

Draft letter to trap check participants and the basis for the February Commission Packet.

January 23, 2004

At the December 12, 2003 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, the Commission requested a range of draft options relating to potential trap check intervals for predators. These options will be discussed and considered by the Commission at their February 6, 2004 meeting at the Portland Expo Center. The Commission has the authority to adopt one of the options as written, modify an option or reject all options. Options are not listed in priority order and there is no preferred staff alternative.

Option 1:

When trapping predatory animals as defined in ORS 610.002:

(a) restraining traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 76 hours and all animals removed.

(b) killing traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 30 days and all animals removed.

Option 2:

When trapping predatory animal as defined in ORS 610.002:

(a) Restraining traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 76 hours. However, restraining traps and snares set by a person owning, leasing, occupying, possessing or having charge of or dominion over any land, place, building, structure, wharf, pier or dock or their agent, and set for predatory animals damaging land, livestock or agricultural or forest crops, shall be checked at least once every 7 days. Any person(s) acting as an agent for a landowner shall have in their possession written authority from the landowner or lawful occupant of the land. Such written authority shall contain at least all of the following:

- A. The date of issuance of the authorization;
- B. The name, address, telephone number and signature of the person granting the authorization;
- C. The name, address and telephone number of the person to whom the authorization is granted; and
- D. The expiration date of the authorization, which shall be not later than one year from the date of issuance of the authorization.

(b) killing traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 30 days and all animals removed.

Option 3:

When trapping predatory animals as defined in ORS 610.002, the trap or snare shall be inspected at least once every 48 hours and all animals removed.

Option 4:

When trapping predatory animals as defined in ORS 610.002:

(a) restraining traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 5 days and all animals removed.

(b) killing traps and snares shall be inspected at least once every 30 days and all animals removed.

In addition to the options above, staff will propose the Commission adopt definitions for restraining traps and killing traps as defined below. These definitions are based on language developed by the International Organization for Standardization.

A restraining trap is a device used to capture and restrain (but not kill) a mammal as part of a restraining trap system.

A restraining trap system is a system set with the intent to capture and restrain (but not kill) a mammal comprising a combination of: equipment (the trap and the trigger configuration), and set (including site modifications, lures, baits, location and other relevant requirements).

A killing trap is a device used to kill a mammal as part of a killing trap system.

A killing trap system is a system set with the intent to kill a mammal comprising a combination of: equipment (the trap and trigger configuration), and set (including site modifications, lures, baits, location and other relevant requirements).

Considerable discussion has taken place at previous Commission meetings relating to the economic impact of potential predator trap check requirements. I have enclosed a copy of a report developed by staff evaluating available information from several sources. The report contains general information as well as specific evaluations of each option presented.

Public testimony will be received at the February meeting. This is your opportunity to address the Commission and communicate your opinion about trap check periods for predators. You may also send written correspondence or emails to the following addresses. Please note the options identified here only relate to predator traps. Predators are defined by state statute as feral swine, coyotes, rabbits, rodents and birds that are or may be destructive to agricultural crops.

The trap check period for furbearers is already defined by state statute. Furbearers are defined by state statute as beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, red fox and gray fox.

Address: Attn: Liz Bueffel
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 3406 Cherry Drive NE
 Salem, OR 97303

E-mail: Liz.A.Bueffel@state.or.us

If you have questions please call me at (503) 947-6311.

Sincerely,

Larry Cooper
Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator