WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NOTICE OF FINAL GUIDANCE & CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to ch. 227, Wis. Stats., the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has finalized and hereby certifies the following guidance document.

DOCUMENT ID

WM-19-0008-C

DOCUMENT TITLE

2019 Wisconsin Trapping Regulations

PROGRAM/BUREAU

Wildlife Management

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OR LEGAL CITATION

Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources

DATE SENT TO LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS)

Sept. 9, 2019

DATE FINALIZED

Oct. 14, 2019

DNR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed this guidance document or proposed guidance document and I certify that it complies with sections 227.10 and 227.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is not explicitly required or explicitly permitted by a statute or a rule that has been lawfully promulgated. I further certify that the guidance document or proposed guidance document contains no standard, requirement, or threshold that is more restrictive than a standard, requirement, or threshold contained in the Wisconsin Statutes.

Tami Ryan 10/7/19

Signature Date

2019

Wisconsin Trapping Regulations

Photo: Nicole Boettcher

The Boettcher boys accompany dad on the beaver line near Hayward Wisconsin – Wisconsin now offers youth and mentored trapping options (see page 26). These new opportunities coupled with our world-renowned trapper education program provide Wisconsin citizens multiple paths to acquire trapping knowledge and experience.

Report Natural Resource Violations

CALL or TEXT:

800-TIP-WDNR

(800-847-9367)

Toll Free•Statewide•24-Hour•Confidential

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUB-WM-002-2019

This pamphlet gives you a summary of Wisconsin's trapping laws and how they affect you. *For complete trapping and hunting laws, consult the Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 29 or Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code of the Department of Natural Resources.*

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Dear Trappers and Hunters,

Wisconsin continues to be a leader. Our commitment to trapper education and regulated trapping is demonstrated annually by over 200 Wisconsin Trapper Association instructors who donate countless hours of their lives to teach new students what it means to be a trapper in Wisconsin. Their dedication is vital to ensuring all new trappers have the education and tools necessary to make good decisions while afield. The next time an opportunity presents itself, thank a Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program instructor for their hard work and dedication!

Wisconsin's leadership is also demonstrated by the department's continual collaboration with partner groups and the public in reviewing our regulations for new opportunities and ways to improve trapping in the state. The 2019-20 trapping season will see one potential rule change.

The change is related to a rule proposal that would allow the use of foothold traps (with at least 4 lbs. of pan tension) and weasel boxes within the two existing Marten Protection Areas. This rule proposal was approved by the Natural Resources Board in May 2019 and is currently being considered by the Governor's office at the time of print. The rule proposal would also create a 3rd Marten Protection Area within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, an area where a new population of American marten were recently found. The effective date of this rule proposal is unknown at this time, and the department is unsure if it will be finalized prior to the 2019-2020 trapping opener. Additional updates will be provided as information becomes available.

One additional note. This year we are requiring the lower jaw from harvested fisher and the entire carcass of bobcat to be turned over at the time of physical registration. No samples from river otter will be required for the 2019-2020 season. The goal is to gather the biological data needed for population monitoring while allowing trappers to retain as much of the carcass for personal use. Additional details on carcass collections for the 2019-20 season can be found on page 18 of this pamphlet.

Thank you once again for your interest, support, and commitment to regulated trapping in Wisconsin. Prior to, during and after the trapping season, act as if the future of trapping depends on your actions – because it does! Have a safe, productive and memorable season.

Shawn Rossler – Furbearer Specialist

What's New in 2019

Bobcat carcass submittal: Harvesters may now immediately retain bobcat skulls by turning in a section of the lower jaw at the time of registration, similar to river otter and fisher. See page 18 for more details.

Marten protection area changes: Pending legislative review, a third marten protection area may be created on islands within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Also, two additional trap types may be allowed within certain marten protection areas. Please search the DNR website (dnr.wi.gov) for keyword "trapping regulations" for updates this fall.

Otter drawing: Pending legislative review, the otter drawing may be eliminated for the 2020 trapping season. Please search the DNR website (dnr.wi.gov) for keyword "trapping regulations" for updates this fall.

Definitions

Body-Grip Trap: a steel trap designed to allow the animal's head, neck or torso to enter the trap opening and be held by compression of the jaws when sprung.

Cable Restraint: a cable noose used for restraining furbearing animals which does not allow the device or trapped animal to reach unfrozen water.

Cage or Box Trap: a trap that is designed to allow an animal to enter the trap enclosure, be captured and remain alive inside the cage or box-type enclosure until it can be released unharmed or reduced to possession by the operator of the trap. This trap may not be used as a water set or with any other type of trap.

Capable of Submersing: a set designed to allow the trapped animal to travel to water of sufficient depth to cause irreversible complete submersion.

Colony Trap: an enclosure-type device that allows for the capture of one or more furbearing animals in a single setting as a submersion set. See size and placement restrictions on page 14.

Enclosed Trigger Trap: any trap with a pull-activated trigger located inside an enclosure and recessed 1¼ inches or more from an opening that is no greater than 1¾ inches in diameter. The diameter of the opening is measured as the straight line distance across the opening between the two inside points which are furthest apart. If the opening is square or rectangular, this measurement must be made from the two opposite corners that are furthest apart.

Foot-Activated Cable Restraint: a passive or spring-activated cable noose used for restraining furbearing animals by the foot which does not allow the device or trapped animal to reach unfrozen water.

Furbearing Animal: for the purpose of this pamphlet means bobcat, fisher, otter, coyote, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, mink, muskrat, beaver, skunk, weasel, woodchuck and opossum.

Jawed Trap: a trap designed to catch an animal by the foot, but does not include enclosed trigger traps, cable restraints or body-gripping traps.

Non-Submersion Set: any trap set that is capable of capturing an animal and not capable of submersing the captured animal.

Sight Exposed Bait: any bait which can be seen from above.

Snare: a wire noose used for restraining furbearing animals in a water set.

Water Set: a trap or snare which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap, snare or trapped animal to reach unfrozen water.

Animals Protected at All Times

The following wild animals are designated protected and have no open season: wolf, badger, Canada lynx, cougar, flying squirrel, moose, American marten, white or albino deer, wolverine and any other species designated protected, endangered or threatened.

Warden Authority

Conservation wardens performing their duties may enter private lands at any time. Wardens may also seize as evidence all game taken or possessed in violation of the law and any equipment used in connection with a violation. Wardens do not have the authority to enforce trespass laws.

Bobcat Research and Harvest

DNR researchers have been investigating bobcat populations since 2014. In cooperation with trappers, we have learned a lot about bobcats in Wisconsin and continue to refine population estimates and models as new information becomes available through these research efforts. There are several bobcats with GPS tracking collars around two study areas; one focused on the Northwoods and the other focused on the driftless area. Trappers residing in these areas will receive a mailing with additional information about the research, and how you can get involved. If you encounter a bobcat with a collar, please treat it as if it didn't have a collar. These animals are legal for take if you possess a bobcat permit valid for that zone and season.

Special Rule Clarifications

Preseason Marking of Trap Sites: using stakes or other devices to mark a trap site anywhere prior to the season opener is not allowed on DNR-managed lands and is not recommended on other public lands. It does not legally reserve the site for the person placing the stake or markers.

Trapping on Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) lands: With permission of the landowner/property manager, trapping is allowed on lands enrolled under the Forest Crop Law program and lands designated as "open" under the Managed Forest Law program.

Trapping Along Roadsides: permission to trap road right-of-ways can be a complex issue. Highway right-of-ways are established to provide areas for vehicle and sometimes pedestrian travel and not for the purpose of trapping. Most are owned by either the state or the local unit of government; however in some cases the adjoining landowner still maintains ownership of the underlying land. Trappers must have permission from the owner of the land underlying any public road, street or highway right-of-way areas before trapping these locations. The Department of Transportation has a policy that trapping is not allowed on DOT-owned roads. Some DOT retention ponds may be open to trapping; contact DOT for details.

Trapping Navigable Waterways: trapping on private land in Wisconsin, including on the beds of navigable waters, may constitute a trespass (enforced by the county sheriff's department). *Trappers need to obtain permission before trapping on any private land, even if entry is by public waterways and the trap is placed or staked in the water.*

Unprotected Species: opossums, skunks, porcupines, woodchucks and weasels are unprotected and may be trapped year-round by persons possessing a trapping license. A trapping license is not required for landowners or occupants trapping unprotected species causing damage or which are otherwise a nuisance.

Wildlife Violator Compact

The State of Wisconsin is a participating member of the Wildlife Violator Compact. This is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person whose hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges are suspended in one state from obtaining licenses, permits, or participating in those activities in another participating state. For more information, visit *dnr.wi.gov*, keywords "wildlife violator compact."

License and Permit Information

1. **Resident:** $20; **Resident Youth trapping** (under 16 years of age): free; **Resident trapping with certified mentor:** $10 (see page 26); **Non-resident** $150. Reduced rates are available for **first time licenses buyers**, visit *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "license" for more information.
   - **License and Tagging:** The GoWild licensing system (GoWild.WI.gov) offers trappers greater flexibility in purchasing and displaying licenses. Acceptable forms of proof of a trapping license include a Conservation Card, valid Wisconsin driver's license, a department-generated PDF file displayed on an electronic device or the physical hard copy license. **Please note that trappers must carry hard copies of department-issued bobcat, fisher and otter permits while trapping or hunting.**
   - Wisconsin allows trapping by non-resident U.S. citizens from those states that allow Wisconsin residents to purchase non-resident licenses and trap in that state; this includes all states **except Hawaii, Minnesota and Washington D.C.** Non-resident licenses require the successful completion of the Wisconsin trapper education course (see pages 28–31) or a comparable, as determined by the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Committee, trapper education course from another state or province. Currently, in-person courses from AL, CT, ID, IL, KS, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MT, ND, PA ("successful furtaking" course), SC, TN, VA and VT are accepted as comparable. Non-resident trappers are subject to all seasons and regulations that pertain to the state of Wisconsin. **Trapping licenses for the 2019–20 license year expire on March 31, 2020.**

2. **Age:** No age restrictions apply to trapping, but age and mentoring or accompaniment requirements apply if a firearm is to be used while trapping. For more information, visit *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "mentored hunting." All trappers must obtain a trapping license with the exception of trappers younger than 16 years of age working with a supervising trapper. A minimum age of 10 years is recommended for successful completion of a Trapper Education program. All first-time trappers must complete the Wisconsin trapper education course (page 28) prior to purchasing a license, unless trapping under youth supervised or mentored trapping program rules (see p. 26). A certificate of successful completion of the Wisconsin trapper education course may be used by a resident in place of a trapping license for the trapping license year in which the certificate is issued. **A bobcat, fisher or otter permit and tag are still required, and only holders of a regular or youth trapping license may be issued these permits and tags.**

3. ***You may not:***
   - transfer your license, permit or tag or allow its use by anyone else except as provided on page 18;
   - carry any trapping license, permit or tag issued to anyone else; or
   - obtain a trapping license, permit or tag for someone else except a parent may purchase a license for their minor child/children.

4. **Landowner Provisions:** the owner or occupant of any land and any family members* who live with them do not need a license to:
   - trap coyote, beaver, fox, muskrat, raccoon, woodchuck, rabbit and squirrel on the land year-round (see "beaver damage control" on page 20 for more information); or

- live trap with cage or box traps for beaver, coyote, fox, woodchuck, rabbit, raccoon and squirrel on their land at any time in cities, villages or other areas where the discharge of firearms is unlawful. Live-trapped animals must be either humanely killed or released on unenclosed private land with the landowner's permission within 24 hours.

Note: live-trapped animals cannot be released on DNR-owned and -managed lands.

*Family members who do not live with the owner or occupant of the land but are siblings and/or children of the owner and are under the age of 18 may also hunt or trap these species on that property without a license.

5. **Reprints and Duplicates:** Reprints of licenses can be obtained free of charge by visiting a DNR service center and through the Go Wild licensing website at GoWild.WI.gov. License agents also provide reprints for a $2 processing fee. Permit duplicates must be reprinted through the DNR by calling 608-261-6452.
6. **Purchasing Fur:** you must possess a fur dealers license or a taxidermist permit to purchase raw fur (defined on page 14); **except** you may obtain written authorization from the DNR to purchase raw fur without the need to purchase a license if only for the purpose of making garments for yourself or a member of your family.
7. **Animals Causing Damage:** during the closed season, a DNR permit may be required to remove nuisance animals. Visit *dnr.wi.gov,* keywords "nuisance wildlife" for more information.
8. **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area:** trapping at these locations is authorized on a permit system only and special regulations apply. Permit details are available through:

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Refuge Manager
W4279 Headquarters Rd.
Mayville, WI 53050
920-387-2658

Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area
Wisconsin DNR
Property Manager
N7725 Highway 28
Horicon, WI 53032
920-387-7860

9. **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge:** special trapping permits are required. For more information contact: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Headquarters, 51 E. 4th Street, Winona, MN 55987; 507-452-4232.
10. **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore:** access permits are required for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. For information: call 715-779-3397 or write Park Superintendent, 415 Washington Avenue, Bayfield, WI 54814.
11. **Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge:** trapping is authorized on a permit system only and special regulations apply. For more information: call 608-539-2311 ext. 16 or visit www.fws.gov/midwest/trempealeau or write Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, W28488 Refuge Road, Trempealeau, WI 54661.
12. **Necedah National Wildlife Refuge:** trapping is authorized on a permit system only and special regulations apply. For more information: call 608-565-2551 or write Necedah National Wildlife Refuge N11385 Headquarters Road, Necedah WI 54660.
13. **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway:** trapping is restricted in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. For more information: visit *www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/trapping.htm*. The National Park Service has specific regulations on these sites to inform the public of special Federal regulations already in place.

Mississippi River Zone

For 2019, the muskrat and mink seasons in the Mississippi River Zone opens on November 11. On lands located within the Mississippi River Zone and managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (UMRNWFR), the otter, raccoon, coyote and fox seasons open with the muskrat and mink seasons. The beaver season opens on Dec. 4, with beaver and otter trapping on refuge lands ending March 15 when all trapping on the refuge closes. Trapping on federal lands within the Mississippi River Zone involves obtaining a Refuge Trapping Permit issued by the USFWS and restrictions on number of traps allowed, trap placement, time of the trapping opener and trap check hours. To obtain Refuge Trapping Permits, contact the UMRNWFR (see page 7).

On private lands within the Mississippi River zone, the trapping seasons for raccoon, otter, coyote and fox are the same as the regular state season dates (see pages 21 and 23).

The success of this season framework rests with the trapping and hunting community. If seasons overlap, trappers can minimize contact with waterfowl hunters by setting and checking traps on weekdays, checking traps during mid-day, pulling trap lines prior to the weekend, talking with hunters prior to checking traps in areas where hunters are set up and approaching areas with hunters only when ducks are not flying. Duck hunters can help by being aware of trapper presence and encouraging mid-day trap checks.

Trappers, please take special care when trapping on uplands. We recommend you consider refraining from placing upland sets until after the close of the duck season unless totally dog-proof, such as enclosed trigger traps.

There are many who use and enjoy the amazing resources of the Mississippi River. Please remain courteous and accommodate each other's needs and concerns.

Use of Trail Cameras on Department-Managed Lands

The placement and unattended, overnight use of trail cameras is authorized on department lands only under the following conditions:

1. Placement only occurs in areas where hunting is allowed and outside of designated special use zones (such as designated hiking trails, beaches and buildings).
2. Trail cameras bear the name and address or department-issued customer identification number of the owner or operator permanently attached or engraved to the outside of the camera so that it is clearly visible without the need to move or adjust the camera.
3. Cameras may not cause damage to natural vegetation or other department property.
4. The placement of trail cameras on department-managed lands is done at your own risk. The department will not be responsible for theft or damage of trail cameras on department-managed lands.

Trapping Hours

It is legal to set, place, check and operate traps from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. when the appropriate season is open (24 hours a day). State Park trapping hour restrictions are in place. See page 19 for trapping hour restrictions in State Parks.

Trap Checking Requirements

Non-submersion (dry) Set: non-submersion sets must be attended and checked in person at least once each day and any captured animals must be removed from the set, except that weasel boxes may be checked every four days given that:

1. the entrance hole is no greater than 1⅜ inches in diameter;
2. the enclosure set must use a body-grip trap (for weasels this includes a foothold trap and rat snap trap); and
3. the enclosure is securely anchored to an immovable object.

Water Set: water sets, except submersion sets, must be attended and checked in person at least once each day and any captured animals must be removed from the set.
Submersion Set: any trap set capable of capturing an animal and capable of submersing the captured animal. Slide wires or poles, locking devices, slip chains, weighted traps and traps staked in deep water are commonly used in submersion sets. A body gripping trap is not a submersion set when more than one-half of the set trap is located above water. Traps must be attended and checked in person within a 4-day period following the last tending of the set. Any captured animals must be removed from the set unless it is an under ice set. You must monitor water levels to ensure effective submersion sets.
Under Ice Set: there are no mandated trap checking periods for sets made under the ice.

Trap Size and Placement Restrictions

You may not:

- set, place or operate any water set traps with a jaw spread smaller than 5½ inches for jaw traps or body-grip traps that are 60 square inches or less, except **when the muskrat or mink season is open in the zone in which you are trapping;**
- set, place or operate more than 3 ft. above the ground any trap or device designed or used to capture or kill birds;
- use sight-exposed bait consisting of feathers, animal flesh, fur, hide or entrails within 25 ft. of any trap, snare or cable restraint;
- operate trap sets which permit the trapped animal to reach water *except* when the muskrat, mink, beaver or otter trapping season is open in the zone you are trapping or unless using a commercially manufactured enclosed trigger trap;
- set a trap, cable restraint or snare other than a commercially manufactured enclosed trigger trap closer than 15 ft. from any beaver dam (landowners see "beaver damage control" on page 20);
- set, place or operate any **body-grip trap** that is 75 square inches or larger unless ½ of the trap is located underwater at all times.
- set, place or operate any **body-grip trap** greater than 60 square inches or any snare or cable restraint, regardless of the size of the noose, in the following locations:
  - within 3 ft. of any federal, state or county road right-of-way culvert unless completely submerged in water;
  - within three feet of any woven or welded wire fence; or,
  - within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy without the owner's consent.
- set, place or operate any **jawed trap** with teeth unless such traps are located completely underwater at all times;

- set, place or operate any **jawed trap** with a jaw spread width of more than 7 inches from Oct. 15–Nov. 30 unless it is a water set or with a jaw spread width of more than 8 inches at any other time or as a water set;
- set, place or operate any **snare,** regardless of the noose size unless ½ of the snare noose is located underwater at all times.
- set, place or operate any **snare** unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications:
  – the cable length may not exceed 5 ft.;
  – the cable must be galvanized aircraft cable;
  – the cable or wire diameter may not exceed ⅛ inch; and
  – it must be non-spring activated.

Methods

All live furbearing animals taken during the open season for such species shall be released unharmed or dispatched immediately and made part of the daily bag. It is unlawful to keep such animals alive after their capture unless you have first obtained a DNR permit, license or authorization to possess the animal alive.

> **Note:** a trapping license does not allow the possession of live wild animals obtained by trapping and a captive wild animal farm license does not allow trapping or possession of live animals trapped from the wild.

You may not:

- operate any trap or device designed, built or used to capture birds on a pole, post, tree stump or any other elevated perch more than three feet above the ground. Elevated traps are legal for furbearing animals as long as the sight exposed bait law is followed (see page 11 for body-grip trap regulations);
- place any set or sprung trap, snare, cable restraint, bait or scent for furbearing animals during the closed season;
- set any trap, which includes cable restraints and snares for which a trapping license is required, unless a metal tag is attached. The tag must be stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the operator or their customer ID number. Heavy-duty stamped tags are recommended;
- take or attempt to take beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat or otter by any means other than trapping or snaring. It is illegal to dispatch a fisher, mink, muskrat or otter by means of a firearm or spear;

  > **Note:** landowners, occupants or their family members who live with the landowner or occupant may take beaver by firearm on their land (hunting mentorship program rules apply, see *2019 Wisconsin Small Game Regulations* for details or visit *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "mentored hunting");
- possess any trap for the purpose of catching furbearing animals other than a jawed trap, cage/box trap, enclosed trigger trap, body-grip trap, cable restraint, foot-activated cable restraint, snare or colony trap. Cage or box traps shall be constructed so that no additional animals may enter the trap after an animal has been captured until that animal is removed and the trap reset;
- disturb or molest any mink den, muskrat house, muskrat feeding house or beaver dam (see page 20 for landowner exception for beaver dams);
- place on the ice any artificial house or den for the purpose of catching any furbearing animal; or
- molest or take traps, cable restraints, snares or trapped animals that belong to someone else. See page 23 for more information.

Body-Grip Trap Regulations

No person may set, place or operate any body-grip trap **greater than 60 but less than 75 square inches,** measured from the widest points on the outside of the jaws (Figure 1) as a:

- **water set** unless at least ½ of the set trap is located underwater at all times;
- **elevated set** unless the trap is placed at least 5 ft. above the surface*;
- **bottom entry enclosure set,** unless the entire opening of the enclosure is no more than 7 inches above the surface*;
- **baited and/or scented set in or on the ground** unless the trap trigger is within an enclosure with openings no greater than 50 square inches for a 7 inch recess or an opening of 8 inches high by 10 inches wide with a 10 inch minimum recess from the enclosure openings; or
- **unbaited and/or unscented trail set** unless the trap is within an enclosure that provides openings no greater than 10 inches high and 10 inches wide and is recessed a minimum of 15 inches from the enclosure openings.

*Surface is the first surface which is ground, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard material beneath the trap or opening. For the purposes of this section, "enclosure" means any single-unit device that creates a barrier to the trap allowing entry only through designated openings.

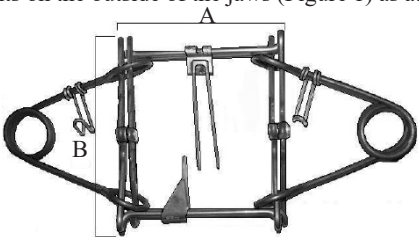


Figure 1. *To determine the maximum square inches of an unset trap, multiply the maximum width of the trap jaws (A) by the height of the trap jaws (B). Body-grip trap designs vary.*

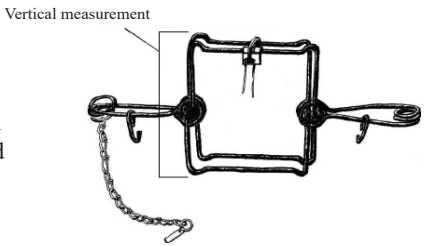


Figure 2. *An example of how to measure the vertical height measurement of a trap when set.*

To set, place or operate any body-grip trap that is 60 square inches or less in size, it must have a maximum vertical jaw measurement of 7½ inches when set. The vertical measurement is taken from the widest points on the trap in the set position (Figure 2).

Body-Grip Trap Size	Dry Land	Water
Less than or equal to 60 square inches	Legal	Legal
Between 60 and 75 square inches	Legal if enclosed or at least 5 feet off the ground	Legal
75 square inches or greater	NOT legal	Legal

Consider all set placement to avoid contact with humans and domestic animals.

When using body-grip traps on dry land, the use of enclosures and elevated sets is strongly encouraged. The ability to continue to use body-grip traps in the future depends on responsible use now!

Cable Restraint Regulations

You may not:

- set, place or operate cable restraints for any species other than fox, coyote and bobcat. *Wolf season is closed. Please check dnr.wi.gov keyword "wolf" for updates.*
- set out or place a cable restraint, whether set or sprung, on public or private land, except during the following dates:
  - Dec. 1, 2019–Jan. 31, 2020 for bobcat; and
  - Dec. 1, 2019–Feb. 15, 2020 for coyote and fox.
- use cable restraints for removal of nuisance wildlife except for coyote and fox during the dates listed above;
- stake a cable restraint in a manner that allows the restraint device to reach any part of a fence, rooted woody vegetation greater than ½ inch diameter or any other immovable object or stake that could cause entanglement;
- set, place or operate any cable restraint with the bottom of the loop less than 6 inches or greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the bottom of the set cable restraint loop (Figure 3), where the surface is ground, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard surface; or
- set, place or operate any cable restraint unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications (Figure 4):
  - the cable length may not exceed 7 ft.;
  - the cable must be galvanized aircraft cable and include a swivel;
  - it must be non-spring activated with the exception of the foot-activated cable restraint;
  - cable must be made of multiple strands of wire, with a diameter of 3/32 inches or larger;
  - includes a breakaway device or stop rated at 350 lbs. or less;
  - includes a relaxing reverse-bend washer lock with a minimum outside diameter of 1¼ inches; and
  - includes cable stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the portion of the cable that makes up the noose loop may not be longer than 38 inches or less than 8 inches.

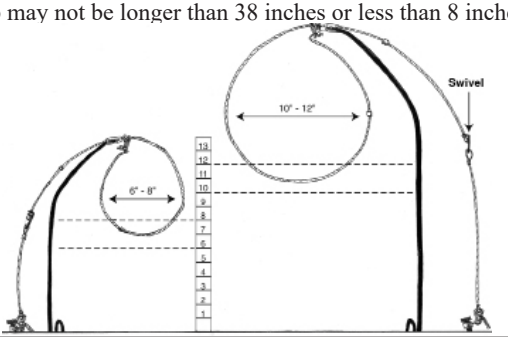


Figure 3. *Loop heights and size varies depending on the intended species: coyote, bobcat or fox. Multiple swivels are recommended on a cable restraint; however, only a single swivel is required.*

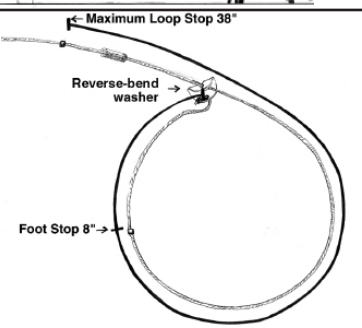


Figure 4. *The maximum and minimum loop size for cable restraints is easily measured by circumference. The minimum loop stop is set at 8 inches and the maximum loop stop is set at 38 inches from the reverse-bend washer end of the cable. This results in a loop no smaller that 2½ inches in diameter nor larger than 12 inches in diameter.*

Foot-Activated Cable Restraints

You may not:

- set, place or operate foot-activated cable restraints for any species other than fox, coyote and bobcat;
- set out or place a cable restraint, whether set or sprung, on public or private land, except during the following dates:
  - Dec. 1, 2019–Jan. 31, 2020 for bobcat; and
  - Dec. 1, 2019–Feb. 15, 2020 for coyote and fox.
- use foot-activated cable restraints for removal of nuisance wildlife except for coyote and fox during the dates listed above;
- stake a cable restraint in a manner that allows the restraint device to reach any part of a fence, rooted woody vegetation greater than ½ inch diameter or any other immovable object or stake that could cause entanglement;
- set, place or operate any foot-activated cable restraint unless the noose cable and attachments conform to the following specifications:
  - the cable length may not exceed 7 ft., must be $^{3}/_{32}$ inch or larger and consist of multiple wires;
  - includes a breakaway device or stop rated at 350 lbs. or less;
  - includes a roller or barrel in-line swivel that ensures that the portion of the cable that makes up the noose loop may not be longer than 22 inches; and
  - includes an in-line shock spring.

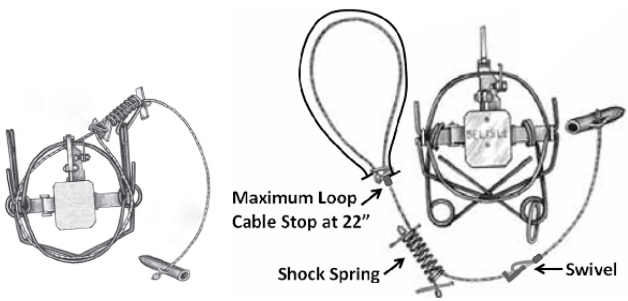


Figure 5. ***Foot-activated cable restraint.*** *The maximum loop stop is set at 22 inches from lock.*

Finding Land Open to Trapping

The DNR website provides detailed information about public and public-access lands in your area. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "trap". Click on the "where to trap" link under the "during your season" subheading.

Voluntary Public Access (VPA) is a voluntary program that provides financial incentives to private landowners who open their property to public hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife observation. Properties open to public access through the VPA program and information on enrolling can be found by visiting *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "VPA" or by calling 888-936-7463.

Colony Traps

Colony traps: enclosure-type devices that allow for the capture of one or more animals in a single set, are only legal to use for trapping muskrat. Mink that are incidentally captured in colony traps placed for muskrats can be retained.

You may not:

- set, place or operate a colony trap with a length exceeding 36 ½ inches or with a height or width exceeding 6 ½ inches. If using a round (tube-shaped) trap, the diameter cannot exceed 6 ½ inches;
- set, place or operate a colony trap within 3 ft. of any culvert;
- place bait, including scent, in the trap or at the set location;
- set, place or operate a colony trap that is not completely underwater; or
- use a colony trap in conjunction with any fencing, netting or other material placed in the water (including other colony traps) that create an underwater obstruction designed to force or channel any wild animal into the trap.

Possession Restrictions

Definitions

Raw fur: the undressed or untanned skins or pelts of any furbearing animal, including ones that have been stretched and dried.

Green pelts: a skin that has not been removed from the carcass **or** the pelt of any furbearing animal that has been removed, but has not been tanned or fleshed, stretched and dried.

You may not:

- possess the green pelts of any bobcat, fisher or otter beginning longer than 7 days after the month of harvest unless the pelt has a valid registration tag attached;
- possess any mink, muskrat, fisher or otter pelt that has been shot or speared;
- possess any raw fisher, mink, muskrat or otter pelt at any time without a current trapping or fur dealer's license or other appropriate special license or permit issued by the DNR;
- ship fur unless the outside of the container is marked with the number and type of species being shipped and the name, address and trapping license number of the shipper;
- transfer to another, give, trade, sell or purchase a raw pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat, fisher or otter without a registration tag being attached and locked to the head portion of the pelt by the department; or
- purchase any raw fur without a fur dealers license; except you may obtain written authorization from the DNR to purchase raw fur without the need to purchase a license if only for the purpose of making garments for yourself or a member of your family.

Special Regulations: Bobcat, Fisher and Otter

Permit Applications and Preference Points

Permit applications can be submitted at GoWild.WI.Gov, at DNR service centers or at license agents by visiting any license sales location. Trappers can submit their application choices for bobcat, otter and fisher at the same time they pay the application fee for each species.

Applicants have the option of applying for a preference point only or to be entered into the drawing for a permit(s). If an applicant makes the choice to be entered into the drawing and is selected for a permit the applicant will lose all preference points, even if the permit is not used.

Applicants who fail to apply for either a preference point or a permit at least once during any 3 consecutive years will lose all previously accumulated preference points.

Note: Conservation Patron license holders who did not submit application choices for otter and fisher with the purchase of a license must apply online or at a DNR service center. The annual deadline to submit application choices for bobcat, fisher and otter permits for the upcoming season is **Aug. 1.** Applicants who apply for a bobcat permit must choose a zone and period of preference.

Permits and Tags

Application Fees

Species	Patron License Holders	Trapping License Holders
Bobcat	$6.00	$6.00
Fisher	Included in license cost*	$3.00
Otter	Included in license cost*	$3.00

* Patron License holders still need to register their application choices.

You may not:

- possess or have under control any bobcat, fisher or otter carcass unless you immediately validate, attach and seal your pelt tag through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin (see instructions on the pelt tag for further details). The pelt and DNR registration tags shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation;
- possess, loan or borrow a license or pelt tag belonging to another; or
- place your tag on a bobcat, fisher or otter which has been caught, trapped or killed by another person (includes those caught in traps set by another person).

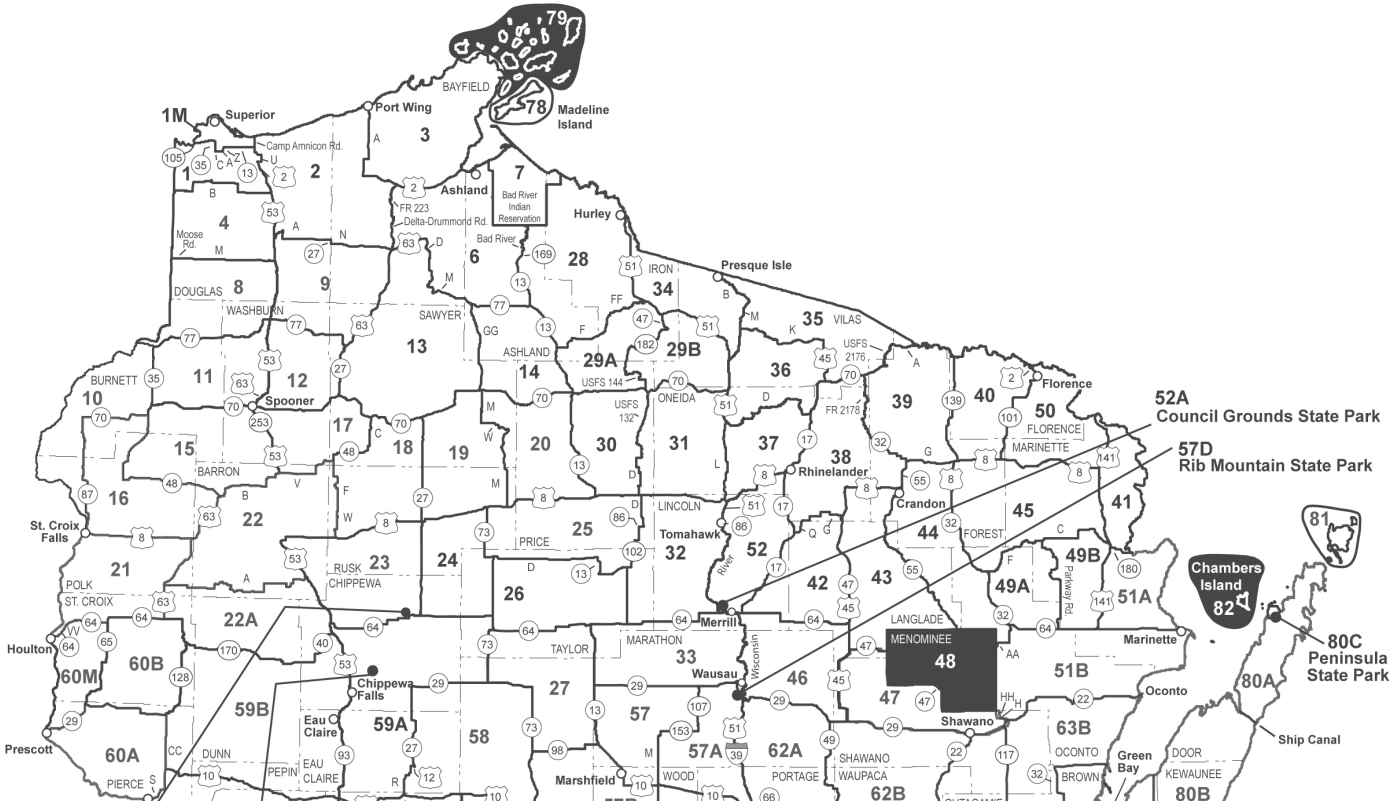
  Note: a person is not allowed to tag a bobcat, fisher or otter that was intentionally or accidentally caught in a trap set by another person. A person who tags a trapped bobcat, fisher or otter must be the person who made the trap set.
- transfer, give, trade, sell or purchase any bobcat, fisher or otter pelt unless an authorized DNR representative has attached a registration tag to the pelt; or
- possess bobcat, fisher or otter pelts *longer than 7 days after the month of harvest* without registering the pelt(s) with an authorized DNR representative.

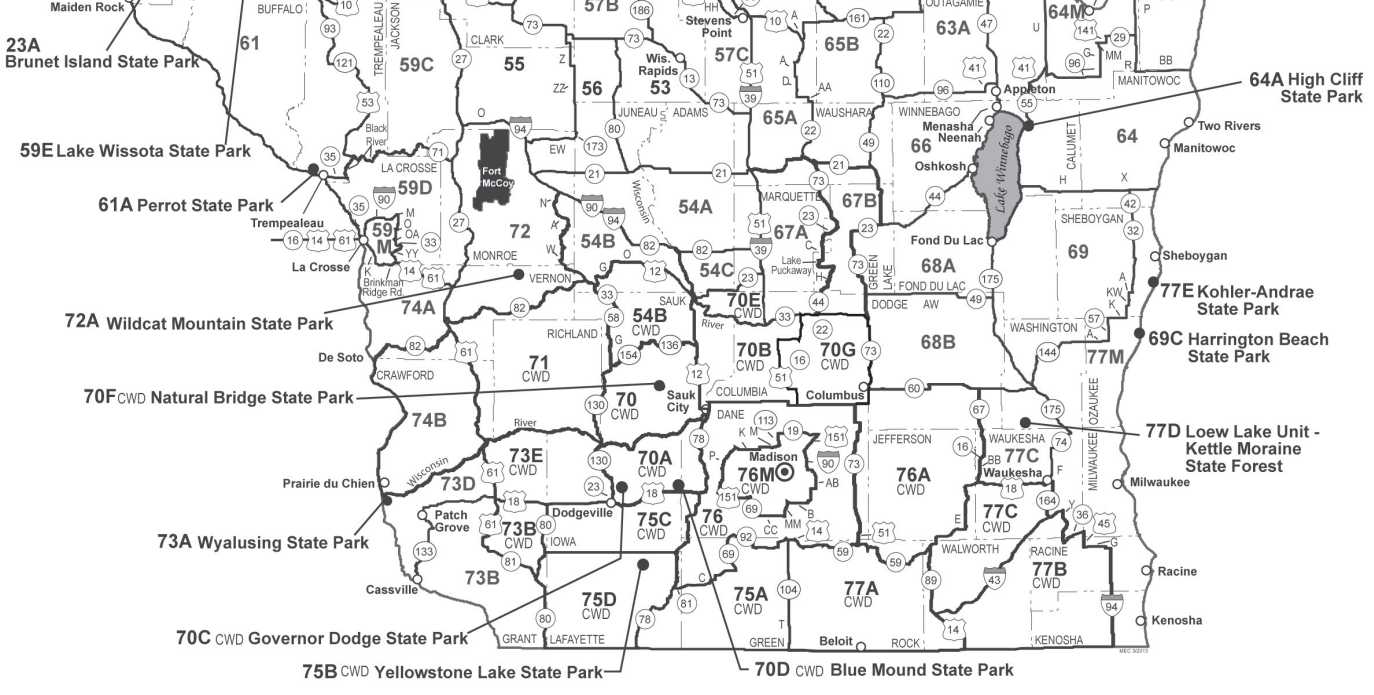
Bobcat, Fisher and Otter Zone Closure Hotline

While unlikely, bobcat, fisher and otter zones may close before the season ends. To verify which zones are open for trapping, call the bobcat, fisher and otter trapping hotline at 855-299-9653 (608-261-0748 local) or visit *dnr.wi.gov*, search keyword "trap."

Game Management Units

When reporting a bobcat, fisher or otter harvest, trappers and hunters will be asked to determine the Game Management Unit (GMU) of harvest. GMUs are similar to previously used Deer Management Units and are outlined below. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "trap" to download a PDF of Wisconsin's GMUs.





Trapping on DNR-Owned and -Managed Lands

No person may destroy, molest, deface, remove or attempt to remove any natural growth or natural or archaeological feature except that edible fruits, edible nuts, wild mushrooms, wild asparagus and watercress may be removed by hand without a permit only for the purpose of personal consumption by the collector.

Additionally, willow stems not larger than 2½ inches in diameter, from species that are not endangered or threatened, may be collected for personal noncommercial use by the collector for purposes such as trap stakes, after first obtaining the property manager's approval.

Transfer of Bobcat, Fisher or Otter Permits to Youth and Disabled Permit Holders

A person who has been awarded a bobcat, fisher or otter permit may apply to transfer that permit to a youth under the age of 18 or a person holding a valid Class A, B or C disabled permit no later than 15 days before the open season. The person receiving the permit will retain their accumulated preference points. A youth or disabled permit holder may only be the recipient of each type of transferred permit once. If you wish to transfer your permit, please visit *dnr.wi.gov*, keywords "permit transfer" for more information and to download a permit transfer application (Form 9400-607).

Harvest Reporting

Permit holders that harvest a bobcat, fisher or otter must notify the DNR **within 24 hours** of harvest. Report harvest online at *gamereg.wi.gov* (fastest and easiest method) or by phone at 844-426-3734 (844-GAME-REG). Be prepared to indicate which Game Management Unit (page 16) the animal was harvested in.

Registration

In addition to reporting harvest, bobcat, fisher and otter must be registered in person within 7 days after the month of harvest. Before registering a pelt at a designated DNR registration station, you must skin the animal and separate the pelt from the carcass. Skinning/pelt separation does not need to be completed before registration for specimens going to a taxidermist, but you must retrieve the carcass from the taxidermists and deliver it to the DNR within 30 days of registration (note: these animals must still be registered prior to taxidermy). To register your harvest, contact a local Conservation Warden or other authorized DNR personnel. Visit *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "trap" or call 888-936-7463.

Note: harvesters may take meat and the majority of the skull (see below) from the bobcat carcass prior to submittal to the DNR as long as the internal organs remain intact.

Carcass Collection for 2019 - 20

ATTENTION BOBCAT AND FISHER HARVESTERS: This year, in place of collecting the entire skull of harvested fishers and bobcats, the DNR will collect a small section of the lower jaw for aging purposes. The remainder of the skull can be immediately retained for personal use. The remainder of the bobcat carcass, minus the meat and top portion of the skull, must still be collected.

To remove the jaw, make two cuts. The first cut is made at the front of the lower jaw, between the canines. This cut separates each side of the lower jaw. The second cut should be made to include the 4th premolar (as shown in Figure 6). A large lopper or hacksaw works well for making the necessary cuts (Figure 7). Be careful not to cut too close to the tooth as the root may be damaged (the root of the tooth is needed to determine age).

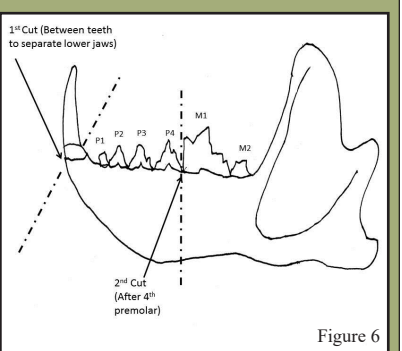


Figure 6

Once the lower jaw is removed, place the jaw section and your carcass tag in a ziplock bag. For bobcats, remember to securely attach this jaw section to the remainder of the carcass. The samples will be collected by DNR personnel at the time of physical registration.

Please contact the furbearer program at 608-261-6452 with any sample-related questions

Figure 7

Trapping in State Parks

Trapping is allowed in all state parks except Copper Culture, Cross Plains, Governor Nelson, Heritage Hill, Lakeshore and Lost Dauphin state parks, Hank Aaron state trail, Fischer Creek state recreation area, Havenwoods state forest and Lapham Peak and Pike Lake units of the Kettle Moraine state forest. A state park sticker or pass is required for all vehicles in any state park. Trappers may enter a state park or state trail property up to one hour prior to sunrise and remain on the property until 11 p.m.

Trapping is only allowed for species when their season is open and only during either of the following time periods: Nov. 15–Dec. 15, 2019 and April 1–May 1, 2020.

You may not:

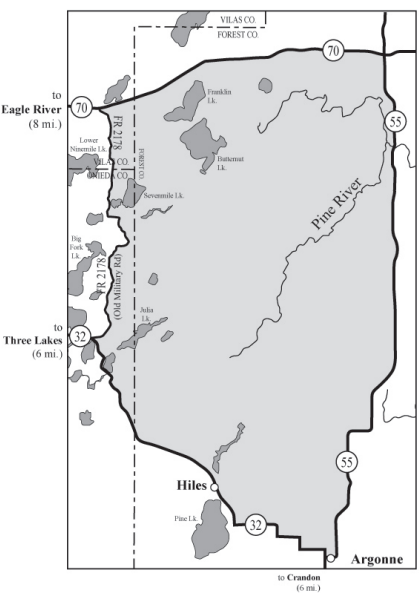
- use traps that are not placed completely under water unless the traps are enclosed trigger traps;
- set, place or check traps past 11 p.m., remain on the property past 11 p.m. or enter the property prior to an hour before sunrise for the purpose of trapping;

  Note: trappers who are registered campers staying in a designated campsite are not required to leave the campgrounds, but may not use other areas of the park after 11 p.m.
- set, place or check traps located within 100 yards of designated trails or designated use areas such as picnic areas, campgrounds and beaches or in any area in the park closed to trapping indicated on that park's trapping area map; or
- trap during the closed season for any species.

For more information on regulations specific to state parks and maps of areas open to trapping within individual parks, visit *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "hunting state parks".

Marten Restoration Areas Open to Forms of Dryland Trapping

In the areas indicated in grey on these maps, cable restraints and cage or box-type traps may be used on dryland for species that have an open season. No other traps on dryland are legal.



Beaver

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

Season Dates

Zone A: Nov. 2, 2019 – April 30, 2020
Zone B: Nov. 2, 2019 – April 30, 2020
Zone C: Nov. 2, 2019– March 31, 2020
Zone D: Dec. 4, 2019–March 15, 2020

Beaver Damage Control

Landowners, occupants and family members living with them may hunt or trap beaver on their land at anytime without a license and may remove beaver dams without a permit. Landowners may also trap on beaver dams. If beaver are taken by firearm, the landowner, occupant or family member harvesting the beaver must comply with firearm possession and hunting mentorship program restrictions if applicable (see the 2019 Small Game Regulations). See DNR publication WM-007 (*Beaver Damage Control Guidelines*), or contact the DNR call center at 888-936-7463 for more information.

Beaver Management Zones

Fisher and Otter

Permit Application Deadline: August 1

Fisher

Season Limits

Special zones ***only*** by permit(s).
Season limit one fisher per permit.

Season Dates

All zones Oct. 19, 2019–Jan. 5, 2020

Carcass Collection

During the 2019–20 season, fisher jaws must be submitted at the time of registration. See page 18 for more details.

Otter

Season Limits

One otter per zone-specific permit.

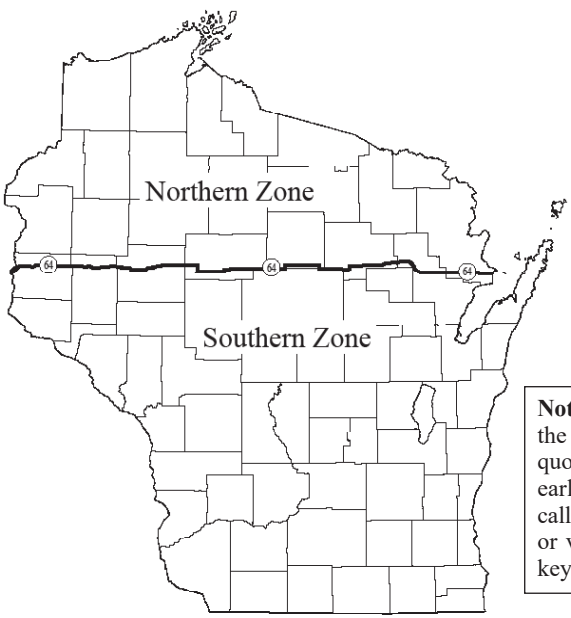
Season Dates

North Zone: Nov. 2, 2019–April 30, 2020
South Zone: Nov. 2, 2019–March 31, 2020

Federal Lands: on federal lands within the Mississippi River zone (see pages 8 and 24), the otter season does not open until the muskrat and mink seasons open. Federal rules do not allow trapping on federal refuge lands after March 15, 2020.

Private Lands: on private lands within the Mississippi River zone, the otter season opens and closes with the South Zone (see dates above).

Fisher and Otter Management Zones



Note: seasons may close before the listed dates if the harvest quota for that zone is reached early. For zone status, please call the hotline at 855-299-9653 or visit *dnr.wi.gov* and search keyword "trap."

Bobcat

Permit Application Deadline: August 1

Season Limits

Hunting and trapping only allowed by permit. One bobcat per permit.

Season Dates

Statewide

Period 1: Oct. 19, 2019 – Dec. 25, 2019
Period 2: Dec. 26, 2019– Jan. 31, 2020

Note: The DNR has radio-collared bobcats in 12 northern counties as part of an ongoing research project. It is legal to harvest a collared bobcat. Call the number inscribed on the collar if you harvest a collared bobcat.

Cable restraints

Allowed Dec. 1, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2020

Carcass Collection

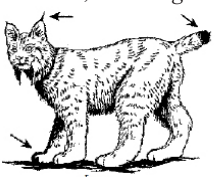
During the 2019–20 season, bobcat carcasses must be submitted at the time of registration.

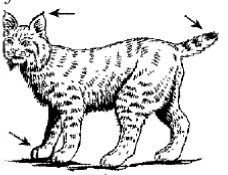
Note: Meat such as the front and rear limbs and loins or "backstraps," along with the top portion of the skull, can be retained by the harvester as long as the lower jaw and internal organs remain intact. See page 18 for more details.

Note: If the annual harvest quota for bobcat is reached before the respective season end date, the season may close early. It is the hunter or trapper's responsibility to determine the status of a bobcat season prior to attempting to hunt or trap in a particular zone. Call the hotline at 855-299-9653 or see *dnr.wi.gov*, keyword "trap" for updates.

Canada lynx, a rare visitor to Wisconsin, are listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please help us protect this unique animal through your careful observation. See illustrations below and if you observe a Canada lynx, report it immediately at *dnr.wi.gov* by searching keyword "Large Mammal Observation" or contact the DNR call center at 1-888-936-7463.

Lynx are distinguished from bobcat primarily by the tip of their tail, which is completely black. Only the upper half of the tail tip is black on the bobcat. Lynx also have larger ear tufts, are lighter in coloration, have large densely furred feet and less distinct tracks than bobcat.


Lynx


Bobcat

Coyote, Raccoon, Red and Gray Fox

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

Season Dates

The following season dates are valid statewide:

Resident raccoon: Oct. 19, 2019 – Feb. 15, 2020
Non-resident raccoon: Nov. 2, 2019 – Feb. 15, 2020
Red and gray fox: Oct. 19, 2019 – Feb. 15, 2020
Coyote: Oct. 19, 2019 – Feb. 15, 2020

Cable restraints

Cable restraints may be used statewide only during these dates:

Red fox, gray fox and coyote: Dec. 1, 2019 – Feb. 15, 2020.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area

Trapping at these locations is authorized on a permit system only and special regulations apply. See page 7 for more information.

Mississippi River Zone

See page 24 for a map of the Mississippi River zone.

Federal Lands: on federal lands within the Mississippi River zone (see page 8), the coyote, raccoon and fox seasons open when the muskrat and mink seasons open.

Private Lands: on private lands within the Mississippi River zone, the coyote, raccoon and fox seasons open as listed in the "season dates" section above.

Interference with Trapping

No person may interfere with lawful trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal: Harassing wild animals, impeding lawful trappers or disturbing lawfully placed traps, among other actions, may constitute unlawful interference.

Trap and Animal Theft

Stealing or molesting traps, cable restraints, snares, animals or the contents of any lawfully placed trap, cable restraint or snare is a criminal act and is punishable by fine ($300-$1,000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both and a mandatory 5-year revocation of license.

Mink and Muskrat

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

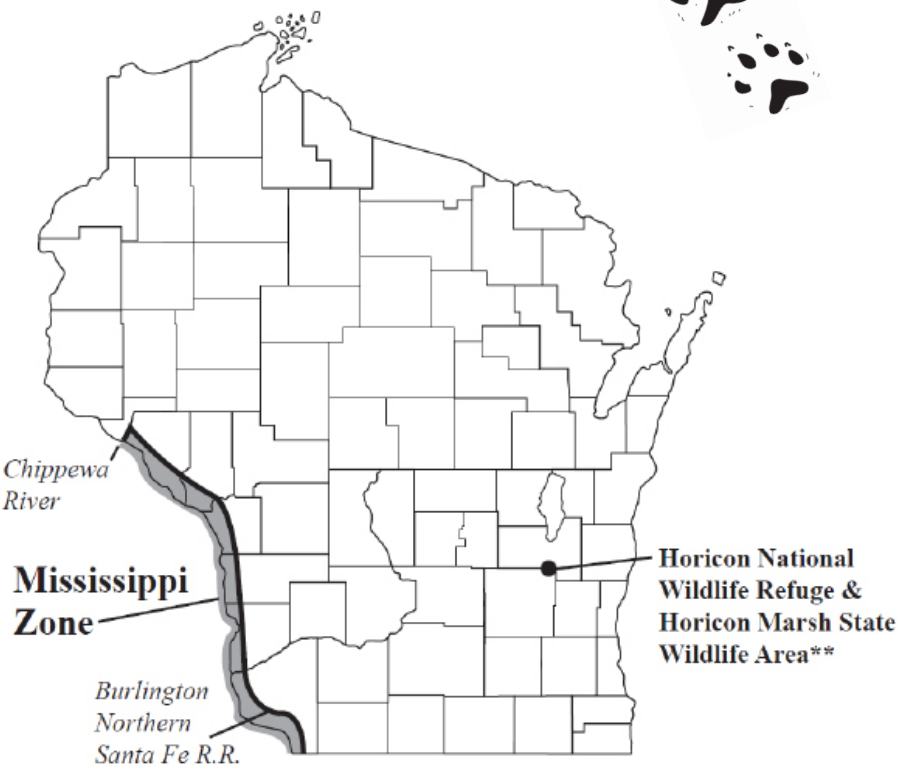
Season Dates

Statewide: Oct. 26, 2019– March 8, 2020

Mississippi River Zone:** Nov. 11, 2019– March 8, 2020

Note: During the closed season for muskrats, licensed trappers may retain for salvage any muskrats taken incidentally while trapping for beaver in the portions of the state open to beaver trapping. See rules listed under "trap size and placement restrictions" on page 9.

Mink and Muskrat Management Zones



**Permits are required and special regulations apply. See page 7 for more information.

2019 Results for Bobcat, Fisher and Otter Limited Draw

- Information on the status of the bobcat, fisher and otter populations in Wisconsin, as well as harvest history and results of the 2019 limited permit drawing, are available online at *dnr.wi.gov*, search "wildlife reports."

Carcass Data Collection

During the 2019–20 season, bobcat lower jaws and carcasses and jaws from fisher are required to be submitted to the DNR at the time of registration (see page 18 for more details). Bobcat carcasses are an annual need as pregnancy rates can fluctuate significantly year-to-year, requiring annual adjustments. Check out a video highlighting the bobcat tissue sampling procedures: *https://youtu.be/fKBjwL7AOAU*. Otters are collected every three years, with the last collection occurring in 2018. Fishers and otter pregnancy rates do not fluctuate as much, so periodic carcass collections are adequate. However, age data collected from cross-sectioned teeth is equally important for keeping track of population age structure of these three limited-harvest species, thus the request for fisher jaws this year.

With these carcasses and/or skulls in hand, additional insights are obtained by sharing tissue samples with cooperating research scientists. Over the past decade, Wisconsin furbearer carcasses have been important components of studies on diet, genetics, parasites, diseases and contaminants. Collectively, this information aids in management and helps assure healthy populations in the future. We thank all who have assisted in this effort, especially the successful hunters and trappers.

Please Contact the DNR About Incidental Take!

The scientific use of these carcasses improves our understanding of these species and the use and/or sale of salvaged pelts improves our trapper education program.

If incidental catch of a protected species occurs, please contact your local conservation warden or call (800) TIP-WDNR (800-847-9367) as soon as possible for instructions on how to release an animal or, if dead, how to transport it to the department. A protected species is any species for which the season is closed, there is no open season or a person has no authority to possess.

Note: American marten are rare and a state endangered species. Please call (800) 847-9367 to report the restraint and release or incidental take as soon as possible. If you catch a marten in a cage trap, please call (715) 365-8856 so department staff can potentially obtain scientific information about that animal. If you intend to trap near a known marten population please review the marten brochure at *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "marten avoidance."

Youth Supervised Trapping

- Youth under age 16 may trap without a license under the supervision of a licensed trapper, even if the youth has not completed trapper education.

  Note: youth who are trapping under supervision may apply for, purchase and use bobcat, fisher and otter trapping permits.
- The supervised youth is not required to tag traps that they use while under supervision.
- Youths under age 16 that wish to trap alone must complete trapper education, purchase a trapping license and tag their traps with metal tags as described on p. 10.

Mentored Trapping Program

- **Mentored trapping license: $10**
- Youth under age 16 do not need a license to trap with a mentor; see youth supervised trapping above.
- Anyone age 16 and older who wishes to trap in Wisconsin and who has not completed trapper education must possess a valid mentored trapping license and trap with a mentor, unless exempt from trapping license requirement (see page 29 for exemptions).
- A mentee may only receive **two mentored trapping licenses per lifetime**. Each trapping license is valid for one trapping season.
- A mentee holding a mentored trapping license *may not* receive a fisher or otter harvest tag, but may assist the mentor in trapping these species.
- A mentee holding a mentored trapping license may still apply for and receive a bobcat harvest tag if *hunting* bobcat (in which case a small game hunting license must also be purchased).
- A mentee may apply for bobcat, fisher or otter preference points while holding a mentored trapping license. However, if the mentee applies for the drawing for one of these species and is awarded a permit, the mentee must complete trapper education and purchase a regular trapping license prior to the start of the season before they may trap under the authority of the awarded permit.
- If using the same traps, both the mentor and mentee must tag the traps with a metal tag stamped with the name/address or customer ID. This does not apply if the mentee is under age 16. If the mentee alone tags the traps, then the mentee and mentor shall operate the traps only when both mentor and mentee are present.
- The mentor must be 18 or older and be the parent/guardian or authorized by the parent/guardian if the mentee is under 18. The mentor must remain in contact with the mentee and must hold a current valid trapping license or be exempt from this requirement.
- The mentor can take more than one person trapping provided the mentor can safely and adequately serve as mentor for all mentees.

Regulated Trapping and Social Media

Sharing your enthusiasm for trapping in a positive light is a great way to spread the message that trapping is a fun and beneficial outdoor activity. However, it is important to be thoughtful and considerate when posting trapping-related photos and other content to social media sites. View our brochure on "Regulated Trapping and Social Media" at *dnr.wi.gov*, keyword "trap" for more information.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Trappers and state wildlife agencies continue to develop "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) for trapping in the United States. Trapping BMPs are documents that identify techniques and traps that address the welfare of trapped animals and allow for the efficient, selective, safe and practical capture of furbearers. BMPs are methods to improve trapping by developing recommendations using sound science. They are developed through actual field tests and careful data collection. The information is provided to state agencies and trappers for voluntary use in their trapper education and furbearer management programs.

Wisconsin has been a leader in the BMP process since it began in 1997. BMPs are intended to inform people about traps and trapping systems considered to be state-of-the-art in animal welfare and efficiency, and explain how some existing traps can be modified to enhance animal welfare. To date, initial BMP studies and publications have been completed for all Wisconsin species, and all furbearers in the lower 48 states.

A Wisconsin three-year study was completed in 2002 and resulted in the publication ***Cable Restraints in Wisconsin – A Guide to Responsible Use*** *(WM-443)* and the legal use of cable restraints in Wisconsin.

Public Impressions of Trapping

In 2016, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), who led this BMP effort, surveyed residents of Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin to examine public perceptions of trapping. Not only did we learn that 79% of the Wisconsin public supports regulated trapping, but we discovered a number of messages important to the public. These "key messages" are:

- **regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become threatened or endangered;**
- **trapping is managed through scientifically based regulations strictly enforced by Wisconsin conservation wardens;**
- **the Wisconsin DNR, with input from stakeholders, continually reviews and develops rules, regulations, education programs and capture methods that consider animal welfare; and**
- **regulated trapping provides many benefits including reducing wildlife damage to crops and property and reducing threats to human health and safety.**

Why are BMPs needed?

- to ensure the continued responsible management of wildlife resources;
- to continue the process of improving traps and trapping methods that will maintain and improve animal welfare;
- to maintain public acceptance through a reduction in real and perceived problems associated with trapping; and
- to sustain regulated trapping now and in the future and to maintain the integrity of furbearer management programs throughout the United States.

Regulated trapping will only prosper and continue if the trapping community, along with natural resource agencies, work together to improve harvest systems and promote the humane treatment of animals. Thanks for your support!

Boat Regulations

Prevent the Spread of Disease and Exotic Species

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

In order to prevent the spread of the deadly VHS fish virus and invasive species, all water must be drained from all boats, boat trailers, boating equipment and other gear immediately after removing from water, bank or shore of all waters of the state.

Aquatic Invasive Species crowd out native plants and animals as well as threaten the quality of regulated trapping in wetlands. To prevent this, clean boots, traps and equipment of mud, aquatic plants and animals before moving between locations. The law requires removal of all aquatic plants and animals attached to the exterior of all vehicles, boat trailers, equipment or gear before transporting on any roadway. Drain any water from boats and equipment before leaving the wetland. Wisconsin state statutes prohibit launching a boat, boat trailer or boating equipment if there are any aquatic plants or animals attached. For more information, visit *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "aquatic invasive species."

Don't Move Firewood!

Firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to Wisconsin's trees, both in forest and urban settings. Gypsy moth, oak wilt and the emerald ash borer are just a few examples. Restrictions on bringing firewood onto state managed lands are in place to help protect trees in state parks and forests. Details can be found online at *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "firewood" or by phone at: (877) 303-WOOD (9663).

Trapper Education Course

Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP)

dnr.wi.gov keywords "trapper ed"

A Cooperative Trapper Education Program of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Trappers Association

Why Trapper Education?

We believe that trappers create a good image when they engage in responsible and ethical pursuit of our furbearing resource. Trapper education teaches new or inexperienced trappers ethical trapping procedures, the most humane trapping methods, the history of trapping in Wisconsin and North America and basic wildlife management principles. It is also important for trappers to learn and understand the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners, other outdoor enthusiasts and managers of our natural resources. The Wisconsin trapper education course provides a solid beginning to trapping education, an education you will use everyday on the trapline.

Help Support Trapper Education

The sale or use of fur from incidentally taken furbearers is used to support the trapper education program and educate new trappers. If you trap an animal for which you do not have a permit, please call 800-TIP-WDNR (800-847-9367) for instructions on how to transport the carcass to the DNR.

Who must attend?

All first-time trappers must complete the Wisconsin trapper education course prior to purchasing a trapping license. It is recommended that you be at least 10 years old to attend this class. Class size may be limited, so early registration is recommended. No late applications will be accepted.

Note: You must have a DNR customer ID number prior to the first class. Call 888-936-7463 or visit dnr.wi.gov and search "Customer ID" to obtain this number.

See youth supervised and mentored trapping details on page 26 for opportunities to trap without trapper education certification. Persons who purchased a Wisconsin trapping license on or before May 12, 1992 or are actively engaged in farming in Wisconsin as defined by State Statute 102.04(3) and are current Wisconsin residents are exempt from completing trapper education.

Where and when are the classes held?

Classes will be held in communities statewide with each instructor setting their own class schedule. Commonly the course requires 1-2 evening sessions and one weekend day or a full weekend. Class locations are available by searching gowild.wi.gov or visiting *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "trapper ed." Students can register for classes online at instructor's discretion. Classes are not provided in all counties and size is limited. To search statewide, do not choose a county when prompted to in the Go Wild system. Students can also contact WCTEP District Coordinators for information on classes in their area (see page 31).

What does it cost?

The fee for most courses is $12.00. This includes all instructional materials. Some overnight workshops may have a higher fee if meals and lodging are provided.

The course includes:

- trapping history and highlights in wildlife conservation;
- role of trapping today;
- principles of wildlife management;
- wetland and upland values;
- furbearer management, biology and disease;
- trapping laws and ethics;
- trap preparation, adjustment, setting and safety;
- humane trapping methods;
- pelt preparation, skinning, grading, marketing; and
- practice setting dry land sets and water sets

The instructors:

Our team of volunteer trapper education instructors has passed background checks and completed our instructor training program. If you are interested in becoming a trapper education instructor, visit *dnr.wi.gov* and search "trapper education instructor cubby."

Instructional materials provided:

A student manual, set of Wisconsin trapping regulations, arm patch and your first year's trapping license (Wisconsin residents only) are provided to successful graduates of this course.

Where can you find more information and how do you sign up?

Visit *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "trapper ed." for course dates, times and locations. You may also contact the Statewide Coordinator or DNR trapper education coordinator at 608-261-6452. Additionally, you can contact the district coordinator for the district in which you live to get details on course dates, times, locations and the name of the instructor nearest you (see map on page 31).

Correspondence Course and Online Course

A 5-week correspondence course is available for students who cannot attend the regular trapper education course. An online course is now also available at a fee of $12 for residents and non-residents. **After completion of the correspondence or online course, students must pass a field test to become Trapper Ed certified.** Field tests can be found by contacting coordinators or visiting the *dnr.wi.gov* keywords "trapper ed."

Wisconsin Residents: The correspondence course is $12.00 and there is a $13.00 deposit for the NTA handbook and WTA video. Your full deposit will be refunded if both materials are returned in good condition. Your deposit refund will be $6.50 if only one of these is returned and no deposit refund will be sent if neither are returned prior to returning the final exam. To get started, send a $25.00 check or money order payable to WCTEP to: WCTEP, P.O. Box 26, Boscobel, WI 53805.

Non-residents: The correspondence course is $28.00 and there is a $17.00 deposit for the NTA handbook and WTA video. Your full deposit will be refunded if both materials are returned in good condition. Your deposit refund will be $8.50 if only one of these is returned and no deposit refund will be sent if neither are returned prior to returning the final exam. To get started, send a $45.00 check or money order payable to WCTEP to: WCTEP, P.O. Box 26, Boscobel, WI 53805.

More Information

Contact Mike Widner at the number or email address below for information on the correspondence and online course.

Trapper Education Coordinators

WCTEP Statewide Coordinator
Jim Binder
E8126 Church Rd.
New London, WI 54961
wctep1@gmail.com
(920) 250-2515

DNR Statewide Coordinator
Curtis Twellmann
101 S. Webster St
Madison, WI 53707
Curtis.Twellmann@wisconsin.gov
(608) 261-6452

WCTEP Correspondence and Online Course Coordinator
Mike Widner
108 Mary St.
Boscobel, WI 53805
(608) 356-3621
trappereducation@yahoo.com

Please Note:

Trapper Education instructors and coordinators are volunteers and their availability varies. Please be patient when contacting them or trying to enroll in Trapper Education courses.

Additional Information for Trappers

For more information on furbearer management and trapping issues visit:

- Wisconsin DNR *dnr.wi.gov* keyword "trap";
- Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) www.wistrap.org; and
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) *www.fishwildlife.org* then select "furbearer management" under the focus areas.

Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Districts

District 1
Steve Hoffman
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Grantsburg, WI 54840
Home: (715) 463-5439
Hoffman3@grantsburgtelcom.net

District 2
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District 3
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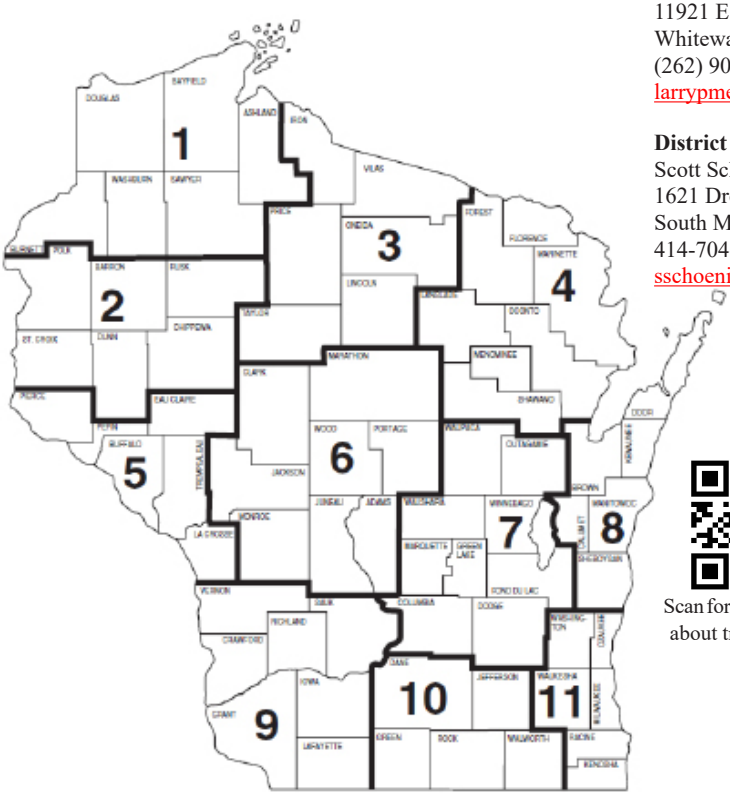

Scan for more information about trapper education

Questions?

Visit dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "trap."

Buy your licenses online at GoWild.wi.gov

Or buy from one of our license agents. To find an agent near you, visit the DNR website at *dnr.wi.gov* and search keywords "license agents" or call 1-888-WDNR-INFO (1-888-936-7463)
TTY access via relay - 711

General mailing address:
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The content of this pamphlet was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Part of the printing costs were paid for by:

Wisconsin Trappers Association
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Oregon, WI 53575-0305

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