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## **A2.25 Traps, Trapping, and Wildlife Management in Arizona**

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*Effective: 10/22/1993*

*Policy Process Owner: Game Branch Chief*

**The Commission's Position:** The Arizona Game and Fish Commission supports regulated trapping and believes that Arizona trappers are among the most highly regulated in the United States. Regulated trapping, when conducted in a responsible manner, is a safe, efficient and practical means of managing certain species of predators and furbearers. Regulated trapping is an element of wildlife management and is a justifiable human use of a renewable natural resource providing many social benefits. Important forms of trapping in Arizona are trapping for; recreational and commercial purposes, management of wildlife populations and control of individual problem animals, capture of wildlife for research or relocation projects, public health and safety, and protection of private property.

**Predatory and Furbearing Animals are Abundant.** Fifteen species of predators and furbearers are locally common throughout Arizona and can be trapped during seasons established by wildlife biologists.

**Trapping is Regulated:** The Arizona Game and Fish Commission regulates trapping. Wildlife Managers enforce trapping laws and regulations. There are many laws and regulations that affect trapping, including:

- Mandatory licensing of trappers
- Mandatory identification of traps
- Mandatory reporting of take
- Restrictions on placement of traps
- Traps with teeth are prohibited
- Mandatory time frames for checking of traps
- Permission from landowner or tenant is required to set traps
- Restrictions on sizes and types of traps
- Mandatory training for first time trappers

Wildlife biologists monitor the populations of predators and furbearers in Arizona. These wildlife biologists analyze data to assure that these species are managed properly. Wildlife scientists are also involved in studies to identify traps, trapping systems, and humane trap standards that reduce injuries to animals yet maintain efficiency needed to meet management goals. Improvements have been made in the past and will continue in the future.

**Trapping Benefits Society:** Trapping is an important wildlife management tool.

**Wildlife Research and Control:** Trapping is important to wildlife research and control. Some species, like coyotes, raccoons and skunks, can be trapped to reduce problems for homeowners, ranchers and others or to identify the presence and distribution of diseases (plague and rabies). Other species can be trapped for transplant or reintroduction. Trapping can be an essential part of



endangered species programs.

**Recreation.** Trapping provides enjoyable and valuable outdoor experiences for many Arizonans. To many, trapping is a traditional cultural activity passed from one generation to the next.

**Economics.** Arizona is a major producer of several types of wild fur. In many rural communities trapping provides income. Trapping also provides direct economic benefits to fur buyers, the fur processing industry, and the garment industry.

**Position statement adopted by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission in open meeting October 22, 1993.**