

There is a significant revision of the Lynx Protection Zones section on page 6 of the printed Furbearer Hunting and Trapping Regulations. These changes are intended to clarify the language so that people trying to follow and enforce the rules have clear direction. The changes remain consistent with the terms of the legal settlement.

#### Lynx Protection Zones –

To help avoid the incidental capture of Canada lynx, special regulations now apply on all public lands in areas identified as “Lynx Protection Zones” (LPZ). Within an LPZ, all trap sets for any species must be consistent with the following special regulations:

- Rabbit or hare parts, whether for flagging purposes or for bait, may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of natural flagging such as bird wings, feathers, or pieces of fur may not be used within 30 feet of a set trap.
- The use of fresh meat baits (aged less than 24 hours) is not allowed.
- All leaning pole sets must use poles that are no larger than 4 inches in diameter and have the trap and bait located at least 48 inches above the ground.
- The use of Conibear or “body-gripping” traps are not allowed unless **one** of the following conditions are met:
  - ▶ they are placed as part of a water set; or
  - ▶ they are placed as part of an elevated set (48 inches above ground) that does not include a leaning pole; or
  - ▶ they have a jaw spread of less than or equal to 5 inches (a Conibear #120 or smaller); or
  - ▶ they are placed in a leaning pole set with a pole diameter of no larger than 4 inches and with trap and bait located at least 48 inches above the ground; or
  - ▶ they are placed with a trigger recessed a minimum of seven inches and contained in a wood, plastic, or metal enclosure or cubby with an opening no larger than 52 square inches.
- The use of snares are not allowed unless **all** conditions below are met:
  - ▶ they have a cable diameter greater than or equal to 5/64 inches; and
  - ▶ they have loops that are larger than 8 inches measured from side to side; and
  - ▶ they are equipped with a breakaway lock device designed to release when more than 350 pounds of force is applied.
- **For trappers targeting Bobcat**, the use of foothold or leghold traps are not allowed unless traps have an inside jaw spread (perpendicular to hinge) of less than or equal to 5 3/8 inches. Trappers targeting bobcat are required to visually check their traps at least once every 48 hours. Only relaxing snares are allowed in bobcat sets. A description of a relaxing snare can be found on page 15.
- Foothold or leghold traps set for wolves in the LPZ can be larger than 5 3/8 inches but must be equipped and set with a minimum 10 pound pan tension device.
- “Take” of lynx is not allowed due to their federal status as a threatened species. Incidental captures, whether the lynx is released uninjured, is injured, or killed are all considered “take” according to the definition set by federal law and used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
- Trappers are strongly encouraged to not set traps if lynx are observed in an area or if lynx tracks are identified. Trappers are also strongly encouraged to use live traps (e.g. box trap) and carry catchpoles to aid in the safe release of non-target species.
- Incidentally trapped lynx that are uninjured must be released immediately and the incident must be reported to the local FWP warden or biologist or an FWP Regional Office within 24 hours of release. If a lynx is injured, trappers must immediately notify their local FWP warden or biologist or an FWP Regional Office, to determine disposition and/or collection of the animal. Persons who know about the taking of a lynx should report it by calling 1-800-TIP-MONT (800-847-6668).