

Chapter 6

Best Management Practices



Trapping BMPs-Sustaining the Future of Trapping.



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Raccoon

All 50 state fish and wildlife agencies support the development of best management practices.

Trappers, veterinarians, and university researchers helped wildlife agencies evaluate more than 70 types of traps.

Wildlife veterinarians examined thousands of trapped furbearers for different types of injuries.



Content Standard - *Students understand Best Management Practices for Trapping are needed to address animal welfare, trapping efficiency, selectivity, and safety in furbearer management programs*

Introduction



In 1996, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies began a program to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping as a way to improve the welfare of captured animals, and to document improvements in trapping technology. This project is one of the most ambitious in the history of the conservation movement.

BMPs are necessary to sustain regulated trapping as a wildlife management tool, and to maintain the integrity of wildlife conservation programs throughout the United States.



State the name of the organization that coordinates development of best management practices for trapping

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) coordinates the development of BMPs for trapping. AFWA's membership includes all 50 state fish and wildlife management agencies, federal agencies, and conservation organizations.

State furbearer biologists, veterinarians, trappers, and scientists from the University of Georgia and the University of Wyoming cooperated on the development of BMPs. The United States Department of Agriculture provided most of the funding for Trapping BMP research and development.



Explain that BMPs are based on scientific information and professional experience about current traps and trapping technology

BMPs are based on the most extensive research effort of animal traps ever conducted in the United States. Traps tested were selected based on knowledge of commonly used traps, previous research, and input from expert trappers.



Recognize that the Trapping BMP Project is designed to provide wildlife management professionals in the United States with the data necessary to assist in improvements to animal welfare in trapping programs

Trapping BMPs were developed to give wildlife professionals information they need to improve animal welfare. State fish and wildlife agencies will use BMPs to continue the improvement of trapping systems throughout the United States.



Recognize that trapping BMPs are intended to be a practical tool for trappers and wildlife biologists to use for decision-making in the field

Trapping BMPs include recommendations on practices, equipment, and techniques that will provide trappers and wildlife biologists with practical information to use in the field. These recommendations will improve animal welfare, help avoid the unintended capture of other animals, and increase public support for trapping.



Identify BMP criteria for the evaluation of trapping devices including animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety

BMP traps were evaluated using criteria to measure the effects on animal welfare as well as trapping efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety.

More than 150 teams of trappers and technicians participated in field testing.

Each state wildlife agency decides how to incorporate Best Management Practices into trapper education and furbearer management programs.

BMPs are valuable tools for biologists and trappers.

BMP recommended traps resulted in no, little, or moderate injury to at least 70 percent of the animals trapped.

Traps that failed to capture and hold at least 60% of the species targeted did not qualify for recommendation.

Traps and sets must be selective

Experienced trappers evaluated cost, ease of use, trap weight, reliability, and other factors.



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Canada Lynx

As new BMP information is published it is distributed by wildlife agencies, AFWA, and trapping associations in print and online.

Animal Welfare - Researchers tested live restraining traps for injuries to furbearers using two methods. One system evaluated specific injuries, and the other grouped the injuries into categories from mild to severe. BMP approved traps must have a low rate of injuries to the furbearing animals being studied. Recommended traps resulted in moderate, low, or no injury to at least 70 percent of the animals trapped.

Efficiency - Traps meeting BMP criteria must be able to capture and hold at least 60 percent of the furbearers that spring the trap.

Selectivity - Traps must be set and used in a fashion that limits the risk of capturing non-furbearing species while increasing the chances of capturing the desired furbearer.

Practicality - Each recommended live-restraining trap was evaluated by experienced trappers and wildlife biologists for practicality. Criteria used to measure practicality include cost, ease of use, ease of transport, storage, weight and size, reliability, versatility, and the expected life span of the trap.

Safety - Each recommended live-restraining trap was evaluated for safety to the user and other people who might come into contact with the trap.



Identify where to find detailed BMP information for each furbearer

State fish and wildlife agencies have access to Trapping BMP publications as they are developed. Trappers can find all current information on Trapping BMPs at the following Web site:

- www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer.html

The Furbearer Management Web site is maintained by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on behalf of state fish and wildlife agencies, trappers, and trapping organizations.

Content Standard - Students understand Best Management Practices for Trapping are needed to address animal welfare, trapping efficiency, selectivity, and safety in furbearer management programs.

State the name of the organization that coordinates development of Best Management Practices for trapping (page 44).

- State the full name of the organization known as AFWA:

Know these key points (page 45):

- Explain that BMPs are based upon scientific information and professional experience regarding currently available traps and trapping technology.
- Recognize that the Trapping BMP Project is designed to provide wildlife management professionals in the United States with the data necessary to assist in improvements to animal welfare in trapping programs.
- Recognize that trapping BMPs are intended to be a practical tool for trappers and wildlife biologists to use for decision-making in the field.
- Trapping BMPs will:
 1. Improve _____ welfare
 2. Help avoid the unintended _____ of other animals
 3. Increase public _____ for trapping

Identify BMP criteria for the evaluation of trapping devices including animal welfare, efficiency, selectivity, practicality, and safety (pages 45-46).

- Be prepared to discuss the criteria for each of the five categories during class.

Identify where to find detailed BMP information for each furbearer species (page 46).

- Write down the URL address for the Furbearer Management Web site:

http://www._____