

**STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE**

The New Mexico State Game Commission (“Commission”) will be hosting a meeting and rule hearing on Friday October 27, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Farmington Civic Center, 200 W. Arrington Drive, Farmington, NM 87401. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the presentation of proposed changes to the Furbearers Rule 19.32.2.

**Synopsis**

The proposal is to amend the Furbearers Rule 19.32.2 NMAC which will become effective April 1, 2024. The most recent version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2024.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FURBEARERS RULE**

With the public-land trapping restrictions imposed by legislation and the Director’s ability to impose seasonal bag limit(s) for any species should the need arise, no substantive changes are proposed at this time. As such, we propose that the Furbearer Rule no longer be on a 4-year renewal cycle, and subsequently be opened only as needed.

A full text of changes for all rules will be available on the Department’s website at: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes for the Furbearers Rule to: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-Furbearer-Rules@state.nm.us). Individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 1:00 p.m. on October 25, 2023. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on October 27, 2023. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearings to be held on October 27, 2023.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department’s website at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/). This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director’s Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department’s website at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission’s Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

**TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 32 TRAPPING AND FURBEARERS**  
**PART 2 FURBEARERS**

**19.32.2.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.  
[19.32.2.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.1 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.2 SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in furbearer hunting and management. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.32.2.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.2 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Sections 17-1-14, 17-1-26, 17-5-3, 17-5-4, and 17-5-5 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected species.  
[19.32.2.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.3 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.4 DURATION:** April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2024; Permanent.  
[19.32.2.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.4 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 20202024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.32.2.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.5 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.6 OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of trapping licenses by the department.  
[19.32.2.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.6 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.7 DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
  - B. "Foothold trap"** shall mean a trap designed to capture a furbearer by the foot, but does not include foot encapsulating traps.
  - C. "Foot encapsulating trap"** shall mean any trap with a push or pull-activated trigger located inside an enclosure recessed from an opening of no more than two inches in diameter, as measured across the opening from side to side, not corner to corner. Foot encapsulating traps include "dog proof" and "egg" traps.
  - D. "Furbearer"** shall mean any quadruped defined as a fur-bearing animal in 17-5-2 NMSA 1978.
  - E. "Land set"** shall mean any foothold trap or snare set on land.
  - F. "Public land"** means state-owned land, state-leased land, lands held in trust by the state, lands administered by the United States fish and wildlife service, the United States forest service, the federal bureau of land management, the national park service, the United States department of defense, state parks and any county or municipality, but does not include the interior of physical structures or land belonging to or held in trust for an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.
  - G. "Snare"** shall mean a wire or cable with a single closing device designed to capture a furbearer.
  - H. "Trap"** shall mean any foothold trap, foot encapsulating trap, cage trap or body-grip trap set to capture a furbearer.
- [19.32.2.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.7 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.8 OPEN SEASONS:**

- A.** Badger, weasel, fox, ringtail and bobcat: November 1-March 15 statewide.
  - B.** Raccoon:
    - (1) April 1-May 15 and September 1-March 31, statewide.
    - (2) Extended season: May 16-August 31 statewide, method restrictions per 19.31.10 NMAC.
  - C.** Beaver and muskrat: April 1-April 30 and November 1-March 31, statewide.
  - D.** Nutria: April 1-March 31 statewide.
- [19.32.2.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.8 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.9 CLOSED AREAS:** All public lands in New Mexico are closed to the use of traps and snares except as allowed by 17-11-4 NMSA 1978.  
[19.32.2.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.9 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.10 MANDATORY FURBEARER EDUCATION:**

**A.** Every person must successfully complete a department approved trapper education course before setting any trap or snare in New Mexico. Proof of successful completion of a trapper education course in any other state will also be accepted, but the person must pass a New Mexico law and species identification course.

**B.** Every person hunting furbearers must successfully complete either the New Mexico trapper education course, or a New Mexico law and species identification course.

**C.** Trapper education shall be offered free of charge to all residents. The department may charge a fee of not more than \$35 for each non-resident who takes a New Mexico trapper education course. The New Mexico law and species identification course shall be free for everyone.

[19.32.2.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.10 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.11 BAG LIMIT:** Annual bag limits may be set by the director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson of the game commission or their designee, for any furbearer species to address significant changes in statewide populations or to address critical department management needs. Annual bag limits, if set, shall expire March 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

[19.32.2.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.11 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.12 EXEMPTIONS:** The provisions of this rule shall not apply to department of game and fish personnel or designated agents who are acting in their official capacity in the control of depredating animals, for law enforcement purposes, to protect human health and safety, or for research or management purposes, unless otherwise restricted by 17-11-1 to 17-11-5 NMSA 1978.

[19.32.2.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.12 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**HISTORY OF 19.32.2 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under: Regulation No. 490, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers, filed 3/1/68; Regulation No. 511, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers 1970-1971, filed 2/20/70; Regulation No. 521, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers 1971-1972, filed 3/9/71; Regulation No. 533, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers 1972-1973, filed 3/30/72; Regulation No. 544, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers 1973-1974, filed 2/26/73; Regulation No 555, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers 1974-1975, filed 3/4/74; Regulation No. 566, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers, filed 3/24/75; Regulation No. 584, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers, filed 2/9/77; Regulation No. 491, Establishing Seasons On Protected Furbearers, filed 2/15/78; Regulation No. 597, Establishing Seasons On Furbearers, filed 2/23/79; Regulation No. 604, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 2/22/80; Regulation No. 608, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/5/81; Regulation No. 613, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/2/82; Regulation No. 623, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/9/83; Regulation No. 629, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/16/84; Regulation No. 633, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 4/15/85; Regulation No. 641, Establishing 1986 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/25/86; Regulation No. 646, Establishing 1987 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 10/27/86; Regulation No. 654, Establishing 1988 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 12/4/87; Regulation No. 665, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/20/89; Regulation No. 675, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 11/21/89; Regulation No. 684, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 1/11/91; Regulation No. 690, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Furbearers, filed 3/4/92; Regulation No. 701, Establishing 1993-1995 Seasons on Furbearers, filed 3/11/93.

Regulation No. 691, Establishing Financial Liability For Unaccounted For Licenses, 10-3-91.

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**History of Repealed Material:**

19.32.2 NMAC, Method, Season Dates, and Bag Limits, filed 8/1/2011, and replaced it with 19.32.2 NMAC, Furbearers, effective 4/1/2020.

19.32.2 NMAC, Furbearers, filed 1-24-2020 - duration expired 3-31-2024

# NMAC

## Transmittal Form

NEW MEXICO  
State Records Center and Archives  
COMMISSION OF PUBLIC RECORDS  
Your Access to Public Information

2023 NOV -9 AM 8:30

Volume:  Issue:  Publication date:  Number of pages:  (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address:  Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name:  Phone number:  E-mail address:

Type of rule action: New  Amendment  Repeal  Emergency  Renumber  (ALD Use) Recent filing date:

Title number:  Title name:

Chapter number:  Chapter name:

Part number:  Part name:

Amendment description (If filing an amendment):   
Amendment's NMAC citation (If filing an amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference? Yes  No  Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received? Yes  No  Public domain

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

Notice date(s):  Hearing date(s):  Rule adoption date:  Rule effective date:

2023 NOV -9 AM 8:30

# Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:

## Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

### Findings MUST include:

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Furbearers Rule, 19.32.2 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2024. The current Furbearers Rule will expired on March 31, 2024.

The new rule will include:

No longer being on a 4-year renewal cycle, and subsequently being opened only as needed.

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. A wide variety of public comments were submitted. It was not possible to incorporate all of the comments into the final rule as many of the comments were mutually exclusive. To view public comments, please visit [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/) and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter/trapper satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Signature: (BLACK ink only OR Digital Signature)

Date signed:

Michael B. Sloane

Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloane  
Date: 2023.11.01 14:16:21 -06'00'

2023 NOV -9 AM 8:30

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# Furbearer 19.32.2 NMAC



**October 27, 2023**  
**State Game Commission Meeting**

Stewart Liley, October 27, 2023

# Rule Development Timeline

- **July, August, October** – present at SGC meetings
- **July** – Initial NMDGF proposals posted on the website
- **August**- Final NMDGF proposed rule posted on the website
- **October**– Act on rule
- **10 public comments received**



# Regulation and Enforcement

- Harvest only for abundant populations
- Season length establishes a limited window for harvest
- License and reporting requirements
- Director can set bag limits if need arises
- State legislation eliminated trapping on public land effective April 2022



# Trapping and Furbearer Rule

- Propose that the Trapping and Furbearer Rule be a permanent rule



Stewart Liley, October 27, 2023

# Questions?



Stewart Liley, October 27, 2023

# **FURBEARER RULE - INITIAL PROPOSED CHANGES SUMMARY**

**(Updated: 8/28/2023; these proposals will be updated throughout the rule development process)**

## **PURPOSE**

Maintain sustainable furbearer populations as well as consumptive and non-consumptive opportunities throughout New Mexico using furbearer biology, modern monitoring and analytical methods, harvest data, and public input.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Furbearer management in New Mexico has sustained viable populations of furbearer species while allowing for recreational opportunity in the form of consumptive and non-consumptive activities. The rules the Department has put in place have ensured that populations of furbearer species have persisted, and in some cases expanded, in the state. The Department currently monitors furbearer harvest and potential impacts to populations through data collected via mandatory harvest reporting. This data tracks among other things the total numbers of species taken, geographic distribution, and trapper effort. Additionally, the Department has over the past four years implemented research studies and monitoring efforts using non-invasive sampling, via scat collected for genetic analysis or trail cameras, for species like swift fox and marten. These non-invasive techniques are analyzed with the latest statistical models and produce robust estimates over much larger areas than could be covered using past approaches. The Department will continue to refine these techniques and implement new monitoring efforts for furbearer species across the state.

Since this rule was last open in 2019, state legislation was passed that made it illegal to trap on public lands except for specific exemptions. The Trapping and Furbearer rule has in place at this time restrictions on when species can be taken via the establishment of season dates, and the ability for the director to impose a bag limit for a species should the need arise.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES**

- 1) With the restrictions imposed by legislation and the Director's ability to impose a bag limit for any species should the need arise, no substantive changes are proposed at this time. As such, we propose that the Furbearer Rule no longer be on a 4-year renewal cycle, and subsequently be opened only should such need arise.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The Department encourages the public to comment on the proposals by sending an email to: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-Furbearer-Rules@state.nm.us).

## 2020–2021 New Mexico Hunter Harvest Report Program Summary of Results – Furbearers

Nicholas Forman  
Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager  
Wildlife Management Division  
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

A total of 1,602 state furbearer licenses were sold during the 2020–2021 season; 1,465 (91.5%) of those license holders responded to the mandatory harvest reporting. Harvest records were accessed May 11, 2021. A total of 2,835 individual protected furbearers were harvested, and 3,039 unprotected furbearers (coyotes, n=2,744; skunk species, n=295) were harvested.

### Total Number of Each Species Harvested 2019-20

| <u>Species</u>     | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| American Badger    | 137          |
| American Beaver    | 118          |
| Bobcat             | 752 (684)    |
| Ermine             | 0            |
| Grey Fox           | 1214         |
| Kit Fox            | 60           |
| Red Fox            | 72           |
| Swift Fox          | 26           |
| Long-tailed Weasel | 1            |
| Muskrat            | 49           |
| Nutria             | 0            |
| Raccoon            | 319          |
| Ringtail           | 87           |

The number of harvested bobcats based on CITES tag reports is indicated in RED. The number of bobcats from the hunter harvest reporting system is in BLACK.

Table 2. Number of protected furbearers harvested in New Mexico counties during 2020–2021.

| <u>County</u> | <u>Badger</u> | <u>Beaver</u> | <u>Bobcat</u> | <u>Ermine</u> | <u>Grey<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Kit<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Red<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Swift<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Muskrat</u> | <u>Nutria</u> | <u>Raccoon</u> | <u>Ringtail</u> | <u>Long-<br/>tailed<br/>Weasel</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Bernalillo    | 1             | 0             | 10            | 0             | 5                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 53             | 0               | 0                                  |
| Catron        | 3             | 0             | 48            | 0             | 143                 | 0                  | 0                  | 4                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Chaves        | 3             | 0             | 18            | 0             | 6                   | 2                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 43             | 0               | 0                                  |
| Cibola        | 5             | 0             | 30            | 0             | 124                 | 2                  | 1                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 1               | 0                                  |
| Colfax        | 2             | 11            | 65            | 0             | 69                  | 0                  | 9                  | 1                    | 0              | 0             | 6              | 7               | 0                                  |
| Curry         | 1             | 0             | 4             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| De Baca       | 2             | 1             | 6             | 0             | 25                  | 0                  | 1                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 30             | 27              | 0                                  |
| Dona Ana      | 10            | 0             | 26            | 0             | 6                   | 4                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Eddy          | 5             | 0             | 49            | 0             | 17                  | 2                  | 0                  | 4                    | 0              | 0             | 3              | 3               | 0                                  |
| Grant         | 5             | 0             | 52            | 0             | 89                  | 14                 | 0                  | 15                   | 0              | 0             | 2              | 21              | 0                                  |
| Guadalupe     | 0             | 0             | 12            | 0             | 9                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Harding       | 1             | 0             | 7             | 0             | 4                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 3               | 0                                  |
| Hidalgo       | 0             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 0                   | 1                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Lea           | 0             | 0             | 14            | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Lincoln       | 2             | 0             | 21            | 0             | 21                  | 9                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Los Alamos    | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Luna          | 7             | 0             | 17            | 0             | 14                  | 8                  | 0                  | 2                    | 0              | 0             | 8              | 5               | 0                                  |
| McKinley      | 6             | 0             | 26            | 0             | 31                  | 0                  | 2                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Mora          | 0             | 2             | 5             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Otero         | 9             | 0             | 25            | 0             | 44                  | 15                 | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 16             | 31              | 0                                  |
| Quay          | 0             | 0             | 17            | 0             | 9                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 3               | 0                                  |
| Rio Arriba    | 11            | 42            | 40            | 0             | 35                  | 0                  | 7                  | 0                    | 2              | 0             | 11             | 13              | 1                                  |
| Roosevelt     | 1             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 1              | 3               | 0                                  |
| San Juan      | 23            | 45            | 31            | 0             | 148                 | 0                  | 51                 | 0                    | 20             | 0             | 101            | 18              | 0                                  |
| San Miguel    | 6             | 0             | 35            | 0             | 128                 | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Sandoval      | 3             | 14            | 30            | 0             | 76                  | 0                  | 1                  | 0                    | 2              | 0             | 12             | 6               | 0                                  |
| Santa Fe      | 0             | 0             | 7             | 0             | 5                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Sierra        | 0             | 0             | 21            | 0             | 43                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 1               | 0                                  |
| Socorro       | 9             | 0             | 46            | 0             | 116                 | 3                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 3              | 8               | 0                                  |
| Taos          | 0             | 2             | 25            | 0             | 2                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Torrance      | 22            | 0             | 19            | 0             | 19                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 1              | 4               | 0                                  |
| Union         | 0             | 0             | 31            | 0             | 26                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 2              | 21              | 0                                  |
| Valencia      | 0             | 1             | 10            | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 25             | 0             | 22             | 0               | 0                                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | 137           | 118           | 752           | 0             | 1214                | 60                 | 72                 | 26                   | 49             | 0             | 319            | 87              | 1                                  |

## 2021–2022 New Mexico Hunter Harvest Report Program Summary of Results – Furbearers

**Nicholas Forman**  
**Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager**  
**Wildlife Management Division**  
**New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**

A total of 1,241 state furbearer licenses were sold during the 2020–2021 season; 1,127 (90.8%) of those license holders responded to the mandatory harvest reporting. Harvest records were accessed August 22, 2022. A total of 1,840 individual protected furbearers were harvested, and 2,152 unprotected furbearers (coyotes, n=2,088; skunk species, n=64) were harvested.

### Total Number of Each Species Harvested 2021-22

| <u>Species</u>     | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| American Badger    | 53           |
| American Beaver    | 100          |
| Bobcat             | 594 (650)    |
| Ermine             | 0            |
| Grey Fox           | 761          |
| Kit Fox            | 64           |
| Red Fox            | 100          |
| Swift Fox          | 3            |
| Long-tailed Weasel | 0            |
| Muskrat            | 10           |
| Nutria             | 0            |
| Raccoon            | 143          |
| Ringtail           | 12           |

Total number of protected furbearers harvested statewide as reported through the mandatory harvest reporting system, accessed on August 26, 2022. **The number of harvested bobcats based on CITES tag reports is indicated in RED.** The number of bobcats from the hunter harvest reporting system is in BLACK..

August 26, 2022

Table 2. Number of protected furbearers harvested in New Mexico counties during 2021–2022.

| <u>County</u> | <u>Badger</u> | <u>Beaver</u> | <u>Bobcat</u> | <u>Ermine</u> | <u>Grey<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Kit<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Red<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Swift<br/>Fox</u> | <u>Muskrat</u> | <u>Nutria</u> | <u>Raccoon</u> | <u>Ringtail</u> | <u>Long-<br/>tailed<br/>Weasel</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Bernalillo    | 1             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 1                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 8              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Catron        | 3             | 0             | 59            | 0             | 66                  | 10                 | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Chaves        | 0             | 0             | 7             | 0             | 7                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 7              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Cibola        | 1             | 0             | 21            | 0             | 90                  | 2                  | 2                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 3              | 2               | 0                                  |
| Colfax        | 2             | 2             | 24            | 0             | 50                  | 0                  | 4                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 10             | 0               | 0                                  |
| Curry         | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| De Baca       | 1             | 0             | 9             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Dona Ana      | 6             | 0             | 11            | 0             | 2                   | 2                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Eddy          | 0             | 0             | 5             | 0             | 1                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Grant         | 3             | 0             | 83            | 0             | 78                  | 12                 | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 4               | 0                                  |
| Guadalupe     | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 2                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Harding       | 0             | 0             | 23            | 0             | 2                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Hidalgo       | 0             | 0             | 53            | 0             | 29                  | 4                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Lea           | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Lincoln       | 7             | 0             | 19            | 0             | 16                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 6              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Los Alamos    | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Luna          | 1             | 0             | 6             | 0             | 9                   | 20                 | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 5              | 3               | 0                                  |
| McKinley      | 1             | 0             | 12            | 0             | 25                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Mora          | 1             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Otero         | 0             | 0             | 24            | 0             | 26                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 18             | 2               | 0                                  |
| Quay          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Rio Arriba    | 2             | 48            | 26            | 0             | 13                  | 0                  | 2                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Roosevelt     | 2             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 6                   | 0                  | 3                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| San Juan      | 5             | 44            | 15            | 0             | 51                  | 0                  | 87                 | 0                    | 9              | 0             | 44             | 0               | 0                                  |
| San Miguel    | 1             | 3             | 32            | 0             | 28                  | 0                  | 0                  | 3                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Sandoval      | 1             | 2             | 15            | 0             | 44                  | 1                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 7              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Santa Fe      | 1             | 0             | 4             | 0             | 31                  | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Sierra        | 2             | 0             | 26            | 0             | 66                  | 3                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Socorro       | 3             | 0             | 45            | 0             | 85                  | 2                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Taos          | 1             | 0             | 15            | 0             | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  | 0                    | 1              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Torrance      | 8             | 0             | 17            | 0             | 22                  | 6                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 1               | 0                                  |
| Union         | 0             | 0             | 27            | 0             | 9                   | 0                  | 2                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                                  |
| Valencia      | 0             | 1             | 9             | 0             | 2                   | 2                  | 0                  | 0                    | 0              | 0             | 28             | 0               | 0                                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | 53            | 100           | 594           | 0             | 761                 | 64                 | 100                | 3                    | 10             | 0             | 143            | 12              | 0                                  |

August 23, 2023

## 2022–2023 New Mexico Hunter Harvest Report Program Summary of Results – Furbearers

**Nicholas Forman**  
**Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager**  
**Wildlife Management Division**  
**New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**

A total of 1,129 state furbearer licenses were sold during the 2022–2023 season; 1,035 (91.6%) of those license holders responded to the mandatory harvest reporting. Harvest records were accessed August 23, 2023. A total of 1,113 individual protected furbearers were harvested, and 1,680 unprotected furbearers (coyotes, n=1,559; skunk species, n=121) were harvested.

### Total Number of Each Species Harvested 2022-23

| <b>Species</b>     | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| American Badger    | 33           |
| American Beaver    | 53           |
| Bobcat             | 411          |
| Ermine             | 0            |
| Grey Fox           | 333          |
| Kit Fox            | 21           |
| Red Fox            | 14           |
| Swift Fox          | 2            |
| Long-tailed Weasel | 0            |
| Muskrat            | 15           |
| Nutria             | 0            |
| Raccoon            | 211          |
| Ringtail           | 20           |

Total number of protected furbearers harvested statewide as reported through the mandatory harvest reporting system, accessed on August 23, 2023.

Table 2. Number of protected furbearers harvested in New Mexico counties during 2022–2023.

| <u>County</u> | <u>Badger</u> | <u>Beaver</u> | <u>Bobcat</u> | <u>Ermine</u> | <u>Grey Fox</u> | <u>Kit Fox</u> | <u>Red Fox</u> | <u>Swift Fox</u> | <u>Muskrat</u> | <u>Nutria</u> | <u>Raccoon</u> | <u>Ringtail</u> | <u>Long-tailed Weasel</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Bernalillo    | 0             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 14             | 0               | 0                         |
| Catron        | 2             | 0             | 12            | 0             | 21              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Chaves        | 0             | 0             | 16            | 0             | 19              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 46             | 0               | 0                         |
| Cibola        | 1             | 0             | 4             | 0             | 12              | 1              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Colfax        | 0             | 1             | 12            | 0             | 6               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Curry         | 1             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 3               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| De Baca       | 0             | 3             | 11            | 0             | 2               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 31             | 0               | 0                         |
| Dona Ana      | 2             | 0             | 4             | 0             | 3               | 3              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                         |
| Eddy          | 0             | 0             | 27            | 0             | 3               | 0              | 0              | 2                | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                         |
| Grant         | 4             | 0             | 40            | 0             | 11              | 13             | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 3              | 15              | 0                         |
| Guadalupe     | 0             | 0             | 11            | 0             | 31              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Harding       | 0             | 0             | 11            | 0             | 11              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                         |
| Hidalgo       | 0             | 0             | 27            | 0             | 8               | 2              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Lea           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Lincoln       | 1             | 0             | 23            | 0             | 16              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 5              | 0               | 0                         |
| Los Alamos    | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Luna          | 6             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 0               | 2              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 8              | 1               | 0                         |
| McKinley      | 0             | 0             | 4             | 0             | 4               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Mora          | 0             | 3             | 18            | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Otero         | 0             | 0             | 9             | 0             | 10              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 15             | 1               | 0                         |
| Quay          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Rio Arriba    | 3             | 26            | 32            | 0             | 18              | 0              | 5              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 5              | 0               | 0                         |
| Roosevelt     | 1             | 0             | 6             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| San Juan      | 4             | 17            | 9             | 0             | 30              | 0              | 8              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 57             | 1               | 0                         |
| San Miguel    | 2             | 0             | 12            | 0             | 43              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 1              | 0               | 0                         |
| Sandoval      | 1             | 3             | 7             | 0             | 22              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 15             | 0             | 4              | 0               | 0                         |
| Santa Fe      | 0             | 0             | 1             | 0             | 12              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Sierra        | 0             | 0             | 13            | 0             | 13              | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 6              | 0               | 0                         |
| Socorro       | 4             | 0             | 50            | 0             | 7               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 2               | 0                         |
| Taos          | 0             | 0             | 14            | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Torrance      | 0             | 0             | 14            | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 0              | 0               | 0                         |
| Union         | 1             | 0             | 17            | 0             | 28              | 0              | 1              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 2              | 0               | 0                         |
| Valencia      | 0             | 0             | 2             | 0             | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0              | 0             | 10             | 0               | 0                         |
| <b>Total</b>  | 33            | 53            | 411           | 0             | 333             | 21             | 14             | 2                | 15             | 0             | 211            | 20              | 0                         |

## GRANT STATEMENT

State: New Mexico Grant Number: W-137-R-15  
Grant Title: Furbearer Surveys, Inventories, and Management  
Grant Period: July 1, 2020 To: June 30, 2021

### **NEED:**

Furbearers are important biological, recreational, and economic resources in New Mexico, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is responsible for sustaining populations of these species for the benefit of the public. In order to ensure the persistence of furbearer populations it is important to conduct research and monitoring, coordinate with governmental and private entities, and continuously monitor population and harvest trends. These activities provide sound biological information that informs the development and implementation of appropriate regulations and management practices.

### **PURPOSE:**

To develop research, implement monitoring, and develop guidelines and strategy to improve furbearer management in New Mexico to ensure sustained populations of furbearer species for their recreational, educational, scientific, and intrinsic value.

### **Objectives:**

#### **Objective 1:**

**Directly manage restoration of 4 individuals by June 30.**

**2021 Activity Tag 1**

**Species restoration/recovery**

**Unit of Measure # of individuals**

**Species: Beaver**

### **Approach**

Project Planning Only

- a. Identify suitable locations for beaver reintroductions. Visit watersheds across the state to assess the distribution of beaver, the presence/absence of suitable habitat, and the potential for successful reintroductions.

### **RESULTS:**

The program manager compiled records from past studies and surveys, law enforcement activities, staff observations, and surveys of satellite imagery to begin to build a database of past and present beaver distribution within the state. A compilation of GIS resources to streamline consistency and specificity in recording locations of beaver presence were compiled.

- b. Work with landowners interested in translocating beaver to their properties. Visit and visually assess potential beaver reintroduction locations to confirm the presence of necessary habitat components. Meet with landowners to gather information on past beaver activity, land use characteristics, possible alterations to improve beaver habitat, and assess and discuss potential habitat impacts of beaver reintroduction.

### **RESULTS:**

The program manager gave feedback and suggestions to multiple landowners

regarding possibility of future beaver reintroductions, or ways to improve habitat suitability to encourage natural establishment of beaver colonies.

- c. Develop and implement monitoring and reporting protocols for assessing the success of reintroduction efforts.

**RESULTS:**

The program manager provided input and feedback on efforts made by organizations to build citizen science beaver monitoring applications that target citizen observations of areas with beaver activity across New Mexico. The program manager provided input on planning and results for surveys conducted by organizations on rivers and streams in New Mexico.

- d. Coordinate with land managers and Department staff for the trapping and translocation of beaver to the reintroduction sites.

**RESULTS:**

The program manager coordinated with local NMDGF law enforcement officers to assess the suitability of beavers from specific locations for translocation based on risk levels for spread of aquatic invasive species, and suitability of release locations suggested by the officers.

**Objective 2:**

**Conduct 2 investigations by June 30.**

**2021 Activity Tag 1**

**Utilization data acquisition and analysis Unit of measure # of investigations**

**Species: Bobcat, Fox, Beaver, American Badger, Muskrat, Raccoon, Ringtail**

**Approach:**

- a. Compile, analyze, and report harvest survey data for furbearer species from mandatory harvest reporting and CITES tag reports.

**RESULTS:**

CITES tag reports were compiled, entered into the CITES database, and analyzed. Data from the mandatory furbearer harvest reports were accessed on May 11, 2021 and analyzed (Appendix A).

- b. Collect tissue, tooth, and reproductive organ samples as needed to monitor furbearer population dynamics.

**RESULTS:**

Swift and kit fox tissue samples (n=18) were collected at the annual trapper's association fur auction. Outreach and engagement strategies are in place to coordinate with hunters and trappers for the collection of additional samples from harvested kit and swift fox statewide.

**Objective 3:**

**Conduct 2 investigations by June 30.**

**2021 Activity Tag 1**

**Fish and wildlife species data acquisition and analysis Unit of Measure # of investigations**  
**Species: Bobcat, Fox**

**Approach**

- a. Estimate bobcat abundance using noninvasive sampling techniques and GPS collars at locations across New Mexico. Noninvasive sampling will be used in a spatial capture-recapture framework to estimate local population densities in the Sacramento and Guadalupe mountains in southeastern New Mexico. GPS collars will be deployed on up to 15 individuals at each study area to investigate resource selection and habitat use, as well as to derive movement parameters and spatial dynamics. Density estimates from the capture-recapture efforts will be applied across a habitat suitability map developed using the GPS collar data to allow for statewide estimation of bobcat abundance.

**RESULTS:**

We established 31 camera trap sites on top of three existing grids established for cougars (26 sites total in existing grids) for a total of 57 sites deployed at a spatial scale that would be meaningful for capturing individual bobcat movement given their home range size. Sites were visited, refreshed and maintained every two to three months. Photographs of bobcats will be compared to identify individuals based on pelage pattern to assess population density.

**SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:**

Bobcat GPS collars were not deployed because of competing program needs and adverse conditions in the field that precluded efficient trapping. In particular, a substantial increase in human and dog use due to the Covid pandemic decreased the potential for trapping to be successful; thus it was decided not to dedicate resources to it.

- b. Estimate swift fox abundance. Implement a full-scale swift fox abundance study using non-invasive genetic sampling targeting scat to generate capture-recapture data for density estimation in a spatial capture-recapture model. Following the initial pilot year of this project, this second year of using this technique will be employed over a larger area, on both public and private land, to estimate population density for the northeast quarter of the state.

**RESULTS:**

Sampling occurred from February to April 2021 on public and private land in Colfax County. Scent posts were established at 40 sites, with trail cameras set at 25% of those sites. We collected 71 scat samples from 18 sites. Scat samples from 2020 and 2021 field seasons were sent to the Laboratory for Ecological, Evolutionary, and Conservation Genetics at the University of Idaho for extraction and processing of DNA to assign individual identities to scat and assess population genetics.

- c. Attend the Fur Takers of America Trapper's College to learn trapping skills to be used in the field, and other trainings to assist in implementing the projects in this grant. Attend wildlife biologist meetings to discuss findings or projects funded in this grant, such as The Wildlife Society (National and NM chapters), and WAFWA/AFWA events.

**RESULTS:**

The program manager attended the Swift Fox Conservation Team virtual meeting and

virtual New Mexico Beaver Summit.

**SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:**

The Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager did not attend the Fur Takers of America's Trapper College because of travel restrictions from the Covid pandemic.

**Objective 4:**

**Engage 4 organizations by June 30.**

**2021 Activity Tag 1**

**Organizational engagement**

**Unit of Measure # of individuals**

**Approach**

- a. Engage with stakeholder organizations who are interested in furbearer management in New Mexico. This will be in the form of public meetings, individual meetings, phone calls, and other methods and includes trapper organizations, federal agencies, and NGOs.

**RESULTS:**

The program manager attended the New Mexico Beaver Summit, Swift Fox Conservation Team Meeting, and New Mexico Trapper's Association Fur Sale to provide information and education on the program's efforts and general information about furbearer species.

Prepared by:



9/13/2021

Nicholas Forman

Date

Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager, Wildlife Management Division

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart Liley  
Chief, Wildlife Management Division

Date

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michaela Wolfe  
Federal Aid Coordinator

Date

## GRANT STATEMENT

State: New Mexico Grant Number: W-137-R-16  
Grant Title: Furbearer Surveys, Inventories, and Management  
Grant Period: July 1, 2021 To: June 30, 2022

### **NEED:**

Furbearers are important biological, recreational, and economic resources in New Mexico, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is responsible for sustaining populations of these species for the benefit of the public. In order to ensure the persistence of furbearer populations it is important to conduct research and monitoring, coordinate with governmental and private entities, and continuously monitor population and harvest trends. These activities provide sound biological information that informs the development and implementation of appropriate regulations and management practices.

### **PURPOSE:**

To develop research, implement monitoring, and develop guidelines and strategy to improve furbearer management in New Mexico to ensure sustained populations of furbearer species for their recreational, educational, scientific, and intrinsic value.

### **Objectives:**

#### **Objective 1:**

#### **Direct Habitat and Species Management**

**Directly manage restoration of 4 individuals by June 30, 2022**

#### **Activity Tag 1**

#### **Species restoration/recovery**

#### **Unit of Measure # of individuals**

**Species: Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)**

### **Approach**

Project Planning Only

- a. Identify suitable locations for beaver reintroductions. Visit watersheds across the state to assess the distribution of beaver, the presence/absence of suitable habitat, and the potential for successful reintroductions.

### **RESULTS:**

A site visit was conducted on the Double E Ranch in November 2021 to assess habitat suitability and feasibility of re-locating beaver to Bear Creek on the Department property. The site had suitable habitat, forage, and water availability, and feasible options for transporting beaver to the site. It was determined that this would be a viable re-location site for a small number of animals, pending other requirements and considerations.

- b. Work with landowners interested in translocating beaver to their properties. Visit and visually assess potential beaver reintroduction locations to confirm the presence of necessary habitat components. Meet with landowners to gather information on past beaver activity, land use characteristics, possible alterations to improve beaver habitat, and assess and discuss potential habitat impacts of beaver reintroduction.

**RESULTS:**

Southwest area staff and officers contacted landowners neighboring the Double E ranch proposed release location to conduct outreach and determine feasibility of a release.

- c. Develop and implement monitoring and reporting protocols for assessing the success of reintroduction efforts.

**RESULTS:**

The Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager consulted with Habitat program staff on current datasets and monitoring done on the Double E Ranch to determine potential avenues for monitoring the impact of beaver restoration on habitat components.

- d. Coordinate with land managers and Department staff for the trapping and translocation of beaver to the reintroduction sites.

**RESULTS:**

The Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager consulted with Department law enforcement officers to determine a suitable source population for relocations to the Double E Ranch. The surrounding area has some populations that cause damage or generate complaints, which could serve as a source population.

**Objective 2:**

**Research, Survey, Data Collection and Analysis**

**Conduct 2 investigations by June 30, 2022**

**Activity Tag 1**

**Utilization data acquisition and analysis**

**Unit of measure # of investigations**

**Species: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Grey Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*). Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*). Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*). Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Beaver (*Castor canadensis*). American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*). Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*). Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).**

**Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*)**

**Habitat: Statewide**

**Approach:**

- a. Compile, analyze, and report harvest survey data for furbearer species from mandatory harvest reporting and CITES tag reports.

**RESULTS:**

CITES tag reports were compiled, entered into the CITES database, and analyzed. Data from the mandatory furbearer harvest reports were compiled and analyzed (Appendix A).

- b. Collect tissue, tooth, and reproductive organ samples as needed to monitor furbearer population dynamics.

**RESULTS:**

Swift and kit fox tissue samples (n=14) were collected at the annual trapper's association fur auction. Outreach and engagement strategies are in place to coordinate with hunters and trappers for the collection of additional samples from harvested kit and swift fox statewide.

**Objective 3:**

**Research Survey, Data Collection and Analysis**

**Conduct 3 investigations by June 30, 2022**

**Activity Tag 1**

**Fish and wildlife species data acquisition and analysis**

**Unit of Measure # of investigations**

**Species: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*), black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontails (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)**

**Approach**

- a. Estimate bobcat abundance using noninvasive sampling techniques and GPS collars at locations across New Mexico.
  1. Analyze data from remote cameras that were deployed in the Guadalupe mountains to identify individuals via pelage patterns and estimate abundance using a spatial capture-recapture framework.

**RESULTS:**

Cameras from 57 sites in the Guadalupe Mountains were retrieved up through March 2022. All photographs were downloaded, and photo identification was started for the two-year data set.

2. Trap bobcats and deploy GPS collars on up to 15 individuals and establish a remote camera array to determine resource selection and habitat use, and estimate population density. Compliance documents will be submitted and approved prior to any work being done on the ground.

**RESULTS:**

In February 2022, we began field work in Game Management Units 6A and 7 to begin scouting for trapping locations and camera deployment. We conducted a limited initial trapping effort due to weather, with 15 days of trapping at seven trap sites resulting in zero captures during March of 2022.

- b. Swift fox samples collected in 2020 and 2021 will be analyzed at a genetics lab to determine assignment to individuals and build capture histories. No additional field work will be implemented.

**RESULTS:**

We had 463 fecal samples and 13 tissue samples analyzed for species identification and individual assignment for samples confirmed to be swift fox. Of the 463 fecal samples sent for genetic analysis, 447 were identified as swift fox and seven were coyote (nine contained insufficient genetic material for analysis). Using the 13 tissue samples, a PCR panel of nine microsatellite loci and two sex markers was developed for the individual assignment. All samples had DNA extracted, and were amplified using the PCR panel. Results from the amplification to assign individual identifications is ongoing.

- c. Assess the population-level effects of RHDV2 on rabbit populations by conducting field surveys of occupancy and abundance of known populations across southern New Mexico where pre-outbreak conditions have been documented. Conduct serologic assessments of surviving lagomorphs at sites where RHDV2-associated mortality events have occurred to

determine seroprevalence rates of rabbits exposed to the virus. Create models of host-pathogen transmission and disease spread at the landscape-scale that will provide an improved mechanistic understanding of maintenance and expansion of the pathogen and its role in top-down and bottom-up trophic regulation.

**RESULTS:**

This project was completed, see Appendix B for the final report.

- d. Attend the Fur Takers of America Trapper's College to learn trapping skills to be used in the field, and other trainings to assist in implementing the projects in this grant.

**RESULTS:**

The Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager attended the Wildlife Camera Trapping workshop hosted by the University of Georgia to gain further training and education on management and analysis of camera trap data.

**SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:**

No one attend the Fur Takers of America's Trapper College due to ongoing concerns over COVID transmission

- e. Attend wildlife biologist meetings to discuss findings or projects funded in this grant, such as The Wildlife Society (National and NM chapters), and WAFWA/AFWA events.

**RESULTS:**

The Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager attended the WAFWA summer meeting in July 2021, and the WAFWA Mountain Lion Workshop in April of 2022.

**Objective 4:**

**Stakeholder Involvement**

**Engage 20 individuals by June 30, 2022**

**Activity Tag 1**

**Partner engagement**

**Unit of Measure # of individuals**

**Approach**

- a. Engage with individuals who are interested in furbearer management in New Mexico. This will be in the form of public meetings, individual meetings, phone calls, and other methods.

**RESULTS:**

The program manager attended the New Mexico Trapper's Association Fur Sale to provide information and education on the program's efforts and general information about furbearer species. The program manager also assisted over 20 individuals with trapper education related questions.

**Objective 5:**

**Direct Habitat and Species Management**

**Directly manage restoration of 6 individuals by June 30, 2022**

**Activity Tag 1**

**Species restoration/recovery**

**Unit of Measure # of individuals**

**Species: River otter (*Lontra canadensis*)**

**Habitat: Freshwater Aquatic Vegetation**

**Approach**

- a. Coordinate with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries affiliated trapper to procure up to 6 river otter for reintroduction to supplement the existing, reintroduced river otter population in the upper Rio Grande. The trapper will use standard live-trapping methods in the course of animal damage control duties to obtain river otter for reintroduction. Animals will be held in a USDA certified facility and given veterinary assessment and care during a quarantine period of at minimum 14 days. Transport the animals via NMDGF aircraft from Louisiana to New Mexico. Monitor animals in-flight and provide necessary care in-transport. Assess potential release sites and coordinate with appropriate land management agencies to determine suitability of sites. Conduct post-release monitoring as needed.

**SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:**

We were unable to reintroduce any otters during this grant period because the source for our efforts was not able to trap any otters due to personal/health-related reasons.

**Expected Results and Benefits:**

Furbearer population data is needed to regulate and manage furbearers. Monitoring these populations is consistent with the mission and objectives of the Department's furbearer program. Population data will provide trend and distribution information for New Mexico's furbearer species. Increased accuracy of survey information provides managers with improved ability to manage furbearer populations while providing optimum recreational opportunities to trappers. It also allows managers to more promptly identify population problems, preventing more serious problems later. Data collection techniques and population models are continually developed and improved. The resulting information will be used to prepare annual recommendations for furbearer species management so that New Mexico citizens, including consumptive and non- consumptive users, may enjoy furbearer populations into the future. This information will also be for public education regarding furbearer populations.

**Geographic Location:**

Field work will occur throughout the state as appropriate.

**Personnel:**

Nick Forman – Carnivore and Small Mammal Program Manager (Grant Leader)  
Rick Winslow – Bear and Cougar Biologist  
Dave Wilckens – Predator Specialist  
Jim Stuart – Non-game Mammalogist Elise Goldstein, Assistant Chief  
Jeff Ogburn - Regional Habitat Specialist  
Charles Crawford – Regional Wildlife Biologist  
Bill Taylor – Regional Wildlife Biologist  
Kevin Rodden – Regional Wildlife Biologist  
3 additional NMDGF Personnel  
Volunteers

**From:** [Sloane, Michael B., DGF](#)  
**To:** [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#); [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Keep the 4-Year Furbearer Rulemaking  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 3:08:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [Furbearing friends.png](#)

---

Michael B. Sloane  
Director  
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
1 Wildlife Way  
[Santa Fe, NM](#) 87507

Ph.: [505/476-8148](tel:5054768148)  
Fax: [505/476-8123](tel:5054768123)

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations.

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Teresa Seamster <ctc.seamster@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 24, 2023 at 12:43:49 PM MDT  
**To:** "Sloane, Michael B., DGF" <michael.sloane@dgf.nm.gov>, "Clemente, Fernando, DGF" <fernando.clemente@state.nm.us>, "Garcia, Edward, DGF" <edward.garcia@dgf.nm.gov>, "Hickey, Sharon, DGF" <Sharon.Hickey@dgf.nm.gov>, "Fulfer, Gregg, DGF" <Gregg.Fulfer@dgf.nm.gov>, "Lopez, Tirzio, DGF" <Tirzio.Lopez@dgf.nm.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the 4-Year Furbearer Rulemaking

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Tirzio Lopez, Vice-Chair  
Gregg Fulfer, District 1 Commissioner  
Sharon Salazar Hickey, District 4 Commissioner  
Edward Garcia, District 5 Commissioner  
Fernando Clemente, Commissioner at-large  
Michael B. Sloane, Director

August 24, 2023

Re: Keep the Four-Year Furbearer Rulemaking

Dear State Game Commissioners & Director Sloane,

The importance of **public rulemaking and publicly informed protection** of New Mexico's bio diverse populations of "furbearing mammals" cannot be overstated.

Abolishing the 4-Year Furbearers Rulemaking process in favor of a director-based rulemaking change - with a nod from the Commission - is **strongly opposed** by wildlife enthusiasts and resource conservation organizations throughout the state.

These small mammals make up the safety net that currently exists throughout NM. In case of severe weather events, wildfire, flooding, drought or epidemic zoonotic disease, these non-herd mammals are the indispensable wildlife populations that can bring restoration and ecosystem services and re-population to damaged and destroyed habitats.

Why small mammals are so significant and far more valuable than their fur:

- Smaller mammals have advantages over large-bodied ones: they need less food and less space and often adapt to the available food supply
- They have significant positive impacts on vegetation, water, and soils and prey on more destructive insects and rodents
- Beavers, otters and other aquatic mammals are essential architects of healthy riparian areas and waterways
- They are essential prey for larger carnivores
- They breed much faster and produce far more offspring than larger mammals
- In a "man-made or disrupted" environment, they stand a far better chance of survival while providing indispensable roles in ecosystem function and health

The wildlife benefits to maintaining the existing Four-Year Furbearers Rulemaking far outweighs the proposed inadequate process of assigning a single decision maker within the agency to evaluate and decide when and how often to review the status of hunting and trapping these essential species. While trapping is largely prohibited on public lands, that leaves over 50% of the state open to hunting and trapping (and illegal poaching of) these species.

Here's a partial look at what is at stake if these species slip through the cracks and their populations decline and become state-listed, threatened or federally endangered.



Please retain the 4-Year Furbearer Rulemaking process to ensure appropriate assessment and the informed management of this vital wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration,

Teresa Seamster, MS Eds  
New Mexico Water Sentinels, Rio Grande Chapter of Sierra Club  
505-466-8964  
[ctc.seamster@gmail.com](mailto:ctc.seamster@gmail.com)

**From:** [Colleen Payne](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Furbearer Rule Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 16, 2023 9:34:30 AM

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I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the Furbearer Rule and I am in support of hunting and trapping of designated furbearers.

Colleen Payne

**From:** [Don "Mug" Greth](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Furbearer Rules  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023 10:48:35 AM

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I support the Furbearer Rule as proposed. D. Greth

**From:** [Deanna Nichols](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Four-year Furbearer Rule-Review Cycle  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 7:05:58 PM

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I am writing in disagreement with the proposal to make current furbearer trapping policies permanent, rather than reviewing policies regularly every four years. Non-herd mammals are indispensable wildlife for ecosystem health, including providing a positive impact on vegetation, water and soils by preying on insects and rodents, as well and serving as prey animals for larger species. Policies need to be regularly reviewed to ensure that their place in the ecosystem is secure.

Thank you,

Deanna Nichols  
1823 Dartmouth Dr NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505-321-2097

**From:** [John Crenshaw](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMWF: Adopt furbearer rule as presented  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 9:15:51 PM

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Dear State Game Commissioners;

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation recommends that you adopt the proposed furbearer rule as presented. NMWF would not object to its being amended to continue the four-year rule cycle if it would relieve some angst among trapping opponents, however, although we see that as a rather unnecessary, *pro forma* exercise for the following reasons:

The furbearer rule currently before you is adapted to the substantial reductions in the number of people trapping and the number of animals they take as a result of 2021 legislation that bans trapping on public lands in New Mexico. The safeguards in the current rule – particularly the Director’s obligation to impose bag limits on furbearing species if necessary – remain in the new proposal. The only substantive change would be to make the rule permanent – meaning into the reasonably foreseeable future, as all “permanent” rules are eventually amended.

Trapping opponents are, dare we say it, crying wolf over that provision. With absolutely no justification, they allege the agency just might shun its obligation to monitor harvest numbers or conduct surveys on furbearers, and not bother to review regulations regarding such things as season dates or equipment rules.

This mistrust is misplaced. Other rules require trappers to report their take annually, for instance. Tagging of bobcat pelts also is required and will continue. In short, the agency will not shirk its duties to the wildlife or public, and monitoring will continue.

What that monitoring will show is that trapper numbers and the numbers of animals they take are down as a result of the recent legislation: 1,602 people bought licenses for the 2020-2021 season, 1,129 for 2022-2023. Total take of protected furbearers dropped from 2,835 individual animals to 1,113, and coyote take from 2,744 to 1,559 for those same years. It remains to be seen whether those numbers continue to fall or stabilize, but it is extremely unlikely that they will rise to levels requiring emergency or even four-year intervention.

The department’s recommendation for a sort-of-permanent rule is reasonable, given those numbers; a quadrennial review would be pretty much ceremonial.

**John Crenshaw, President, New Mexico Wildlife Federation**

**From:** [John and Linda Douglas](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Review cycle, furbearer rule  
**Date:** Sunday, October 22, 2023 10:50:01 AM

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To: Members of the Game Commission

Please keep the four-year review cycle for this rule. Public input is extremely important in considering any changes to the rule. Roxy's Law is working, and the four-year review should not be sacrificed to permit unilateral changes. The animals impacted by this rule are important to the habitats in which they exist. Any "harvest" should be considered with discussion from various interests.

Thanks,

Linda Douglas  
Las Cruces

**From:** [rocaudt@cybermesa.com](mailto:rocaudt@cybermesa.com)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Roxy's Law success!  
**Date:** Sunday, October 15, 2023 1:45:22 PM

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Thanks, folks at NM Game and Fish, for enforcing Roxy's Law. I have access to data that show it is working! Well done, please keep it up!

Please keep the four-year furbearer rule-review cycle. This is critical to the survival and success of furbearing animals, which are critical to the overall health of the Biosphere.

Please make these comments part of the public record.

Thank you again. Ann M. Young Santa Fe, NM [rocaudt@cybermesa.com](mailto:rocaudt@cybermesa.com)

**From:** [Ted Wen](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for continued hunting of furbearers  
**Date:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 10:09:39 AM

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To NMDGF Furbearer rules,

I support the continued hunting of furbearers in New Mexico. I am a hound hunter and enjoy the NMDGFs great management of furbearers in the state. I regularly pursue bobcats, raccoons, and grey fox with my dogs and get to enjoy their abundant populations in this state.

Best  
Ted Wenner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [CLAUDIA FISHER](#)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TRAPPING  
**Date:** Sunday, August 20, 2023 7:58:42 PM

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

I WOULD LIKE TO TRAP COUGARS AGAIN, THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS WHEN I WAS ABLE TO TRAP THEM LEGALLY AND THE POPULATION SEEMS TO BE INCREASING.

TOM FISHER

**From:** [dsheft82@pvtn.net](mailto:dsheft82@pvtn.net)  
**To:** [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed rule comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 8:42:05 AM

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I would like to comment on the proposed furbearer rule.

I recommend amending the raccoon season to be concurrent with the beaver and muskrat season. The Departments rationale for creating a year round season the last time the rule was open was to allow for individuals with property complaints to handle raccoon problems on their own. Given that in order to do this they have to take the required furbearer/trapping course, purchase a license, and obtain appropriate equipment it is highly doubtful that this is occurring. If the Department insists on an extended season then it should only be for private lands and run from May 1-October 31. The current rule as it pertains to raccoons only reinforces the perception of furbearers as nuisance wildlife with no value to be eliminated and wasted.

Given the increases in population and the closure of public lands to trapping I recommend opening the season on coatimundis with a bag limit of 1 per season similar to the current Arizona season. There is an increasing interest nationally in trapping excursions to participate in the opportunity to harvest species not available in participants home areas. Arizona is currently the only state offering legal coatimundi harvest and NM could be the second.

Although it appears to have been transferred to manner and method I recommend changing the tagging time frame for bobcats to no longer than 7 days after the close of the season. The current 30 day allowance for tagging is potentially facilitating illegal take after the season closure. This time frame also overlaps into another license year. Tagging should also be restricted to only bobcats taken on lands where the NMGF Department has management authority for the species which is already in regulation. Year after year this is used as the excuse for the less than timely reporting of furbearer harvest. The rule is now open with no report for the 2022-23 season available. (The only species harvest report not completed) Individuals who fail to return CITES tag reports and unused tags in a timely manner should not be provided tags in following years.

David Heft, CWB  
PO Box 13  
Mayhill, NM 88339

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

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Meeting Date: October 20, 2023                      Agenda Number: 8  
Presenter: Stewart Liley                              Corroborator: N/A  
Agenda Title: Hearing of the Furbearer Rule 19.32.2 NMAC

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### 1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present perspectives on changes to the Trapping and Furbearer rule (19.32.2 NMAC) based on public comment, harvest and biological data collected and information from recent literature. The initial proposed change is to make the Trapping and Furbearer rule a permanently closed rule.

### 2. Background Information

Furbearer management in New Mexico has sustained viable populations of furbearer species while allowing for recreational opportunity in the form of consumptive and non-consumptive activities. Since this rule was last open in 2019, state legislation was passed that made it illegal to trap on public lands except for specific exemptions. The current furbearer rule creates restrictions on when species can be taken via the establishment of season dates, and the ability for the director to impose a bag limit for a species should the need arise.

The Department currently monitors furbearer harvest and potential impacts to populations through data collected via mandatory harvest reporting. This data tracks among other things the total numbers of species taken, geographic distribution, and trapper effort. Additionally, the Department has over the past four years implemented research and monitoring using non-invasive sampling (scat collected for genetic analysis) or trail cameras for species like swift fox and marten. These non-invasive techniques are analyzed with the latest statistical models and produce robust estimates over much larger areas than could be covered using past approaches. The Department will continue to refine these techniques and implement new monitoring efforts for furbearer species across the state.

### 3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2, 5 and 7 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

### 4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

N/A

### 5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department posted via its website the proposed changes. As of October 20, 2023, the Department has received nine comments via the [DGF-Furbearer-Rule@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-Furbearer-Rule@state.nm.us) email address.

## 6. Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.32.2 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”

**TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 32 TRAPPING AND FURBEARERS**  
**PART 2 FURBEARERS**

**19.32.2.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.  
[19.32.2.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.1 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.2 SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in furbearer hunting and management.  
Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.32.2.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.2 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Sections 17-1-14, 17-1-26, 17-5-3, 17-5-4, and 17-5-5 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected species.  
[19.32.2.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.3 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.4 DURATION:** ~~April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2024.~~ Permanent.  
[19.32.2.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.4 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, ~~2020~~ 2024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.32.2.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.5 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.6 OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons and regulation, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of trapping licenses by the department.  
[19.32.2.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.6 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.7 DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- B. "Foothold trap"** shall mean a trap designed to capture a furbearer by the foot, but does not include foot encapsulating traps.
- C. "Foot encapsulating trap"** shall mean any trap with a push or pull-activated trigger located inside an enclosure recessed from an opening of no more than two inches in diameter, as measured across the opening from side to side, not corner to corner. Foot encapsulating traps include "dog proof" and "egg" traps.
- D. "Furbearer"** shall mean any quadruped defined as a fur-bearing animal in 17-5-2 NMSA 1978.
- E. "Land set"** shall mean any foothold trap or snare set on land.
- F. "Public land"** means state-owned land, state-leased land, lands held in trust by the state, lands administered by the United States fish and wildlife service, the United States forest service, the federal bureau of land management, the national park service, the United States department of defense, state parks and any county or municipality, but does not include the interior of physical structures or land belonging to or held in trust for an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo.
- G. "Snare"** shall mean a wire or cable with a single closing device designed to capture a furbearer.
- H. "Trap"** shall mean any foothold trap, foot encapsulating trap, cage trap or body-grip trap set to capture a furbearer.  
[19.32.2.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.7 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.8 OPEN SEASONS:**

**A.** Badger, weasel, fox, ringtail and bobcat: November 1-March 15 statewide.

**B.** Raccoon:

**(1)** April 1-May 15 and September 1-March 31, statewide.

**(2)** Extended season: May 16-August 31 statewide, method restrictions per

19.31.10 NMAC.

**C.** Beaver and muskrat: April 1-April 30 and November 1-March 31, statewide.

**D.** Nutria: April 1-March 31 statewide.

[19.32.2.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.8 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.9 CLOSED AREAS:** All public lands in New Mexico are closed to the use of traps and snares except as allowed by 17-11-4 NMSA 1978.

[19.32.2.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.9 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.10 MANDATORY FURBEARER EDUCATION:**

**A.** Every person must successfully complete a department approved trapper education course before setting any trap or snare in New Mexico. Proof of successful completion of a trapper education course in any other state will also be accepted, but the person must pass a New Mexico law and species identification course.

**B.** Every person hunting furbearers must successfully complete either the New Mexico trapper education course, or a New Mexico law and species identification course.

**C.** Trapper education shall be offered free of charge to all residents. The department may charge a fee of not more than \$35 for each non-resident who takes a New Mexico trapper education course. The New Mexico law and species identification course shall be free for everyone.

[19.32.2.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.10 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.11 BAG LIMIT:** Annual bag limits may be set by the director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson of the game commission or their designee, for any furbearer species to address significant changes in statewide populations or to address critical department management needs. Annual bag limits, if set, shall expire March 31<sup>st</sup> annually.

[19.32.2.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.11 NMAC, 4/1/2024]

**19.32.2.12 EXEMPTIONS:** The provisions of this rule shall not apply to department of game and fish personnel or designated agents who are acting in their official capacity in the control of depredating animals, for law enforcement purposes, to protect human health and safety, or for research or management purposes, unless otherwise restricted by 17-11-1 to 17-11-5 NMSA 1978.

[19.32.2.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.32.1.12 NMAC, 4/1/2024]