

Ban Traps on New Mexico's Public Lands



TrapFreeNM.org

The trouble with traps in NM:

- ◉ Unethical and cruel.
- ◉ Under-regulated by the State.
- ◉ The numbers of wildlife killed are likely unsustainable.
- ◉ Non-target animals, including endangered wolves or pets, are frequently captured.
- ◉ The majority of New Mexico's voters are opposed to trapping.

Trapping is unethical and cruel.

- Body gripping traps do not discriminate.
- Animals suffer pain, trauma, and stress when held by traps. Immobilized animals can experience dehydration, hunger, exposure to weather, and predation.
- Injured animals have a reduced ability to hunt and forage for food. Their survival is thus jeopardized.

63% of New Mexican voters oppose trapping.

Let's ban traps on our public lands.



Public lands trapping is already banned in some Western States:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Washington

Animals labeled “furbearers” have fur of *commercial* value.

- ◉ Trappers exploit the public’s wildlife for fun and profit.
- ◉ Resident trappers pay New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) \$20 for an annual license.
- ◉ Trappers may kill as many animals as they can capture.

Most New Mexicans watch wildlife.

- Nearly 800,000 people who recreate in New Mexico identify themselves as “wildlife watchers.”
- According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “wildlife watchers” spend \$297 million annually in New Mexico.
- The number of fur trappers in New Mexico equals about 2,000. Paying \$20 for a resident license, trappers can profit from exploiting the public’s wildlife.

Indiscriminate. Don't get caught!

Caught in Controversy



Albuquerque Journal, Jan 16,
2011

Read this story to learn about the ordeal
two hikers endured after their dogs
became entrapped.



In November and December 2010, we
documented 4 trapping incidents on
National Forest lands where dogs and
people were injured . . . and these are
the incidents we learned about.

NMDGF does not track human/pet
trapping incidents.

Dangerous hidden devices.

- Leg-hold traps, footsnare and other body-gripping devices are hidden from view.
- Not required to post warnings, trappers hide traps on public lands such as the National Forests in New Mexico.
- The result: increasing human and pet conflicts that involve dangerous traps on public lands.
- Trappers are not required to reimburse the injured for medical or veterinary expenses.

Indiscriminate – even for endangered species.



Middle Fork Pack, Mexican wolf. Courtesy, USFWS.
Front limb amputated following an injury sustained from a trap.

One 3-legged *lobo* is too many.

- Yet, two 3-legged *lobos* wandered in the wild from trap injuries – one has since vanished.
- In fact, 14 Mexican wolves have been trapped by non-governmental trappers since 2002 – many sustained injuries, including pinched-off toes.
- In July 2010, Gov. Richardson banned traps in the Blue Range Mexican Wolf Recovery Area.
- In November 2010, NMDGF defied the Governor and the Game Commission and allowed trapping to continue in *lobo* country.



Other protected species, which are inadvertently trapped: Canada lynx, jaguar, and river otter.

Next page: roadrunner, Abert's squirrel, coatimundi, and javelina.



Born Free's undercover operation: lawlessness & cruelty in NM



Spotted cougar kittens are not permitted quarry, and bears cannot be trapped, according to NMDGF's regulations.



Next . . . View beautiful wild animals!

These lovely creatures are the so-called
“furbearers” of New Mexico.

Depicted here wild and free, and
sporting their own coats in their
environments!

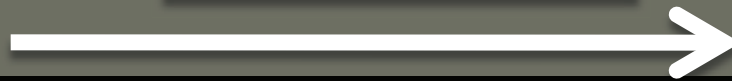
**Also represented, trapping-
season timelines.**

(Nothing ugly shown.)

Left to right: Mink, Badger, Ringtail, Long-tailed Weasel, and Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine).



Season: 11/1 – 3/15



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul



©DianeHargreaves.com

Grey Fox
Kit Fox
Swift Fox
Red Fox
Bobcat



Season: 11/1 – 3/15



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Raccoon



Season: 9/1 – 5/15

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Beaver
Muskrat
Nutria



Season: 11/1 – 4/30

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Coyote



Open Season

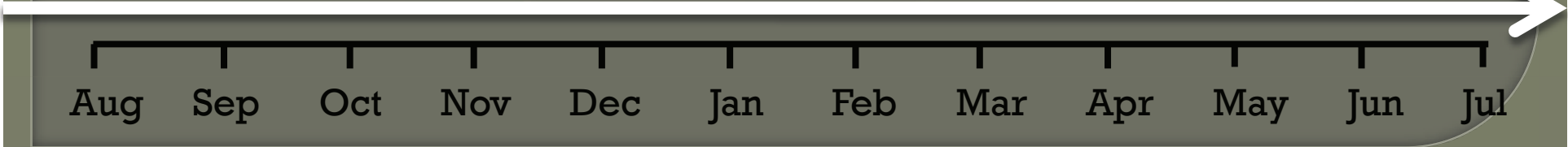
Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul



Western spotted skunk
 Striped skunk
 Hooded skunk
 Common hog-nosed skunk



Open Season





Pine marten
River otter
Black-footed ferret
Coatimundi



No Season

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

Beautiful!

But please learn more about why trapping should cease on New Mexico's public lands.

More troubles with trapping.

- ◉ New Mexico has conducted few “furbearer” population studies.
- ◉ No one knows how many “furbearers” existed in the past or live in the present.

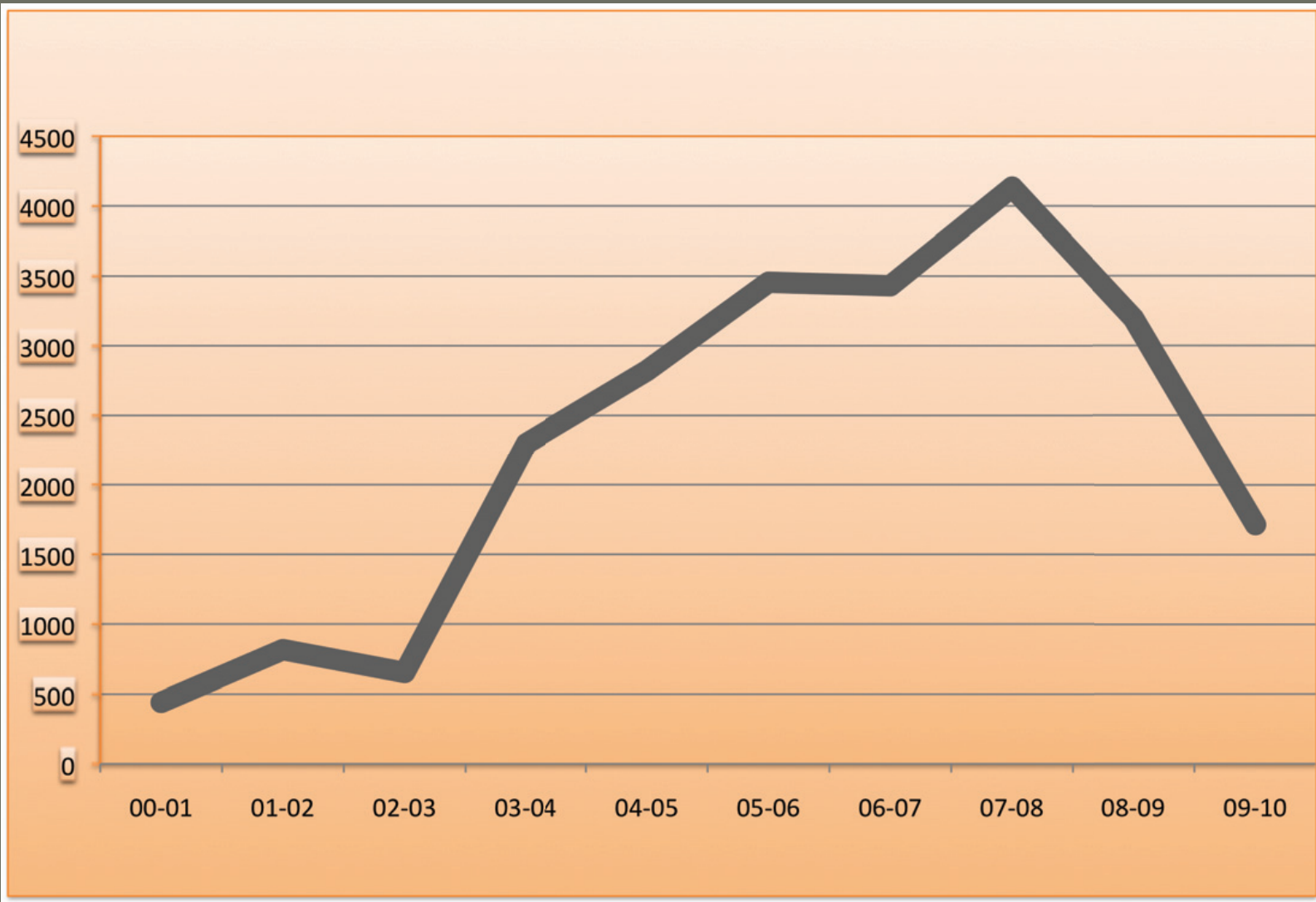
More troubles with trapping.

- The State's population surveys have been labeled "worthless" and "inadequate" by a respected university biologist.
- New Mexico has no *quotas*; a trapper can kill as many animals as he can find.
- Unlike for deer, no hunting zones have been established – so the same populations get trapped over and again.

Bobcats are the only “furbearers” counted – but only after they’re dead.

- Too many bobcats were trapped and killed in New Mexico over the last decade.
- NMDGF counts bobcats pursuant to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Each bobcat pelt is labeled with a CITES tag.
- New Mexico has one of the longest seasons in the West.

22,961 bobcats trapped in NM.



Nearly 23,000 bobcats trapped from 2000 to 2010 (NMDGF data)

- ◉ In the last two years, the graph shows a decline in the number of bobcats trapped.
- ◉ Yet bobcat furs can still fetch hundreds of dollars per pelt.
- ◉ Demand is high, but the catch was low.
- ◉ Did NMDGF already allow trappers to kill too many bobcats?

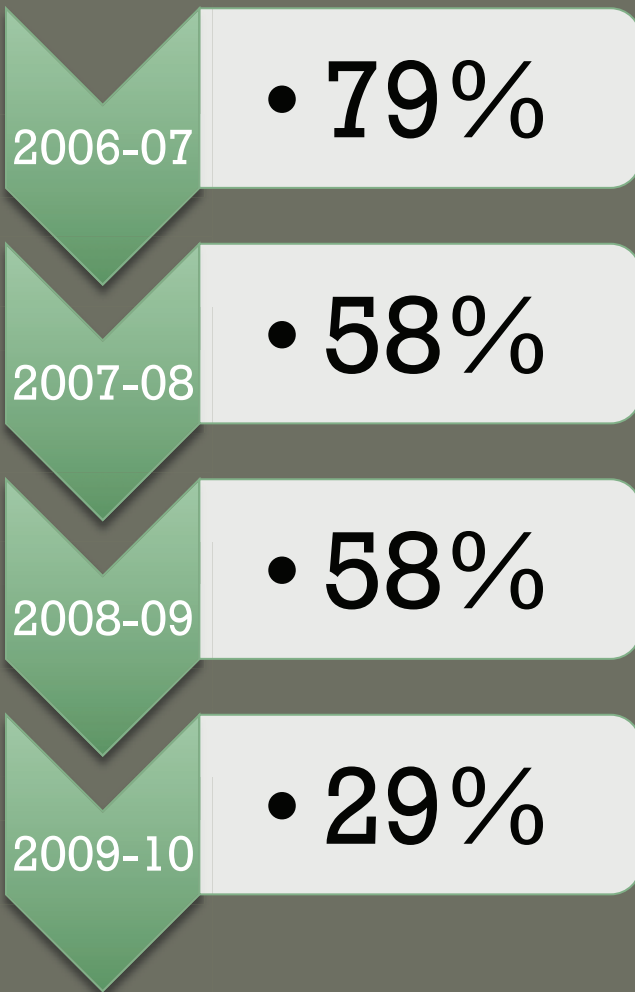


For most, live, wild bobcats have intrinsic or ecosystem values. Others only value bobcats for their furs.



Reporting Compliance.

Approximately 2,000 people trap in NM –few submit mandatory reports.



- While required to report their total cull to NMDGF each year, fewer trappers heed this rule.

- Trappers who fail to report, avoid any consequence by paying a \$8 late fee and submitting a tardy, unsubstantiated report.

- Meanwhile, the State issues new trapping licenses without knowing how many animals were killed in the past year.

Trapping is cruel and ugly.

This circle around this tree came from a trapped animal struggling to get free.



The shredded bark provides a testament to this cougar's fight for freedom.



In February 2011, a group of hikers discovered this trapped coyote. It suffered from acute lacerations and a fractured leg bone.



TrapFreeNM.org

Join the movement!



- For this coyote who suffered, for the thousands of other wildlife trapped and killed for their fur, and for all the pets and people injured, let us ban trapping in New Mexico.
- While the fur trade enriches a few, it impoverishes many.
- Cruel and under-regulated, together we can change this. Let's bring humanity to New Mexico's wildlife, people, and pets. Let's ban traps on public lands.

