

August 28, 2017

Corrections to the printed 2017 Furbearers & Trapping Regulations

Error: the following sections on page 15 contain the strike-through and highlighted language that should have been deleted:

Correction: the sections on page 15 should read as follows:

Future Trapper Education Requirements

Successful completion of a Trapper Education Class will be required prior to trapping any furbearer, wolf, predator (coyote, weasel, skunk), or non-game (fox, badger raccoon) in Montana beginning with the onset of the 2018/19 furbearer season (Nov. 1, 2018) for all persons:

- born after January 1, 1985, or
- purchasing a Montana trapping license for the first time, or
- ~~who have not purchased a Montana trapping license during all of the previous 5 license years, or~~
- who have been convicted of violating FWP trapping regulations.

Exemptions from Trapper Education will be granted for those persons:

- who can show verification of having successfully completed ~~prior to 2018:~~
 - 1) a state-sanctioned trapper education class in another state or,
 - 2) ~~the Montana Trappers Association or Montana Fur Harvesters voluntary trapper education class or the Montana Trappers Association Youth Trapper Camp.~~
- who are landowners, or their agents, trapping predators or non-game species for livestock or personal property protection on their own land.

Future Trap Modification Requirements

Beginning with the 2019/20 trapping season (Nov. 1, 2019) all ground-set foothold traps ~~that are not rubber jawed~~ or set as kill-sets (e.g. weasel box) will be required to have certain Trap Modifications to be used in Montana for trapping a furbearer, wolf, predator (coyote, weasel, skunk), or non-game species (fox, badger raccoon). Required modifications will include use of:

- At least 2 rotating swivels, one located on the underside of the trap as close to the center as the trap design reasonably allows, and another swivel located near the opposite end of the chain.
- ~~Trap jaws with certain minimum offset and thickness as identified in Table 1.~~

~~Table 1. Minimum required offsets and thickness in inches as supported by Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Best Management Practices.~~

Trap Size ^a	Minimum Offset	Minimum Thickness
≥ 6 1/8"	1/4"	3/8"
4 1/2" – 6 1/16"	3/16"	3/8"
< 4 1/2"	1/8"	1/8"

^a Trap size defined by Inside Jaw Spread (IJS) where the inside width of the open jaws is measured perpendicular to the base plate and hinge posts.

Future Trapper Education Requirements

Mandatory Trapper Education

For the 2018 license year, trappers will be required to have passed a state or provincial-sanctioned Trapper Education Course prior to purchasing a license if they are:

- Purchasing a Montana trapping license for the first time.

For the 2019 license year and beyond, trappers will be required to have passed a state or provincial-sanctioned Trapper Education Course prior to purchasing a license if they are:

- Born after January 1, 1985, or
- Purchasing a Montana trapping license for the first time, or
- Convicted of violating FWP trapping regulations after Aug 10, 2017.

This will apply to all people trapping furbearers or wolves, and to anyone trapping coyote, weasel, skunk, fox, badger or racoon for recreational purposes. Pelts of coyote, weasel, skunk, fox, badger or racoon legally obtained while trapping for livestock or property protection can still be sold. It should be noted that furbearers and wolves cannot be legally trapped without a general trapping license.

State-sanctioned trapper education courses from other states and provinces will meet the education requirement. However, Montana's wolf trapping certification does not cover the full-breadth of information that will be covered in the trapper education course and therefore does not fulfill the trapper education requirement. To trap wolves in Montana during the 2017-18 season, a person must have attended and completed either the Idaho or Montana wolf trapping certification class. Beginning in 2018, Montana's new trapper education course will also cover wolf trapping, and there will not be a separate wolf trapping course.

Houndsmen and others hunting bobcats, who will not otherwise be trapping, although required to buy a trapping license, are not required to attend mandatory trapper education.

Future Trap Modification Requirements

Minimum of two (2) Swivels in Ground-set Foothold Traps

Beginning with the 2019 trapping season, all ground-set foothold traps set for furbearers or wolves, and traps set by recreational trappers for coyote, weasel, skunk, fox, badger or racoon will be required to have a near-center swivel and an additional chain swivel.