

Trapping Matters

REPORT ON 2021-2022 WORKSHOPS





Bryant White, AFWA Program Manager of Trapping Policy, demonstrates the use of cable restraint devices for capturing furbearers at a Trapping Matters Workshop held in Augusta, Maine. PHOTO BY JOLI VOLLERS, CONSERVATION LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

Welcome to Trapping Matters

REGULATED TRAPPING CAN BE AMONG THE MOST CONTENTIOUS and least understood of all programs within an agency’s wildlife responsibilities. Many agencies have some staff unfamiliar with trapping, and as a result, avoid discussions about it.

TRAPPING MATTERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS were initiated in 2003 to help improve agency professionals’ ability to communicate about the role and benefits of regulated trapping in wildlife management. Since their inception, more than **6,000 wildlife professionals** have attended workshops throughout the United States. The Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and state fish and wildlife agencies partner to deliver workshops related to effective communication and regulated trapping. The fundamental purpose of these professional development workshops is to advance awareness and communication skills related to regulated trapping among agency professionals and to increase understanding of Best Management Practices for regulated trapping in the United States.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Workshops cover:

- Introduction to Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping
- A cursory demonstration and overview for familiarity with basic trapping techniques
- Human dimensions studies overview and public understanding of regulated trapping
- How the media works and how to use key messages
- Tips on effective communication
- Social media tips
- Key messages for communication about trapping and wildlife management

DURING 2021-2022 WE ENGAGED ...

700
Attendees

30
State Agencies

42
Universities

5
Federal Agencies

2
Indian Tribal Organizations

5
NGOs

2
Provincial Agencies

Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature.



THESE PROJECTS WERE SUPPORTED BY Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration funds, through grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This project was funded by Multistate Conservation grant F21AP00237

The Trapping Matters Exit Survey

GETTING TO YES

Trapping Matters Workshops enjoy historically positive feedback. Here are all respondents who answered "Yes" to the following Exit Survey questions.

DID ATTENDING THE TRAPPING MATTERS WORKSHOP PROVIDE YOU WITH ...

The knowledge and skills to effectively communicate about regulated trapping with the public?

99.7%

A good understanding of the AFWA program to develop Best Management Practices for Trapping?

99.1%

A working knowledge of the technical aspects of trapping including what types of devices are used and how they work?

99%

.....

Did attending the Trapping Matters Workshop provide you with the information you need to effectively communicate with the public about:

Trapper motivations & demographics
— and —
The relationship between regulated trapping and conservation:

100%

The skills required and techniques used by trappers to capture furbearers humanely:

99%

Scientifically validated survey information regarding the public's understanding and approval of regulated trapping:

99.7%

.....

OVERALL WORKSHOP *Ranked on a scale from 1 to 5.*

Value of the Information



Objectives Clearly Stated



Knowledge of Instructors



Delivery Style of Instructors

