

BENEFITS OF MODERN FUR TRAPPING



WHAT NEW HAMPSHIRE CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW

NH Trapper's Association

**Supporting common sense
conservation for NH's wild places.**

www.nhtassoc.com



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

New Hampshire trappers employ a hands-on approach to educating future generations about the beauty of NH's wildlife. Fur pelts are donated for education purposes, and many trappers are eager to share their knowledge of individual fur bearer behaviors. NH trappers also assist our NH Fish & Game Dept and other state agencies with a diverse array of outreach programs, events, and volunteer Trapper's Education Programs.

Community Service Projects include: *Miss NH Pageant Scholarship, Frank Sinclair and Ray Russell Scholarship and Barry Conservation Camp Scholarship*, to name a few.

Are you a NH taxpayer? Did you know the vast majority of NH's wildlife-related calls for direct assistance are handled by licensed NH trappers? When fur bearing species create conflict situations (through property damage, road flooding, rabies scares or nuisance), your Fish & Game Dept relies on local trappers to assist and remedy wildlife conflicts, in many cases at no cost to the landowner or municipality, thanks in part to recreational fur trapping seasons.

EDUCATING THOSE AGAINST TRAPPING

Those against modern trapping point to obsolete, or completely incorrect information when trying to discount the importance of fur trapping on today's natural landscape. Many of these dramatic stigmas about trapping are grossly exaggerated. The *Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies*, the *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards*, and countless wildlife conservation organizations utilize scientific data to determine animal welfare in regards to trapping practices. Modern traps have come quite a long way from their 19th century predecessors, which is why so many of your neighbors partake in modern recreational fur trapping in good conscience. An insidious aspect of anti-trapping legislation, aside from introducing politics to scientific wildlife management, is that it can hinder positive wildlife population growth and health.

Furbearer biologists Nationwide support recreational fur trapping for a reason - it works! The tradition of fur trapping plays a vital role in scientific management plans for biologists nationwide.

Trapping tools and techniques have evolved greatly over the years, while the arguments by those against trapping have not.





TRAPPING AND WILDLIFE HEALTH

Much of the information known about furbearer populations has been derived from cooperation of recreational trappers. In many cases, biologists acquire information directly from harvested animals. Many jurisdictions adjust trapping regulations in response to furbearer population changes to either increase or decrease the population in response to trappers' success. Management plans and regulations typically restrict trapping seasons to periods when pelts are prime and the annual young of the year have matured. Populations of most furbearing species have generally increased in North America during the last 100 years. Beaver, for example, were almost eliminated from the eastern United States. Today they number in the millions, thriving throughout that range wherever sufficient habitat remains.

The above image demonstrates the regard NH trappers have for conservation.

A volunteer trapper poses with a sedated bobcat trapped & radio-collared during UNH's bobcat study.

What do the biologists say?

"New Hampshire is fortunate to have a group of sportsmen and women who are passionate about wildlife, conservation and their sport like no other group I have known in three decades as a wildlife biologist in the Granite State. They are this state's trappers. I have been fortunately lucky enough to work with them most of my career at the NH Fish and Game Department. Trappers are truly an asset to this state and are frequently overlooked in recognition of contributions they have made, and continue to make, for conservation."

ERIC ORFF, NH STATE BIOLOGIST 2006

"New Hampshire's furbearer populations are healthy, diverse and abundant. Trappers, who are some of the best naturalists in the state, represent important partners in New Hampshire's furbearer management efforts. Trapping is a highly regulated activity in New Hampshire. Trapper education is required, as is mandatory reporting of field activities. And, of course, written landowner permission is necessary, among many other requirements. The information trappers provide to wildlife population managers is essential for effective management recommendations."

PAT TATE, NH FURBEARER PROJECT LEADER 2016

NH TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The New Hampshire Trappers Association is an organization of conservationists who support the use of trapping to manage wild furbearers. We support the NH Fish and Game Department in managing furbearer populations through a regulated annual fur trapping season. The members of the NHTA support the NH Fish and Game Department's mission. We shall promote trapping of wildlife consistent with the Department's management plans and laws. We promote sound conservation, legislation, and administrative procedures, as well as sound environmental education programs. We promote a continued annual fur harvest using the best management practices. NHTA has remained vigilant in following state and national legislative efforts by non-consumptive animal-rights groups that aim to outlaw the modern traps that we use in this state. These efforts will continue and we must continue to answer the call of defending science-based wildlife management.

The New Hampshire Trappers Association promotes trapping, fur harvesting, sound conservation and environmental education programs.

Support the NHTA today!

www.nhtassoc.com