

Center Swivels for 2019 Season

Commission Rule:

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.

Definition of a “center swivel”

A swivel located on the underside of the trap as near the center of the base plate as reasonably possible. The swivel can be attached directly to the base plate at the center, attached to a D-ring centered on the base plate, or can be included in the chain at a point no more than 5 normal chain links from a centered D-ring or base plate attachment point at the center. (Underlined words are being considered for addition by the Fish and Wildlife Commission during June and August 2019 meetings to clarify).

Persons trapping species that do not require a license (predators or non-game*) for purposes of livestock or property protection are exempt.

**Classification of Species by Montana Statute:*

- *Furbearers – beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, wolverine, fisher, marten, otter, mink, and swift fox.*
- *Predators – coyote, weasel, skunks.*
- *Non-game – Any wild animal not otherwise legally classified by statute or regulation in Montana. Examples are red fox, badger, raccoon, squirrels, porcupines, marmots, hares, and rabbits.*

