

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require identification tags for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

I recommend reinstating previous language for trap tag requirement: In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trappers name and address or the trapper's permanent identification number.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no requirement for owners to mark traps, unlike crab pots and similar gear. Marking of traps promotes trapper accountability, encourages ethical trapping throughout the season and closure of traps at the end of the season. Trap marking also allows members of the public to contact proper authorities with trap information, who in turn can contact trappers, in situations where a non-target animal is trapped, or when a hiker comes across an animal that is trapped but not lethally. Wildlife is a public resource, and trappers gain financially through the harvest of this resource, yet at the same time, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans and their dogs and to non-target wildlife. Trapper accountability through trap tag marking and following the Trapper's Code of Ethics shows conscientious trapping by trappers and helps build public support of trapping into the future. Marking of traps used to be required throughout Southeast Alaska; this was a well-accepted program and was supported by ADF&G, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and both trappers and non-trappers.

Please consider my experience in 2017: my dog was caught in a snare while I was hiking off-trail; my dog was within five feet of me when snared; it was not ranging off in the distance. I observed a snared wolf, not dead, but instead tethered on about 10 feet of cable, running back and forth, partially choking. Lastly, outside the trapping season, I came across three active snares that were still set on a trail. As an avid hiker and dog owner who also respects that trapping is a legal means of taking furbearers, I ask that you reinstate the requirement of marking traps in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Lauri Jemison

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