

Citizen Resolution # 72-06-16
(For Hearing Officer completion)



Dryland Steel Trap Size Increase

Presently the size of steel jawed traps used for dryland trapping can have a maximum jaw spread of seven inches until November 30th and a maximum of eight inches after that. The problem for trappers is that the traps made today end at six and a half inches, for the #3 or #4 coilsprings and pick up again at seven and a quarter to seven and a half inches, for traps like the MB750, CDR 7.5, Bridger #5 coil and longspring, and Sleepy Creek #4 ½. All of these would make excellent coyote and wolf traps. They are well built, humane, and are used today for beaver and otter trapping. There are really no traps on the market that start with an eight inch jaw spread. Most "wolf" traps on the market start with nine inch jaw spreads, like the Manning #9, Sleepy Creek #5, and Bridger Brawn Wolf Trap. Most traps are modified by adding jaw laminations, which essentially makes the jaw face wider, which reduces cutting on the animals foot. Add to the fact that a lot of these larger traps have offset jaws, which is a gap in the jaws that doesn't allow them to close completely. This allows blood to flow to the foot and even raccoons can effectively be held in these traps without injury.

BE IT RESOLVED, to increase the allowable jawsread for dryland steel traps to eight inches from the start of the season until the end of the season and the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to allow this in the future.

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Please print your resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.