an offence to trap wildlife using a firearm from one hour after sunset on any day until one hour before sunrise on the day following, unless using a firearm to kill a furbearing animal caught in a trap on a registered trapline.

### TRAPPING NEAR A DWELLING OR ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

- » It is an offence to trap within 200 m of a dwelling, unless you use:
  - a live box trap or egg trap, or if trapping on or in water,
  - a Conibear trap not larger than size #330 or equivalent, or
  - foot-hold traps not larger than size #2, or
  - sub-marine traps.
- » It is an offence to trap on private property without a trapping licence and the written permission of the property owner.

### REMOVAL OF FURBEARER HIDES

- » It is an offence to hunt and kill a furbearer, other than a black bear, and fail to remove either the hide or the edible portions to the person's normal dwelling place, taxidermist, tanner, fur trader, meat cutter or the owner or operator of a cold storage plant. For black bear the edible portions must be removed.

### USE OF ROAD-KILL WILDLIFE

- » Trappers may pick up and transport any dead mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, or any wildlife listed in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) if:
  - (a) the wildlife is dead as a result of colliding with a motor vehicle, other than a motor vehicle operated by the trapper;

- (b) the meat of the wildlife is unfit for human consumption;
  - (c) the carcass of the wildlife is to be used only
    - (i) by the trapper, and
    - (ii) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption; and
  - (d) at the time of possession and transportation, the trapper has, on their person, the trapper's current trapping licence or proof of the trapper's licence exemption.
- » Trappers who pick up road-kill wildlife to use as bait must, within 30 days of picking up the road-kill, complete a "Trapper Road-kill Possession Report Form" (available at any regional office, Service BC office, or on the Ministry website: [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping) and submit it to the address shown on the form.
- » Trappers must retain a copy of every completed Trapper Road-kill Possession Report Form for at least 2 years after the date of pick up of the road-kill described on the form.

## BAIT FOR TRAPLINES

- » Trappers may keep the carcass of a beaver, coyote, fox, marmot (except Vancouver Island Marmots), mink, mole, muskrat, river otter, squirrel (ground, flying, Douglas, red), weasel (least, short-tailed, and long-tailed), or wildlife described in Schedules B or C (see the "What is Wildlife?" section for current schedules) trapped out of season if:
  - (a) the wildlife carcass is to be used only by the trapper, and
  - (i) as bait for traps set under the authority of the trapper's licence or licence exemption, and
  - (b) at the time of possession and transport, the trapper has, on their person,
    - (i) their current trapping licence or proof of licence exemption, and
    - (ii) a permit issued under section 2(c)(iii) of the Permit Regulation, BC Reg. 253/2000, permitting them to trap that wildlife during the closed season.

## COLLARED, IMPLANTED OR EAR-TAGGED FURBEARING ANIMALS

- » Several furbearing animal research projects are under way within the province. Please report the harvest of any collared, implanted or ear-tagged animal and return collars or implants to the nearest Ministry regional office. Radio-collars and implants are property of the Crown and must be returned.

## TRAPLINE CABINS

- » Trappers must register their trapline cabins that are on Crown land. Cabin applications may take six months or more to process. Contact the Ministry regional office in the area of the trapline for more information. See below for more information on trapline cabins in parks.

## ECOLOGICAL RESERVES, PROVINCIAL PARKS, & RECREATION AREAS

- » Trapping within ecological reserves is prohibited.
- » Registered trapline tenure within Provincial Parks is subject to the provisions of the *Park Act* and its regulations. Trappers are required to obtain a Park or Resource Use Permit to trap that part of their trapline occurring within a Provincial Park or Recreation Area. This permit can be obtained from FrontCounter BC (see page 18).
- » Trapline cabins in Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas also require authorization by a Park Use or a Resource Use Permit.

## ON-LINE LICENSED TRAPPING HARVEST REPORT

The Ministry of Forests has introduced the online Trapping Harvest Report, starting for the 2021/2022 trapping licence year.

Licensed trappers must submit a trapping harvest report each trapping licence year (July 1 to June 30). The report is due 31 days after the end of the licence year (by July 31st). A trapper can submit one report at the end of the year, or multiple reports throughout the year. All trapping activity must be reported by July 31st following the end of the trapping licence year. A report is required even if no harvest occurred.

Licensed trappers who do not submit all their trapping activity by July 31st following the licence year will not be able purchase a licence, permit, limited entry hunting application or guide territory certificates under the *Wildlife Act* until a report is submitted. Licensed trappers may also be charged with a \$230 fine if a report is not submitted by the deadline.

The first Trapping Harvest Report deadline is July 31, 2022 for all licensed harvest from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Trappers can submit their report:

- Online through the WILD system, or
- By submitting a completed report form (available online) to any FrontCounter BC office.

Information required on the report includes:

- Trapper's Fish & Wildlife ID (FWID)
- Management Unit
- Trapping licence number
- Month
- Trapline number or private property
- Sex and quantity harvested
- Species
- Park name and Park Use Permit, if applicable

Additional information on how to submit a report is available on the Trapping in BC website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/trapping-in-bc/trapping-reporting>.

Compulsory Reporting and Compulsory Inspection of furbearers is still required.

Permit holders do not report their permit trapping activities in the Trapping Harvest Report. Permit holders will continue to report as required under their permit.

Individuals who are exempt from holding a trapping licence in B.C. are not required to report but a voluntary reporting option is provided.

### TRAPLINE REGISTRATION USE & RELINQUISHMENT

- » It is an offence to set a trap for, hunt, kill, take or capture a furbearing animal in any area of the province unless you are the registered holder of the trapline for that area or are authorized by regulation or permit.
- » Registration of a trapline on Crown land may only be granted to a person 19 years of age or older who is a citizen of Canada or has the status of a permanent resident of Canada.
- » No more than one trapline shall be registered to a person unless traplines are adjoining, and a fur management plan is approved by the Regional Manager.
- » Registration of a trapline does not:
  - give the holder of a trapline any proprietary rights in wildlife, or
  - restrict the rights of another person to hunt or capture wildlife where authorized by regulation or permit.
- » The boundaries of a trapline are defined by the Regional Manager.
- » The relinquishment or transfer of a trapline must be approved by the Regional Manager.
- » No person shall continue to hold a registered trapline unless the person:
  - renews the person's licence,
  - carries on active trapping on the person's registered trapline to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager,
  - obtains permission from the Regional Manager to temporarily discontinue the use of the person's registered trapline for a period not exceeding two years, or
  - uses or causes the use of the person's trapline by a licensed trapper or a person exempted from holding a licence.
- » A person fails to use a trapline where, within a year, that person fails to take from the trapline furbearing animals of a value of \$200, or 50 pelts, except where it is unreasonable for that value of animals or number of pelts to be taken from the trapline.
- » The Province reserves the right to remove nuisance animals from Crown land, whether or not the Crown land in question is under a trapline registration.

### OTHER RESTRICTIONS & INFORMATION

- » The Assigned Trapper Number (ATN) is required by the Fur Trader when accepting, exporting and selling fur. It is also required when paying fur royalties. Please remember to write your ATN on a slip of paper or letter when shipping your fur to a fur trader. This will prevent delays in getting your furs to market and cash returns to you. Fur traders cannot ship or sell fur without recording your ATN.
- » You are reminded that, under Sections 247 and 446 of the Criminal Code of Canada, it is an offence for anyone to wilfully cause, or permit to be caused, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal or injury to a person.
- » A person who knowingly damages or interferes with a lawfully-set trap commits an offence.
- » It is an offence to have live wildlife in your personal possession except under a licence or permit or as provided by regulation. A trapping licence does NOT authorize the possession of live wildlife.
- » Any raw fur or skin of a furbearing animal shipped out of the province for commercial purposes must be accompanied by an Export Permit.
- » Trappers possessing furbearers harvested in Region 6, who must drive through the Yukon and back into B.C. in order to submit the animal for Compulsory Inspection, are exempt from obtaining an export permit for this purpose.
- » When trapping near recreational areas or communities, trappers should evaluate whether lethal traps are necessary at the site. It is important to remember that the landscape is utilized by a number of different user groups and that the safety of non-target species is vital to good trapline management. Warning signs should be used to inform people of trapping activities.

### HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

- » Canada is a signatory to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards which serves to ensure only certified traps that meet or exceed specific animal welfare thresholds are used to trap specific furbearers. Currently, a person using killing traps for beaver, bobcat, fisher, lynx, marten, muskrat, river otter, raccoon, and weasels, or

restraining traps for beaver (cage traps), bobcat, lynx, and wolf is required, by law, to use only species-specific traps included in B.C.'s trapping regulations which have been certified under the Agreement; see pages 74-75 for the list of traps. For more information on the Agreement please consult the Ministry's website at [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping).

### COMPULSORY REPORTING & INSPECTION

- » A person must promptly report to an officer when they accidentally kill or wound wildlife.
- » In order to better record the harvest of furbearing animals, in addition to the online Trapping Harvest Report (see above), certain species must be reported or submitted to a Ministry office. The information gathered is critical to the management of these populations, and trapper compliance is needed to ensure that seasons are properly set. Please review the following requirements and keep accurate records pertaining to them.

### COMPULSORY REPORTING

- » Trappers must, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season, report the harvest of:
  - **fisher** in all MUs when trapped in a fisher open season;
  - **wolverine** in regions 5, 6, 7A, and 7B;
  - **bobcat** in region 2; and
  - **wolf** in region 1 and MUs 2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16.
- » Compulsory Reporting forms are available at any Ministry regional office and [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping). Reporting may be done by mail (to the address on the form), phone or in person.
- » When reporting, please give the following information:
  - name, address and Assigned Trapper Number,
  - location and date of kill,
  - type of trap and set used,
  - number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
  - the sex and age class of the animal.

## COMPULSORY INSPECTING

### Furbearers Trapped Outside of an Open Season:

- » Trappers must submit the carcass and pelt of furbearers that are killed incidentally in areas or times with no open season.
- » Fishers must be submitted within 30 days of the kill date.
- » All other incidentally trapped furbearers must be submitted by June 30 of the licence year that the furbearer was killed.
- » These animals cannot be reclaimed by the trapper and may be donated by the Province to the Trapper Education Program.

### Furbearers Trapped During an Open Season:

- » Trappers must submit the pelt of the following species trapped in the described region/MU, to a Compulsory Inspection center, within 15 days following the end of the trapping season:
  - **wolverine** in region 3;
  - **lynx** in regions 4, 5, and 8, and
  - **bobcat** in regions 4, 5, and 8.
- » Trappers must provide the following to the Compulsory Inspection center:
  - name, address and Assigned Trapper Number,
  - location and date of kill,
  - type of trap and set used,
  - number of days the trap was set before the animal was killed, and
  - the sex and age class of the animal.

## LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES

- » Applications for trapping licences are available through the FrontCounter BC website at [portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca](http://portal.nrs.gov.bc.ca). For assistance with your application please contact FrontCounter BC at 1-877-855-3222. (See Wildlife Permits & Commercial Licences article, page 18.)
- » The fees payable for the issuance of the following licences are:
  1. For a trapping licence issued to a citizen or permanent resident of Canada to trap furbearing animals (includes Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation surcharge)  
One Year Licence...\$40.00  
Five Year Licence...\$200.00
  2. For a duplicate licence to a person who, upon satisfactory proof, shows that their licence has been lost or destroyed...\$10.00
  3. To transfer registered trapline rights to a person or group of persons...\$50.00
  4. For a fur trader's licence...\$100.00
  5. For a fur trader to trade from a place of business in another province...\$400.00

**Note:** Trapping licences are valid from the date of issuance to June 30.

## FUR ROYALTY REGULATIONS

- » Royalty must be paid by a person to keep the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal (not raised in captivity) lawfully taken under their TRAPPING licence, unless that person sells the pelt or skin to a licensed fur trader.
- » Royalty fee payments may be submitted by mail or courier with cheque (payable to The Minister of Finance), money order or credit card to any FrontCounter BC location (see page 18).
- » If the pelt or skin of a furbearing animal was lawfully taken under a person's HUNTING licence, a

royalty does not need to be paid, unless that person intends to offer the pelt or skin for sale.

## FUR ROYALTIES

- » Royalty payments for pelts/skins is set at 3% of the average price paid at auction for the pelt or skin of the particular species over the preceding three years.
- » Royalty values vary from year to year, and generally range from between \$0.25 to \$10 per pelt, depending on the species.
- » Because royalties vary from year to year, they are not included in this two year synopsis. Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping) for the current year fur royalties.

## TRAPPER EDUCATION PROGRAM

- » British Columbia is committed to regulating humane traps as they become available and ensuring that trappers are educated in the use of those traps. All trappers have a responsibility to ensure they are trained and use the most humane traps available, that furbearing animals in their trapping areas are managed wisely, and pelts are handled professionally.
- » It is an offence to trap unless you have completed a Trapper Education Program (TEP) approved by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Branch. Approved TEP courses include those obtained in British Columbia since July 1, 1982; from Quebec since July 1, 1988; and from the Yukon, Alberta and Ontario since July 1, 1989.
- » In cooperation with the Ministry, the BC Trappers Association (BCTA) delivers the 3-day TEP course.
- » Instructors are located around the Province. The demand for TEP courses continues to be high and the delivery of a course is subject to instructor availability.
- » If you are interested in TEP, and want more information on the course, including costs and course dates, please see the BCTA website at [www.bctrappers.ca](http://www.bctrappers.ca), or contact:

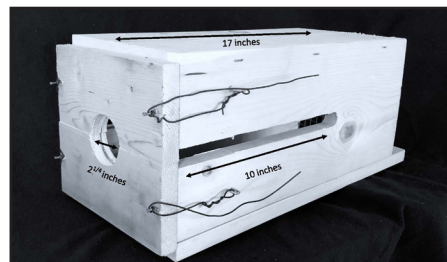
**BC Trappers Association**  
PO Box 1063  
Prince George BC V2L 4V2  
**Phone:** 250-962-5452  
**Fax:** 250-962-5462  
**Email:** [info@bctrappers.ca](mailto:info@bctrappers.ca)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT FISHERS

- » There is concern for fisher populations in areas of the Thompson, Cariboo, Omineca, and Skeena Regions that have experienced large habitat changes due to forest harvest and salvage of beetle and fire-killed forests. In addition, genetic information indicates that fishers in these dry interior forests are a unique and separate population from those in B.C.'s boreal forest.
- » In February 2020, the BC Conservation Data Centre completed a status re-assessment for fisher, elevating the Columbian population to red-listed (i.e., endangered) while the Boreal population remains blue-listed (i.e., of concern). The primary rationale for the change includes low population numbers coupled with declining trends due to habitat loss. Where habitats are compromised, trapping poses a compounding threat to population persistence.
- » **Fisher trapping seasons in Regions 3, 5, 7A, and portions of Region 6 have been closed. See page 76 for further details on fisher trapping seasons.**
- » All fishers trapped during an open season must be Compulsory Reported, and those incidentally

trapped in areas or at times with no open season must be Compulsory Inspected (see Compulsory Reporting and Inspection requirements, page 72).

- » Trappers are strongly encouraged to use a Fisher Exclusion Box when marten trapping in areas where there is a chance of incidentally trapping fishers.
- » Exclusion boxes must include an entry hole ≤56 mm (2¼") in diameter and have a distance between the trap and entry hole 10" or longer (see diagram below). These modifications still allow martens to access the trap. For more information on fisher exclusion boxes, including specifications and assembly, please visit [www.gov.bc.ca/trapping](http://www.gov.bc.ca/trapping).
- » For more information of fishers and their habitat, please visit [www.bcfisherhabitat.ca](http://www.bcfisherhabitat.ca).



*Marten box modified for fisher exclusion. The exclusion plate is held in place with wire and splits in the middle to allow for extraction of an animal.*

## IT'S UNLAWFUL

### You should know that it is unlawful to:

- » In Region 5, to set a snare within 10 m of where bait is placed.
- » Use a foot-hold trap which has teeth or other projections on the jaws of the trap.
- » Use a killing snare on land, unless the snare is equipped with a locking device, or is designed to catch squirrels or hares, or is a mechanically-powered killing snare.
- » Use a snare made of wire heavier than 20 gauge unless licenced or authorized to trap.
- » Use a snare made of braided wire unless licenced or authorized to trap.
- » Set spring poles or running poles unless they are equipped with a killing trap.
- » Use a trap equipped with a spearing device.
- » Use any Conibear trap larger than, but not including, #220 for land sets within any municipality in the Province.
- » Use a rat trap unless the bait and trigger are completely covered, with an opening not larger than 4.5 cm wide and 5 cm high.
- » Trap with a rifle using a full metal jacketed non-expanding bullet, or a tracer, incendiary, or explosive bullet, or with a shotgun using a tracer or incendiary shot shell.
- » Use electronic or recorded calls for trapping furbearing animals other than for trapping wolf, coyote, bobcat or lynx.
- » Cause or allow dogs to pursue furbearers under the authority of a trapping licence.

SPECIES	CERTIFIED KILLING TRAPS		
<b>BEAVER</b> Underwater or on land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Classique 330</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 280</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 330</li> <li>• B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 330 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. BT 300</li> <li>• Bridger 330</li> <li>• Duke 280</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duke 330</li> <li>• LDL C280</li> <li>• LDL C280 Magnum</li> <li>• LDL C330</li> <li>• LDL C330 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 280</li> <li>• Rudy 330</li> <li>• Sauvageau 1000-11F</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-8</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-11</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-12</li> <li>• Species-Specific 330 Dislocator Half Magnum</li> <li>• Species-Specific 440 Dislocator Half Magnum</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330</li> </ul>
<b>BOBCAT and LYNX</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 280</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 330</li> <li>• B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 220 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 280 Magnum Body Gripper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bridger 220</li> <li>• Bridger 280 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Duke 280</li> <li>• LDL C220</li> <li>• LDL C220 Magnum</li> <li>• LDL C280 Magnum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDL C330</li> <li>• LDL C330 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 330</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-8</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-11</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330</li> </ul>
<b>FISHER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 120</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 160</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 220</li> <li>• Koro #2</li> <li>• LDL C160 Magnum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDL C220 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 120 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 160 Plus</li> <li>• Rudy 220 Plus</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-6</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-7</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-8</li> </ul>
<b>MARTEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 120</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 160</li> <li>• B.M.I. 126 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• LDL B120 Magnum</li> <li>• LDL C160 Magnum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Koro #1</li> <li>• Koro #2</li> <li>• Northwoods 155</li> <li>• Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Magnum Stainless Steel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rudy 120 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 160 Plus</li> <li>• Sauvageau C120 Magnum</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-5</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-6</li> </ul>
<b>MUSKRAT</b> On land only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 110</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 120</li> <li>• B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper Magnum</li> <li>• B.M.I. 126 Body Gripper Magnum</li> <li>• Bridger 120</li> <li>• Bridger 120 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Bridger 155 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Duke 120</li> <li>• Koro Muskrat Trap</li> <li>• Koro Large Rodent Double spring</li> <li>• LDL B120</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDL B120 Magnum</li> <li>• Oneida Victor 120 Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Oneida Victor Conibear 110-3 Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Oneida Victor Conibear 110-3 Magnum Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Oneida Victor Conibear 120-3 Magnum Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Ouell 411-180</li> <li>• Ouell RM</li> <li>• Rudy 110</li> <li>• Rudy 120</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rudy 120 Magnum</li> <li>• Sauvageau C120 Magnum</li> <li>• Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend"</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-5</li> <li>• Triple M</li> <li>• WCS SHORTY Tube Trap</li> <li>• WCS Tube Trap International</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120</li> </ul>
<b>MUSKRAT</b> Underwater only	• Any jaw type trap (body gripping or foot-hold) set as a submersion set that exerts clamping force on a muskrat and that maintains this animal underwater.		
<b>OTTER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 220</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 280</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 330</li> <li>• LDL C220</li> <li>• LDL C220 Magnum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDL C280 Magnum</li> <li>• Rudy 220 Plus</li> <li>• Rudy 280</li> <li>• Rudy 330</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-8</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-11</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-12</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 280</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 330</li> </ul>
<b>RACCOON</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Classique 220</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 160</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 220</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 280</li> <li>• B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper</li> <li>• B.M.I. 280 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Bridger 160</li> <li>• Bridger 220</li> <li>• Bridger 280 Magnum Body Gripper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duke 160</li> <li>• Duke 220</li> <li>• Koro #2</li> <li>• LDL C160</li> <li>• LDL C160 Magnum</li> <li>• LDL C220</li> <li>• LDL C220 Magnum</li> <li>• LDL C280 Magnum</li> <li>• Northwoods 155</li> <li>• Oneida Victor C-220 Stainless Steel</li> <li>• Rudy 160</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rudy 160 Plus</li> <li>• Rudy 220</li> <li>• Rudy 220 Plus</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-6</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-7</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-8</li> <li>• Species-Specific 220 Dislocator Half Magnum</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 160</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220</li> </ul>
<b>WEASEL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bélisle Super X 110</li> <li>• Bélisle Super X 120</li> <li>• B.M.I. #60</li> <li>• B.M.I. 120 Body Gripper Magnum</li> <li>• B.M.I. 126 Body Gripper Magnum</li> <li>• Bridger 120</li> <li>• Bridger 120 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Bridger 155 Magnum Body Gripper</li> <li>• Koro Muskrat Trap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Koro Rodent Trap</li> <li>• Koro Large Rodent Double Spring</li> <li>• LDL B120 Magnum</li> <li>• Ouell 3-10</li> <li>• Ouell 411-180</li> <li>• Ouell RM</li> <li>• Rudy 120 Magnum</li> <li>• Sauvageau 2001-5</li> <li>• Sauvageau C120 Magnum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend"</li> <li>• Triple M</li> <li>• Victor Rat Trap</li> <li>• WCS Tube Trap Int'l</li> <li>• WCS SHORTY Tube Trap</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 110</li> <li>• Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 120</li> </ul>



SPECIES	CERTIFIED RESTRAINING TRAPS		
BEAVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breathe Easy Live Beaver Trap</li> <li>Dam Beaver Live Beaver Trap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comstock 12 X 18 X 39 Swim Through Beaver Cage</li> <li>Ezee Set Live Beaver Trap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hancock Live Beaver Trap</li> <li>Koro "Klam" Live Beaver Trap</li> </ul>
BOBCAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bélisle Footsnare #6</li> <li>Bélisle Sélectif</li> <li>Oneida Victor #1.5 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #1.75, offset, laminated jaws equipped with 2 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 equipped with 3/16-inch offset, double rounded steel jaw laminations (3/16-inch on topside of jaw and 1/4-inch on underside of jaws), with 2 coil springs</li> </ul>		
LYNX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bélisle Footsnare #6</li> <li>Bélisle Sélectif</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 2 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs</li> <li>Oneida Victor #3 equipped with at least 8 mm thick, non-offset steel jaws, 4 coil springs and an anchoring swivel centre mounted on a base plate</li> </ul>		
WOLF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bélisle Footsnare #8</li> <li>BFV Beer no 1 PLUS</li> <li>Bridger Alaskan #5 Offset and Laminated Jaws</li> <li>Bridger Alaskan #5 Rubber Jaws</li> <li>Bridger Brawn #9 Rubber Jaws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LAY 76 Laminated</li> <li>Livestock Protection EZ Grip #7</li> <li>MB 750 Alaskan OS (3/8')</li> <li>Muskwa no 9 Laminated Offset</li> <li>Rudy Red Wolf 4 1/2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oneida Victor #3 Soft Catch equipped with 4 coil springs, a minimum 8mm thick base plate and an anchoring swivel mounted on this base plate</li> <li>X-treme Wolf</li> </ul>

## TRAPPING METHODS

	KILLING SNARE	MODIFIED FOOT-HOLD	FOOT-HOLD - SUBMERGING	KILLING TRAP	LIVE BOX TRAP	FOOT SNARE	RIFLE, SHOTGUN OR BOW	EGG TRAP
Beaver	X		X	X <sup>5</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>		X	
Black Bear*							X <sup>3,4</sup>	
Bobcat	X	X <sup>6</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	X	X <sup>6</sup>	X	
Coyote	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Fisher	X			X <sup>5</sup>	X		X	
Fox	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Lynx	X	X <sup>6</sup>		X <sup>5</sup>	X	X <sup>6</sup>	X	
Marten	X			X <sup>5</sup>	X		X	
Mink	X		X	X			X	
Muskrat	X		X <sup>2</sup>	X <sup>5</sup>			X	
Otter	X		X	X <sup>5</sup>			X	
Raccoon	X			X <sup>5</sup>	X		X	X
Skunk	X			X	X		X	
Squirrel	X			X	X		X	
Weasel	X			X <sup>5</sup>	X		X	
Wolf	X	X <sup>1,6</sup>		X	X	X <sup>6</sup>	X <sup>3</sup>	
Wolverine	X			X	X		X	

"X" means that this is a legal trapping method in B.C.

\*black bear may not be trapped by placing bait or by using a dead animal or part of it as bait.

- For solidly-fastened foot-hold traps designed to trap wolves, no more than 60 cm of chain between the trap and the point to which it is fastened may be used.
- A minimum weight of 150 g must be securely attached to all muskrat submerging sets smaller than size # 1 1/2
- It is an offence to shoot/kill a black bear, or a wolf not caught in a trap or a snare, with a rifle using a rimfire cartridge, or with a shotgun with a bore size of less than 20 gauge, or using shells of shot size smaller than No. 1 Buck.
- Refer to the Hunting Methods table, page 13, for firearm and archery requirements for black bear and the Notice to Black Bear Hunters page 80.
- Only killing traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 74.
- Only foot-hold restraining traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 74.
- Only live box traps certified under the AIHTS and included in the BC regulations may be used, see page 75.

**Best Trapping Practices:** [https://fur.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/best\\_trapping\\_practices-July-2018.pdf](https://fur.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/best_trapping_practices-July-2018.pdf)

# 2022-2024 PROVINCIAL TRAPPING SEASONS

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING OPEN SEASONS APPLY TO THE ENTIRE REGION UNLESS SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT UNITS (MUS) ARE STATED.

SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)	SEASON DATES	SPECIES/REGIONS (MUs)	SEASON DATES
<b>BEAVER</b>		<b>RACCOON</b>	
Region 1 .....	Oct 1 - Apr 30	Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B, 8 .....	Oct 1 - Mar 31
Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Oct 15 - Apr 30	MUs 6-12, 6-13 .....	Jan 1 - Dec 31
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B .....	Oct 1 - May 31	<b>RIVER OTTER</b>	
MUs 6-12, 6-13 .....	Jan 1 - Dec 31	Region 1 .....	Nov 15 - Mar 31
<b>BLACK BEAR</b>		MUs 2-2 to 2-5, 2-12 to 2-16 .....	Nov 15 - Feb 28
Region 5 (except MUs 5-2, 5-15) and MUs 6-3, 6-11 to 6-14 ..	Oct 15 - May 15	MUs 2-6 to 2-11, 2-17 to 2-19 and Regions 3, 4, 5 .....	Oct 15 - Apr 30
Regions 3, 4, 7B, 8, and MUs 5-2, 5-15 .....	Oct 1 - May 31	Regions 6, 7A, 7B .....	Oct 1 - May 31
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-3, 6-11 to 6-14), 7A .....	Sept 15 - May 31	Region 8 .....	Nov 1 - Apr 15
Quota = 2 black bear in one licence year		<b>SKUNK</b>	
See the "Bears" and "It's Unlawful" section for general regulations concerning bear parts.		MUs 1-14, 1-15 and Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7B, 8 .....	Oct 15 - Feb 28
<b>BOBCAT</b>		<b>SQUIRREL</b> (douglas, northern flying, red)	
Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Nov 15 - Feb 15	Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Nov 1 - Mar 15
<a href="#">See Compulsory Inspection &amp; Reporting requirements, page 72</a>		Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B .....	Nov 1 - Mar 30
<b>COYOTE</b>		MUs 6-12, 6-13 .....	Jan 1 - Dec 31
Region 2 .....	Sept 10 - Jun 15	<b>WEASEL</b> (least, long-tailed, short-tailed)	
MUs 1-14, 1-15 and Regions 3, ♠4, 5, 6, 7A, ★7B, 8 .....	Oct 15 - Mar 31	Regions ♠2, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15
♠ In MU 4-1, open season is Dec 1 - Mar 31 if using a killing snare.		Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B .....	Nov 1 - Feb 28
★ There is no closed season for coyote in MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58 below 1100 m elevation.		♠ There is no open season for long-tailed weasel in MUs 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-18 & 2-19	
<b>FISHER</b>		<b>WOLVERINE</b>	
MUs 6-19 to 6-27, and Region 7B .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15	Regions 3, 5 .....	Nov 1 - Jan 31
<a href="#">See Compulsory Inspection &amp; Reporting requirements, page 72</a>		Regions 6 (except MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14), 7A, 7B .....	Nov 1 - Feb 28
<a href="#">Fisher trapping seasons in Regions 3, 5, 7A, and portions of Region 6 have been closed.</a>		MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14 .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15
<b>FOX</b>		<a href="#">See Compulsory Inspection &amp; Reporting requirements, page 72</a>	
MUs 1-14, 1-15, and Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7A, 7B .....	Oct 15 - Feb 28	<b>WOLF</b>	
Region 5 .....	Oct 15 - Mar 31	Region 1 .....	Sept 10 - Jun 30
<b>LYNX</b>		MUs 2-5, 2-6, 2-11 to 2-16 .....	Sept 10 - Jun 15
Regions 3, 4, 5, 7B, 8 .....	Nov 15 - Feb 15	MUs ♠3-12 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-34 to 3-44 .....	Oct 15 - Mar 31
Regions 6, 7A .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15	Regions * ♠4, ♠5, 6, 8 .....	Oct 15 - Mar 31
<a href="#">See Compulsory Inspection &amp; Reporting requirements, page 72</a>		Regions 7A, ★7B .....	Oct 15 - May 31
<b>MARTEN</b>		* There is no closed season for wolf below 1100 m elevation in MUs 4-2 to 4-5, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-24 to 4-26, 4-34 to 4-37, and 4-40. Restricted to the use of certified restraining traps only (see page 75) from Apr 1 - Oct 14.	
Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15	◆ On private land ONLY, there is no closed season for wolf in MUs 3-12, 3-13, 3-17 to 3-20, 3-26 to 3-33, 3-35 to 3-42, 5-1 to 5-6, and 5-12 to 5-14. From Apr 1 - Oct 14 only certified restraining traps can be used. Private land is defined as land that is not Crown land and that government does not have a vested interest in (i.e., does not apply to Crown grazing lease).	
Regions 6, 7A, 7B (except MUs 7-49 to 7-54) .....	Nov 1 - Feb 28	♠ The use of killing snares in the Kootenay Region is limited to Dec 1 - Mar 31.	
MUs 7-49 to 7-54 .....	Nov 1 - Mar 15	★ There is no closed season for wolf in MUs 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58 below 1100 m elevation.	
<b>MINK</b>			
Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7B (except MUs 7-49 to 7-54), 8 .....	Nov 1 - Feb 15		
Region 2 and MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14 .....	Nov 15 - Feb 15		
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-3, 6-11, 6-14), 7A .....	Nov 1 - Feb 28		
MUs 7-49 to 7-54 .....	Oct 15 - Feb 15		
<b>MUSKRAT</b>			
Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 .....	Oct 15 - Apr 30		
Region 2 .....	Nov 15 - Feb 15		
Regions 6 (except MUs 6-12, 6-13), 7A, 7B .....	Oct 1 - May 31		
MUs 6-12, 6-13 .....	Jan 1 - Dec 31		

**Trappers should be aware of the restrictions described in the It's Unlawful section (pages 11-12) and the Hunting Methods and Restrictions sections (pages 12-13).**

# HUNTING AND TRAPPING ETHICS

It is extremely important for hunters and trappers to realize that they use a public resource! With this privilege it is vital to maintain a perception among the public that we hunt and trap in an ethical and humane manner. The majority of British Columbians support hunting and trapping to one degree or another, but there is a prevalent mis-understanding among the general public as to the role that hunters and trappers play in conservation and environmental stewardship. Fuelling that misunderstanding are images and media reports of hunters and trappers who are at least perceived to be acting in a less than upstanding manner, or who disrespect the wildlife they pursue.

It is important for all of us to remember not only the legal obligations, but also the unwritten rules of ethics that keep hunting a great sport.

- Safety for yourself, your companions, and the public is the most important aspect of hunter training. Hunting accidents continue to be very rare because we all know that there is no room for recklessness at the expense of safety and courtesy.
- Have respect for the sensitivities of others. Do not display your kill or firearms where it may offend other people. What may impress your friends may not have the same effect on your neighbours.
- Respect wildlife and the sanctity of the harvested animals' lives. Strive to make every kill a clean one. Prepare your firearm in advance of, and during, the season to ensure accuracy and dependability. Practice your marksmanship at a licensed firing range, and do not shoot unless you have a clear shot of a vital part of the animal. Remember: "you can't pull the bullet back."
- Prepare the meat properly. Proper handling of meat is easy to learn and to not do so is both illegal and wasteful.
- Respect the environment by packing out everything you packed in! Nobody wants to arrive at a campsite and clean up the mess left by the previous occupants.
- Do not consume drugs or alcohol while hunting or trapping.
- Respect private property. Always seek permission from landowners and thank them for the opportunities given. Unless explicitly stated, permission granted once does not entitle you to access the property on subsequent occasions.
- Please respect gates, fences and equipment as they are there for a reason. Leave everything the way you found it.
- Be the eyes and ears for the enforcement agencies and report those who break the law. Remember the RAPP program 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or [www.rapp.bc.ca](http://www.rapp.bc.ca).
- Be aware that you are a mentor when youth are observing.
- Respect your fellow hunters. Work with one another to promote good relationships, safety, knowledge and a fair distribution of opportunity and harvest
- Lead by example, you are an ambassador for the public and media image of hunting.

Ethical hunters and trappers are critical to effective and sustainable wildlife management, and to the ethical hunter we offer our sincerest gratitude; opportunities for the sustainable use of wildlife are possible because of you.

## NOTICE TO HUNTERS!

In-season regulation changes are posted on the [Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis website](#).

Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of current regulations. Please check our website for in-season changes before your hunt: [www.gov.bc.ca/hunting](http://www.gov.bc.ca/hunting)

Or subscribe to the Corrections and Updates page. See page 1 for details.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTERS

Starting in 2010, B.C. implemented regulations in an effort to minimize female (nanny) mountain goat harvest as an important conservation action. Outreach has consistently encouraged hunters to select a male (billy) mountain goat, when making a decision to harvest. The B.C. regulation states:

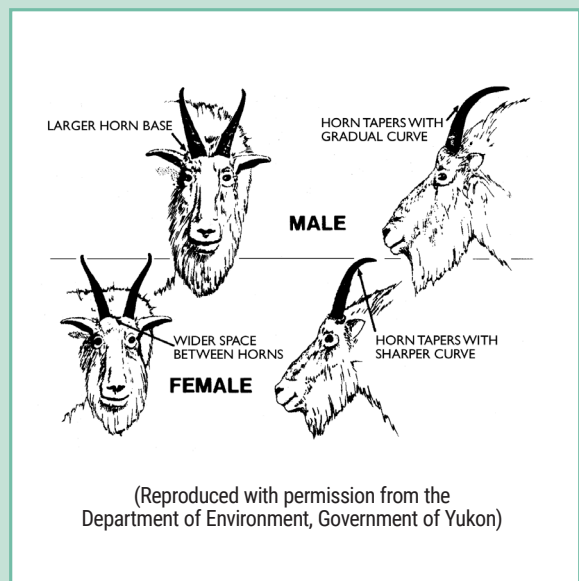
**"It is unlawful to hunt a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids."**

This regulation does not protect all female mountain goats as a solitary female mountain goat, or a female mountain goat within a group of goats that does not contain kids, would still be legal to harvest. That said, recent analysis of harvest demographic data since 2012 suggests that the proportion of females in the harvest has generally decreased; still in some localized areas, there continues to be concerns over the high proportions of female mountain goats in the harvest.

For more information on how to distinguish between a billy and a nanny visit <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=J8gUaMx8G7I>, after watching the video test yourself on mountain goat sex identification at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.mountaingoaquiz>.

You can also find additional information on the websites of the BC Mountain Goat Society (<http://www.bcmountaingoatsociety.ca/>), and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance (<https://goatalliance.org/>).

The "Management Plan for the Mountain Goat in British Columbia" contains detailed information on managing mountain goats in BC, and is available for downloading at [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/goats/management\\_plan\\_for\\_the\\_mountain\\_goat\\_oreamnos\\_americanus\\_in\\_british\\_columbia.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/wildlife-wildlife-habitat/goats/management_plan_for_the_mountain_goat_oreamnos_americanus_in_british_columbia.pdf).



## WILD SHEEP, MOUNTAIN GOATS AND DISEASE

Across most of their historic range in western North America, bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), have declined significantly since the mid-1800s. The causes of the decline included historic over-harvesting as well as habitat loss and alienation, and disease/health issues. Recovery efforts resulted in population increases in many areas especially in the U.S., but not to historic levels. Fortunately to date, Thinhorn sheep (*Ovis dalli*) and Mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) do not appear to have suffered similar declines as those experienced in Bighorn populations, likely due to the remoteness of the habitats they call home. Mountain goats, Thinhorn, and Bighorn sheep in B.C., remain on the BC Conservation Data Centre's provincial blue-list (i.e., the list of ecological communities, and indigenous species and subspecies of special concern in B.C.), partly because of their vulnerability to disease, current risks presented by habitat loss, human effects and those that are anticipated to result from the effects of changing climates.

Wild sheep and mountain goats in general, are susceptible to a variety of infectious organisms, in particular those that cause respiratory diseases or pneumonia. Respiratory disease in wild sheep can occur "naturally" and includes infection by their own species of lungworms as well as viruses and bacteria. However, the syndrome of severe, life-threatening pneumonia is associated with bacteria that include specific strains of *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mannheimia haemolytica* and *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, which can also affect mountain goats. These bacteria are often carried by domestic sheep and goats where they may or may not cause disease, due to adaptations from thousands of years of domestication. When wild sheep and goats are exposed to such organisms, they do not develop effective immune responses and pneumonia outbreaks can result in die-offs, affecting 5-95% of the herd. The disease may persist in survivors, resulting in kid mortalities and years of low lamb survival, followed by population declines. Research efforts have confirmed to North American wild sheep and mountain goat managers that physical separation of wild and domestic sheep and goats is the only management tool currently available to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

To assist in maintaining this separation, producers of domestic sheep and goats on private land in areas shared by wild sheep or in close proximity to mountain goats are encouraged to better understand this issue and to work with wildlife managers, see:

<https://wafwa.org/wpdm-package/recommendations-for-domestic-sheep-and-goat-management-in-wild-sheep-habitat-2/>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-health/wild-sheep-health> and

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/sheep-and-goats/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae>.

Preferred options include switching species to other domestic livestock, using fencing practices that ensure separation, employing effective livestock guardian dogs, controlling movements of domestic sheep and goats in areas where they may attract, or be attracted to, wild sheep or mountain goats, and using on-farm high health protocols to reduce the prevalence of pathogens like *M.ovi* in domestic flocks.

If you observe wild sheep or mountain goats displaying potential signs of poor health (i.e., excessive coughing, running noses, diarrhea, lethargy or scabbing around the eyes, nose, and mouth), or wild sheep or goats that are in the same pasture as domestic sheep and goats, please report it to the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277, or the local Ministry Regional Office.

For more information on wild sheep and diseases, please see the documents and webpages developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ([www.wafwa.org](http://www.wafwa.org)), the Wild Sheep Foundation ([www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org)) and the Wild Sheep Society of BC ([www.wildsheepsociety.com](http://www.wildsheepsociety.com)). Further, see the Wild Sheep Society of BC's article in this synopsis on the collaborative BC Sheep Separation Program.

**Wild Sheep Genetics:** Wild sheep species distributions as well as their habitats in North America, have been shaped by repeated, historical glaciation events that created significant barriers to gene flow, resulting in our present-day distributions of Thinhorn and Bighorn sheep.

There are two subspecies of Thinhorn sheep, that have traditionally been classified based on pelage colour: the white coated and more northerly distributed Dall's sheep, and the dark coated and more southerly distributed Stone's sheep. While this system of classification works across the majority of thinhorn sheep range, sheep with a wide range of dark and intermediate colouration occur in south-central Yukon and north-western British Columbia. These sheep are commonly referred to as Fannin sheep and some consider them to be Stone's sheep, because of their non-white pelage.

Over the past two decades, researchers have used genetic analyses to improve our knowledge of Thinhorn sheep genetic relationships, also informing our understanding of Dall's, Stone's and Fannin sheep range distributions. This research has shown that previous geographic and colour-based subspecies classifications are not accurate. Recent work led from BC and in partnership with other jurisdictions and the University of Alberta was able to show that nearly the entire global population of Stone's sheep resides in BC, and that Fannin sheep (once thought to be Stone's sheep), found in south-central Yukon and north-western BC, are genetically more closely related to Dall's sheep than Stone's.

## WILD AND DOMESTIC SHEEP CONTACT

Across North America wild sheep herds have suffered catastrophic all-age die-offs, compounded by high lamb mortality and slow population recovery periods, from respiratory disease (pneumonia) transmitted from domestic sheep and goats. Despite several attempts, no vaccination treatments or preventative measures, other than physical separation, have been found to be highly successful at preventing exposure to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M.ovi*); the bacteria most responsible for respiratory disease outbreaks in wild sheep. Building off other efforts tested across the wild sheep scientific community that employ a suite of test-and-remove techniques (where wild sheep are captured, health sampled and those that are infected with *M.ovi* are removed), B.C. along with support from NGOs and First Nations communities, has initiated test-and-remove projects in bighorn sheep herds that have continued to struggle with this disease. Results from lamb surveys in the first couple of years following these removal treatments has shown significant improvement in lamb survival.

B.C. continues to use many approaches to improve protecting wild sheep and restoring wild sheep populations. With funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, ArdCorp, the Wild Sheep Society of BC and support from the Province, the BC Sheep Separation Program is working to promote education and outreach to domestic sheep and goat farmers to reduce the risk of contact and disease transmission between domestic and wild sheep and goats. In support of this the Province continues to offer information on our websites:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-health/wild-sheep-health>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/sheep-and-goats/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae>

To report any interactions between wild sheep and domestic sheep or goats call the RAPP Line 1-877-952-7277.

For more information on the BC Sheep Separation Program, contact Program Coordinator Jeremy Ayotte on 250-804-3513 or e-mail [jeremy.ayotte@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.ayotte@gmail.com).



PHOTO: LINDA GRIFONE



## IDENTIFYING BEARS

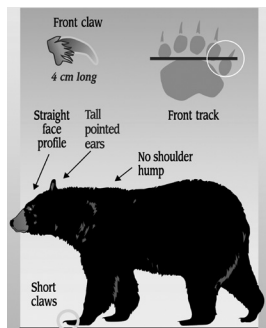
### Grizzly Bear

1. Colour varies from blond to black.
2. Distinctive shoulder hump.
3. Rump is lower than shoulder hump.
4. Face profile appears dished-in between eyes and snout.
5. Ears are short and rounded.



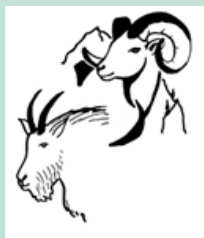
### Black Bear

1. Colour varies from blond to black, including white and blue.
2. No Distinctive shoulder hump.
3. Rump is higher than front shoulders.
4. Face profile is straight.
5. Ears are tall and pointed.
6. Front claws are less than 4 cm (2 in) long and curved. Claw marks are not usually visible in tracks.



**Colour and Size can be misleading. Look for a combination of characteristics**

## BC MOUNTAIN GOAT AND WILD SHEEP NATAL APP



The BC Wildlife Program is asking for your observations of Mountain Goat, Thinhorn Sheep and Bighorn Sheep from around BC in support of Citizen Science. The Provincial Wild Sheep and Mountain Goat Natal App allows hunter-conservationists and members of the public to easily submit what they see. The data collected will be used to inform BC's Regional Biologists when making important decisions around wild sheep and goat conservation, as well as provide information on the effects of changing climates,

disease outbreaks/die-offs and other environmental and human pressures on our wild sheep and goat populations. Regular updates developed from submitted information are prepared and generally available through both the Wild Sheep Society of BC's Facebook page and the Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance's social media outreach.

Since launching this effort early in 2020, the data we are receiving has expanded well beyond the original scope and what was anticipated could be learned from citizen observations and contributions associated with our wild sheep and mountain goats. Of course, learning about new natal ranges and the timing of lambing and kidding events happened but also, learning about wildlife health and neonate (lamb and kid) survival in some areas where repeated observation data has been uploaded. Never has this proved more important than this past year when some field projects had to be delayed, curtailed and/or cancelled due to COVID 19 implications and catastrophic wildfires in southern BC.

Instructions for downloading this free app can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/wildlife-conservation/wildlife-health/wild-sheep-health/bc-goat-sheep-natal-app>

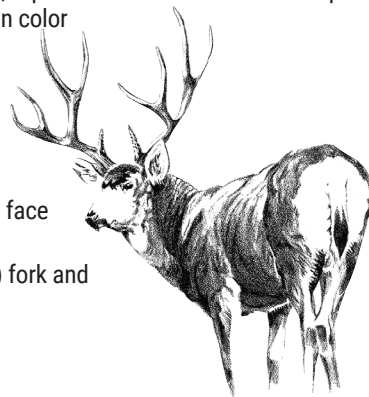
## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE between White-tailed Deer and Mule (*Black-tailed*) Deer

It is important for hunters to be able to distinguish between White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer. Hunters should not rely on one feature, but use a combination of characteristics to identify their target before shooting. The following diagrams and descriptions are intended to aid hunters in field identification of these species.

It is important to remember opportunities for antlerless Mule Deer are generally limited, and only available by LEH in most areas.

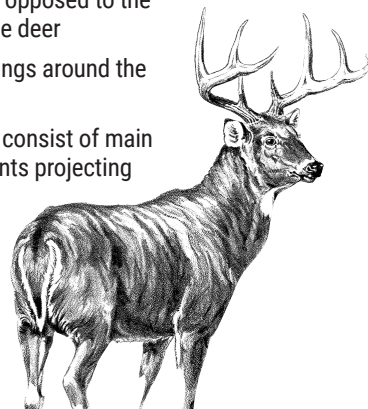
### Mule Deer

- Large ears in proportion to head
- Large white rump patch, rope-like white tail with a black tip  
Body generally greyish in color
- Does not raise its tail when alarmed
- Bounds in stiff-legged gait on all fours when running
- Mature males with light face and nose
- Antlers (of older males) fork and fork again



### White-tailed Deer

- Ears are smaller in proportion to the head compared to mule deer
- Brown rump, flattened tail brown in color with a white fringe  
Underside of tail is white. Body generally brownish in color
- Raises and flags its tail when alarmed
- Runs when escaping, as opposed to the bounding escape of mule deer
- Darker face with white rings around the eyes and nose
- Antlers (of older males) consist of main beams with multiple points projecting upward



## MOUNTAIN CARIBOU UPDATE

Caribou have roamed British Columbia for thousands of years. They are a nationally recognized icon, contributing to the beauty and biodiversity of our province and nation. Unfortunately, the number of caribou in B.C. has been declining steadily over the past century from 40,000 to only 17,000.

The reasons for caribou population declines are complex, with multiple factors (e.g., habitat loss, predators, natural disturbance, nutrition, climate change, etc.) interacting and that differs somewhat across the province. Not surprisingly, evidence collected through research and monitoring in BC suggest the best results for caribou recovery are achieved when multiple management actions are taken (e.g., some combination of habitat protection and restoration, predator management, maternal penning, etc.). Long-term success for caribou recovery will depend on landscape-scale habitat management, however, it may be decades before the benefits of such measures are realized. It will be the combination of short- and long-term recovery actions that will achieve the overarching objective of the BC Caribou Recovery Program – self sustaining herds.

The Program continues to use a comprehensive and consistent approach to conservation that is based on science and traditional knowledge.

### CARIBOU RECOVERY INITIATIVES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- Recovery planning with Indigenous Nations, local government, industry, and stakeholders is underway for many of the 54 caribou herds in the province.
- The hunting season for wolves has been extended and/or bag limits have increased or have been removed in many caribou areas. See the General Open Seasons sections by region in this synopsis for details.
- Authorizations are now in place for a predator reduction program to begin in selected caribou herds throughout B.C., following a consultation and public engagement process completed in 2021.
- Bag limits for cougar hunting have increased and female quotas have been relaxed in some caribou areas.
- Indirect reduction of wolf populations by reducing moose numbers, through increased hunting opportunities, is being piloted in two caribou areas. However, moose enhancement objectives exist in many non-caribou areas.
- Maternity pens, a system of protecting female caribou and their newborn calves from predators, are in place in northern and southern BC.
- Enhanced research on caribou habitat uses and mortality causes, including predator movement is occurring, thanks to technology improvements in satellite GPS collar technology.
- Habitat restoration projects are underway, including ground lichen seeding and restoration of linear features.
- A seasonal supplemental feeding trial is underway.
- Caribou habitat is being protected from motorized recreation (closures) to reduce potential displacement and range abandonment.

### What should you know as an outdoor recreation enthusiast?

If you are lucky enough to see caribou, shut off any recreational all-terrain vehicles and let the caribou pass. Snow machines, helicopters, or skiers may increase stress on caribou, which can reduce their energy reserves during winter and affect over-winter survival and/or reproductive success the following summer. Continued disturbance can also result in range abandonment by caribou. Your support of closures will contribute to caribou recovery.

More information on caribou recovery in B.C. can be obtained at [gov.bc.ca/caribou](https://gov.bc.ca/caribou)

## NOTICE TO BLACK BEAR HUNTERS

In order to ensure the sustainability of bear hunting, bear hunters are requested to:

1. Be patient. Don't shoot the moment you see a bear!
2. Observe carefully and select an adult, male bear. Bears can look deceptively large. Adult males have larger home ranges and will tend to be encountered less frequently than females and younger males.
3. Be aware that there is no open season on any bear less than two years old or any bear in its company (i.e., the sow). Take the time to ensure that cubs are not nearby.
4. Be aware there is no open season on grizzly bear or white (Kermode) or blue (Glacier) colour phases of the black bear.
5. Contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office immediately for important information if you shoot an ear-tagged or radio-collared bear. See Ear Tags and Collars section, page 11.

### SMALL/YOUNG BEARS



- Appear to be "all legs".
- Frequently look over shoulder or turn around.
- More streamlined, pointed head.
- Ears look larger and closer together.
- Neck appears longer and thinner.
- Ears-to-nose lines form a skinny triangle



### LARGE/ADULT MALE BEARS

- Stocky legs
- Massive body with belly that hangs closer to the ground
- Slower, more deliberate movements
- Large, rounded head (like a basketball)
- Ears look smaller
- Thicker neck
- Ear-to-nose lines form an equilateral triangle

# WILDLIFE HEALTH

## WILDLIFE HEALTH

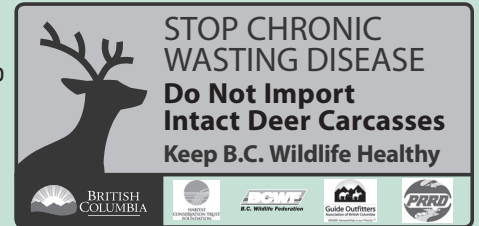
Wildlife health is closely linked to environmental, domestic animal, and human health. Assessment of wildlife health benefits everyone. Your observations about how wild animals appear and behave can provide information on B.C. wildlife population health and their sustainability. Videos, photos, and written/verbal descriptions may be valuable. For more information on/contacts for wildlife health see: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth) or the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative website at: [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca).

## HUMAN HEALTH

For threats to human health, (e.g., West Nile virus, parasites, and Lyme's disease), pick up a copy of Diseases You Can Get from Wildlife from a government office or visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth). For more information on specific diseases see: BC Centre for Disease Control website: [www.bccdc.ca/health-info](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info). Note information on the recently recognized parasite, *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease found in species of the deer family (cervids). Infected animals may not appear sick as signs take months to develop after infection. In advanced stages of the disease, weight loss, behaviour changes, drooling, poor coordination, and trembling may be seen. **If you observe a cervid with these signs please report them and their location to the Conservation Officer Service through the RAPP Line (1-877-952-7277) or to the B.C. Wildlife Health Program at [cait.nelson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cait.nelson@gov.bc.ca)**



CWD has not been found in B.C. but the risk of introduction to B.C. has increased significantly as cases move closer to our borders. CWD continues to spread in all jurisdictions where it is present, including Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Montana. CWD has also now been detected in Idaho and Manitoba. The B.C. CWD Program continues to focus on prevention, through education and regulations, and surveillance to confirm disease status and ensure early detection.

Hunters can help by understanding the risks. Please follow regulations to reduce the risk of CWD introduction by human activity. Materials that contain CWD prions, such as urine-based scents and carcasses, can bring CWD to B.C., contaminate the environment and expose wildlife. Do not bring high-risk materials back to B.C. and ensure tools and equipment are properly cleaned.

Hunters and trappers can also help by submitting samples. CWD testing now will help to limit negative impacts of this disease by catching it early and providing important information for an effective response. If you hunt deer, elk, or moose, please submit the head for testing. **Submission of harvested deer heads for CWD testing is mandatory in the highest risk areas of B.C.** Learn about how to submit heads and more about the BC CWD Program at: [www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease](http://www.gov.bc.ca/chronicwastingdisease) or scan the QR code:



## BIRD HEALTH

Reports of sick and dead wild birds are of interest to several government agencies and bird enthusiasts. If you find a dead wild bird – please participate in our BC Interagency Wild Bird Mortality Program. What to report: 3 or more dead birds in the same geographic location or individual birds of the following species; species at risk, water-associated birds or raptors. For more information see: [www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth) or call 1-866-431-BIRD (2473).

# HUNTING & TRAPPING DURING COVID

## Guidance to Reduce Risk of COVID-19 When Handling Deer

Canada and the United States have recently reported the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in wild white-tailed deer, providing the first evidence that the virus can circulate in wild animal populations. Studies have revealed that the virus has spread from humans to deer on multiple occasions, with subsequent spread from deer to deer. To date, there has been no known transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from white-tailed deer to humans, but there is potential risk that those in contact with infected deer or carcasses could be exposed to the virus. While there are no known positive cases in other cervids (e.g., moose, caribou) at this time, efforts are ongoing to monitor wildlife diseases, including SARS-CoV-2, throughout Canada. Up-to-date vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to help protect yourself, your family, and your community against COVID-19. Until more is known, to help protect yourself and reduce your risk while hunting or trapping, it is recommended that you wear a well-fitting mask and practice good hand hygiene. Additional recommendations for hunters and trappers handling wildlife are available on the Government of Canada's Animals and COVID-19 webpage and on the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative's COVID-19 webpage.

Government of Canada - Animals and COVID-19: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/animals-covid-19.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/animals-covid-19.html)

Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative - COVID-19: [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/covid-19.php)



