

Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rules

R12-4-101 and R12-4-301

Definitions

In addition to the definitions provided under A.R.S. § 17-101, the following definitions apply to trapping:

“Bobcat seal” means the tag a person is required to attach to the raw pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat taken by trapping in Arizona or exported out of Arizona regardless of the method of take.

“Body-gripping trap” means a device designed to capture an animal by gripping the animal’s body.

“Confinement trap” means a device designed to capture wildlife alive and hold it without harm.

“Evidence of legality” means the wildlife is accompanied by the applicable license, tag, stamp, or permit required by law and is identifiable as the “legal wildlife” prescribed by Commission Order, which may include evidence of species, gender, antler or horn growth, maturity and size.

“Export” means to carry, send, or transport wildlife or wildlife parts out of Arizona to another state or country.

“Foothold trap” means a device designed to capture an animal by the leg or foot.

“Instant kill trap” means a device designed to render an animal unconscious and insensitive to pain quickly with inevitable subsidence into death without recovery of consciousness.

“Land set” means any trap used on land rather than in water.

“Paste-type bait” means a partially liquefied substance used as a lure for animals.

“Person” has the meaning as provided under A.R.S. § 1-215.

“Sight-exposed bait” means a carcass or parts of a carcass lying openly on the ground or suspended in a manner so that it can be seen from above by a bird. This does not include a trap flag, dried or bleached bone with no attached tissue, or less than two ounces of paste-type bait.

“Trap flag” means an attractant made from materials other than animal parts that is suspended at least three feet above the ground.

“Water set” means any trap used and anchored in water rather than on land.

R12-4-307

Trapping Regulations: Licensing; Methods; Tagging of Bobcat Pelts

- A. An Arizona trapping license permits a person to trap predatory and fur-bearing animals.
- B. A trapping license is required for any person 10 years of age and older. A person under the age of 10 is not required to purchase a trapping license, but shall apply for and obtain a registration number. The trapper registration number is not transferable.
- C. A person born on or after January 1, 1967 shall successfully complete a Department-approved trapping education course before applying for a trapping license.
- D. A person applying for a trapping registration number or trapping license shall pay the applicable fees established under R12-4-102.
- E. A person applying for a trapping registration number or trapping license shall apply using a form furnished by the Department. The form is available at any Department office and online at www.azgfd.gov. The person shall provide all of the following information on the form:
 - 1. The applicant’s personal information:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Date of birth;
 - c. Physical description, to include the applicant’s eye color, hair color, height, and weight;
 - d. Department identification number;
 - e. Residency status and number of years of residency immediately

Arizona Revised Statutes

A.R.S. 17-301(D)

Exceptions; Methods of Taking

- D. It shall be unlawful to take wildlife with any leghold trap, any instant kill body gripping design trap, or by a poison or a snare on any public land, including state owned or state leased land, lands administered by the United States forest service, the federal bureau of land management, the national park service, the United States department of defense, the state parks board and any county or municipality. This subsection shall not prohibit:
 - 1. The use of the devices prescribed in this subsection by federal, state, county, city, or other local departments of health which have jurisdiction in the geographic area of such use, for the purpose of protection from or surveillance for threats to human health or safety.
 - 2. The taking of wildlife with firearms, with fishing equipment, with archery equipment, or other implements in hand as may be defined or regulated by the Arizona game and fish commission, including but not limited to the taking of wildlife pursuant to a hunting or fishing license issued by the Arizona game and fish department.
 - 3. The use of snares, traps not designed to kill, or nets to take wildlife for scientific research projects, sport falconry, or for relocation of the wildlife as may be defined or regulated by the Arizona game and fish commission or the government of the United States or both.
 - 4. The use of poisons or nets by the Arizona game and fish department to take or manage aquatic wildlife as determined and regulated by the Arizona game and fish commission.
 - 5. The use of traps for rodent control or poisons for rodent control for the purpose of controlling wild and domestic rodents as otherwise allowed by the laws of the state of Arizona, excluding any fur-bearing animals as defined in section 17-101.

A.R.S. 17-309

Violations; classification

- A. Unless otherwise prescribed by this title, it is unlawful for a person to:
 - 1. Violate any provision of this title or any rule adopted pursuant to this title.
 - 2. Take, possess, transport, buy, sell or offer or expose for sale wildlife except as expressly permitted by this title.
 - 3. Destroy, injure or molest livestock, growing crops, personal property, notices or signboards, or other improvements while hunting, trapping or fishing.
 - 4. Discharge a firearm while taking wildlife within one-fourth mile of an occupied farmhouse or other residence, cabin, lodge or building without permission of the owner or resident.
 - 5. Take a game bird, game mammal or game fish and knowingly permit an edible portion thereof to go to waste, except as provided in section 17-302.
 - 6. Take big game, except bear or mountain lion, with the aid of dogs.
 - 7. Make more than one use of a shipping permit or coupon issued by the commission.
 - 8. Obtain a license or take wildlife during the period for which the person’s license has been revoked or suspended or the person has been denied a license.
 - 9. Litter hunting and fishing areas while taking wildlife.
 - 10. Take wildlife during the closed season.
 - 11. Take wildlife in an area closed to the taking of that wildlife.
 - 12. Take wildlife with an unlawful device.
 - 13. Take wildlife by an unlawful method.
 - 14. Take wildlife in excess of the bag limit.

- preceding application, when applicable;
 - f. Mailing address, when applicable;
 - g. Physical address;
 - h. Telephone number, when available; and
 - i. E-mail address, when available;
 - 2. Category of license:
 - a. Resident,
 - b. Nonresident, or
 - c. Youth, and
 - 3. The applicant’s signature and date.
- F. A trapper may only trap predatory and fur-bearing animals during trapping seasons established by Commission Order.
- G. A trapper shall:
 - 1. Inspect traps daily;
 - 2. Kill or release all predatory and fur-bearing animals;
 - 3. Possess a choke restraint device that enables the trapper to release a javelina from a trap when trapping in a javelina hunt unit as designated by Commission Order;
 - 4. Possess a device that is designed or manufactured to restrain a trapped animal while it is being removed from a trap when its release is required under this Section; and
 - 5. Release, without additional injury, all animals that cannot lawfully be taken by trap.
 - 6. Subsections (G)(3) and (G)(4) do not apply when the trapper is using a confinement trap.
- H. A trapper shall not:
 - 1. Bait a confinement trap with:
 - a. A live animal;
 - b. Any edible parts of small game, big game, or game fish; or
 - c. Any part of any game bird or nongame bird.
 - 2. Set any trap within:
 - a. One-half mile (880 yards) of any of the following areas developed for public use:
 - i. Boat ramp or launching area,
 - ii. Camping area,
 - iii. Picnic area,
 - iv. Roadside rest area, or
 - v. Developed wildlife viewing platform.
 - b. One-half mile of any occupied farmhouse or other residence, cabin, lodge or building without permission of the owner or resident.
 - c. One-hundred yards of an interstate highway or any other highway maintained by the Arizona Department of Transportation.
 - d. Fifty feet of any trail maintained for public use by a government agency.
 - e. Seventy-five feet of any other road as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101.
 - f. Subsections (H)(2)(b), (H)(2)(c), (H)(2)(d), and (H)(2)(e) do not apply when the trapper is using a confinement trap.
 - 3. Set a foothold trap within 30 feet of sight-exposed bait.
 - 4. Use any:
 - a. Body-gripping or other instant kill trap with an open jaw spread that exceeds 5 inches for any land set or 10 inches for any water set;
 - b. Foothold trap with an open jaw spread that exceeds 7 1/2 inches for any water set;
 - c. Snare, unless authorized under subsection (I);
 - d. Trap with an open jaw spread that exceeds 6 1/2 inches for any land set; or
 - e. Trap with teeth.
- I. A trapper who uses a foothold trap to take wildlife with a land set shall use commercially manufactured traps that meet the following specifications:

- 15. Possess wildlife in excess of the possession limit.
- 16. Possess or transport any wildlife or parts of the wildlife that was unlawfully taken.
- 17. Possess or transport the carcass of big game without a valid tag being attached.
- 18. Use the edible parts of any game mammal or any part of any game bird or nongame bird as bait.
- 19. Possess or transport the carcass or parts of a carcass of any wildlife that cannot be identified as to species and legality.
- 20. Take game animals, game birds and game fish with an explosive compound, poison or any other deleterious substances.
- 21. Import into this state or export from this state the carcass or parts of a carcass of any wildlife unlawfully taken or possessed.
- B. Unless a different or other penalty or punishment is specifically prescribed a person who violates any provision of this title, or who violates or fails to comply with a lawful order or rule of the commission, is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.
- C. A person who knowingly takes any big game during a closed season or who knowingly possesses, transports or buys any big game that was unlawfully taken during a closed season is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor.
- D. A person is guilty of a class 6 felony who knowingly:
 - 1. Barters, sells or offers for sale any big game or parts of big game taken unlawfully.
 - 2. Barters, sells or offers for sale any wildlife or parts of wildlife unlawfully taken during a closed season.
 - 3. Barters, sells or offers for sale any wildlife or parts of wildlife imported or purchased in violation of this title or a lawful rule of the commission.
 - 4. Assists another person for monetary gain with the unlawful taking of big game.
 - 5. Takes or possesses wildlife while under permanent revocation under section 17-340, subsection B, paragraph 3.
- E. A peace officer who knowingly fails to enforce a lawful rule of the commission or this title is guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.

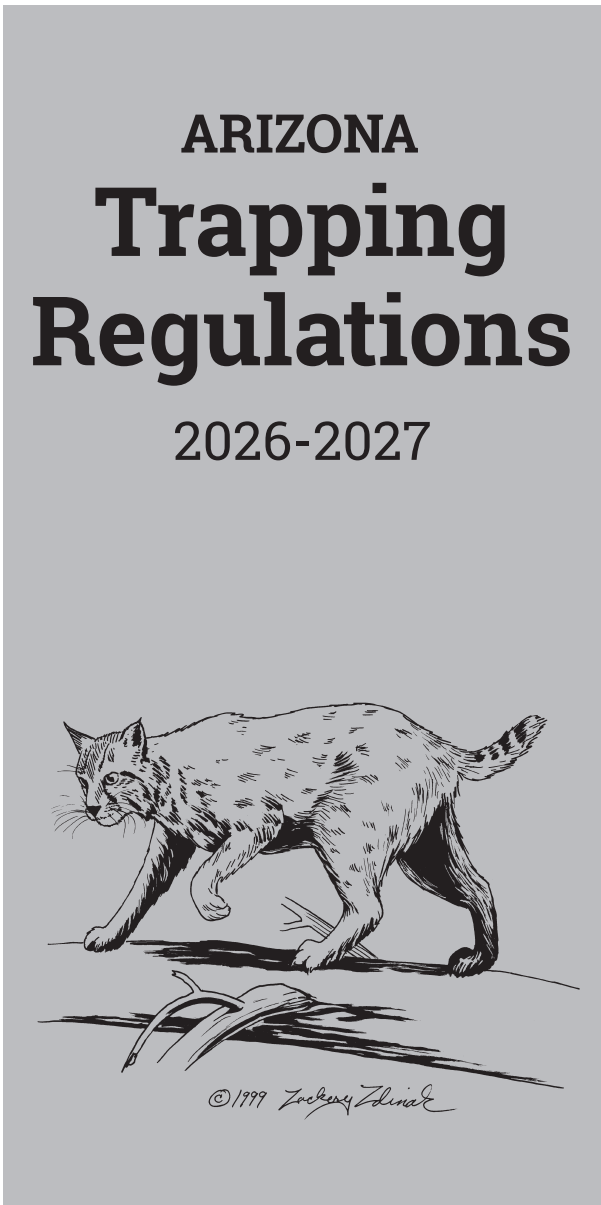
A.R.S. 17-361

Trappers; licensing; restrictions; duties; reports

- A. The holder of a trapping license, may trap predatory, nongame, and fur-bearing mammals under such restrictions as the commission may specify.
- B. All traps shall be plainly identified with the name, address, or registered number of the owner, and such markings of identification shall be filed with the department. All traps in use shall be inspected daily.
- C. It shall be unlawful for a person to disturb the trap of another unless authorized to do so by the owner.
- D. Pursuant to rules and regulations of the commission, each trapping licensee shall, on dates designated by the commission, submit on forms provided by the department, a legible report of the number of each kind of predatory, nongame and fur-bearing mammal taken and the names and addresses of the persons to whom they were shipped or sold and the wildlife management units where the animals were taken.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department receives Federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age and sex pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. To request an accommodation or informational material in an alternative format or to file a discrimination complaint please contact the Director’s Office at (602) 942-3000 or by mail at 5000 West Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Discrimination complaints can also be filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce, Attention: Public Civil Rights and Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

- 1. A padded or rubber-jawed trap or an unpadded trap with jaws permanently offset to a minimum of 3/16 inch and a device that allows for pan tension adjustment;
- 2. A foothold trap that captures wildlife by means of an enclosed bar or spring designed to prevent the capture of non-targeted wildlife or domestic animals; or
- 3. A powered cable device with an inside frame hinge width no wider than 6 inches, a cable loop stop size of at least 2 inches in diameter to prevent capture of small non-target species, and a device that allows for a pan tension adjustment.
- J. A trapper who uses a foothold trap to take wildlife with a land set shall ensure that the trap has an anchor chain equipped with at least two swivels as follows:
 - 1. An anchor chain 12 inches or less in length shall have a swivel attached at each end.
 - 2. An anchor chain greater than 12 inches in length shall have one swivel attached at the trap and one swivel attached within 12 inches of the trap. The anchor chain shall be equipped with a shock-absorbing spring that requires less than 40 pounds of force to extend or open the spring.
- K. A trapper shall ensure that each trap has either the name and address or the registration number of the trapper marked on a metal tag attached to the trap. The registration number assigned by the Department is the only acceptable registration number.
- L. A trapper shall immediately attach a valid bobcat transportation tag to the pelt or unskinned carcass of a bobcat taken in this state. The trapper shall validate the transportation tag by providing all of the following information on the bobcat transportation tag:
 - 1. Current trapping license number,
 - 2. Management unit where the bobcat was taken,
 - 3. Sex of the bobcat, and
 - 4. Method by which the bobcat was taken.
- M. The Department shall provide transportation tags with each trapping license. Additional transportation tags are available at any Department office at no charge. A trapper shall ensure that all bobcats taken in this state have a bobcat seal attached and locked either through the mouth and an eye opening or through both eye openings no later than April 1 of each year.
 - 1. When available, bobcat seals are issued on a first-come, first-served basis at Department offices and other locations at those times and places as determined and published by the Department.
 - 2. The trapper shall pay the bobcat seal fee established under R12-4-102. 3. Department personnel or an authorized agent shall attach and lock a bobcat seal only to a pelt or unskinned carcass presented with a validated transportation tag and a complete lower jaw identified with labels provided with the transportation tag. Department personnel or authorized agents shall collect the transportation tags and jaws before attaching the bobcat seal.
- O. Department personnel shall attach a bobcat seal to a bobcat pelt seized under A.R.S. § 17-211(E)(4) before disposal by the Department to the public.
- P. A licensed trapper shall file the annual report prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-361(D). The report form is available at any Department office and online at www.azgfd.gov.
 - 1. The trapper shall submit the report to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Terrestrial Wildlife Branch, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086 by April 1 of each year.
 - 2. A report is required even when trapping activities were not conducted.
 - 3. The Department shall deny a trapping license to any trapper who fails to submit an annual report until the trapper complies with reporting requirements.
- Q. Persons suffering property loss or damage due to wildlife and who take responsive measures as permitted under A.R.S. §§ 17-239 and 17-302 are exempt from this Section. This exemption does not authorize any form of trapping prohibited under A.R.S. § 17-301.



Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086
(602) 942-3000
www.azgfd.gov



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	
License Required	Trapping License plus Bobcat seal in accordance with R12-4-307.
Legal Taking Devices and Times	Traps as prescribed in R12-4-307; wildlife may be trapped day or night.
Trapper Education	An individual born on or after January 1, 1967 shall successfully complete a Department-approved trapping education course before applying for a trapping license.
Definition	Trapping means the taking of wildlife in any manner except with a gun or other implement in hand (see “traps” or “trapping” as defined under ARS 17-101 A.22).
Bag Limit	Unlimited.
Possession Limit	Unlimited.
SPECIAL NOTE: <i>Hunting or trapping seasons are closed on state and federal refuges, parks, and monuments, unless specifically opened by Commission Order (see “open season” as defined under ARS 17-101 A.19). The Department will be collaring bobcats across the state as part of a study to collect data on survival, home range size, disease, and denning characteristics. Collared bobcats are legal animals to take. If you would normally harvest the bobcat, we are not asking you to refrain. Simply return the collar as well as any other marking device, such as an ear tag, to a Department office or officer so that we can account for the mortality. To turn in a collar, please contact the nearest Department office or the Predator/Furbearer Biologist at 623-236-7352.</i>	

Trapping: Commission Order 23			
<i>Open Areas do not include areas within municipal parks, municipal preserves, county parks, county preserves, airports, golf courses, or posted water treatment facilities (except as specifically opened in this Commission Order) or areas closed to hunting under A.R.S. Sections 17-303 and 17-304 or Commission Rules R12-4-321, R12-4-801, R12-4-802 and R12-4-803.</i>			
Season Dates	Notes	Open Areas	Legal Wildlife
Nov 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	(5,29,30,32,42, 43,44,45,130)	Statewide (including Walnut Canyon Enclosure in Unit 22; excluding National Wildlife Refuges, Mohave County Park Lands, and Units 11M, 25M, 26M, and 38M)	Coyote, bobcat, foxes, ringtail, badger, raccoon, skunks, and weasels
Nov 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2027	(5,29,30,32,42, 43,44,45,130)	Statewide (including Walnut Canyon Enclosure in Unit 22; excluding National Wildlife Refuges, Mohave County Park Lands, and Units 11M, 25M, 26M, 34B , and 38M)	Beaver and muskrat

5. Camp Navajo in Unit 6B is open to hunting only to properly licensed hunters with a valid hunt permit-tag for deer, pronghorn, elk, or turkey who meet the qualifications as ‘Authorized Participants’ according to the installation hunting policies outlined on the National Guard Website. Only the designated species on the hunt permit-tag may be hunted while on Camp Navajo. Applications for these hunts must be submitted to the Arizona Game and Fish Department by the published deadline. Hunters must log onto the National Guard Website and read the installation policies and security requirements in order to have access to Camp Navajo hunt numbers: <https://dema.az.gov/army-national-guard/camp-navajo/garrison-operations/camp-navajo-hunting-information>. An applicant who applies for a category of permit for which he or she is not eligible to participate may not be authorized to participate in the hunt. All hunters are required to show proof of attendance in a hunter safety education course during paperwork submission for the Camp Navajo permit. Increases in Force Protection Conditions, training missions and industrial operations may result in partial or complete hunt cancellation at any time with little or no prior notification. In the event a hunt is cancelled, hunters drawn for these permits will not be reimbursed or otherwise compensated by the Arizona Game and Fish Department or Camp Navajo. Camp Navajo will charge a recreation fee for all hunters. No cash will be taken, only personal checks and money orders. The cost of the recreation fee can be found at the Camp Navajo Website above or by emailing the hunt coordinator at the email address found on Camp Navajo’s website.

R12-4-307

Trapping Regulations, Licensing; Methods; Tagging of Bobcat Pelts

- N. A trapper shall ensure that all bobcats taken in this state have a bobcat seal attached and locked either through the mouth and an eye opening or through both eye openings no later than April 1 of each year.
3. Department personnel or an authorized agent shall attach and lock a bobcat seal only to a pelt or unskinned carcass presented with a validated transportation tag and a complete lower jaw identified with labels provided with the transportation tag. Department personnel or authorized agents shall collect the transportation tags and jaws before attaching the bobcat seal.

All bobcats trapped in Arizona must be sealed no later than April 1 of each year. No bobcat trapped in Arizona will be sealed after this day and any trapped bobcat unsealed after this day is unlawfully possessed and subject to seizure. The lower jaw of any bobcat trapped in Arizona is required to be submitted to the department at the time of purchasing a bobcat seal.

R12-4-321

Restrictions for Taking Wildlife in City, County, or Town Parks and Preserves

- A. All city, county, and town parks and preserves are closed to hunting and trapping, unless open by Commission Order.
- B. Unless otherwise provided under Commission Order or rule, a city, county, or town may:
- Limit or prohibit any person from hunting within one-fourth mile (440 yards) or trapping within one half mile (880 yards) of any:
 - Developed picnic area,
 - Developed campground,
 - Developed trailhead,
 - Developed wildlife viewing platform,
 - Boat ramp,
 - Shooting range,
 - Occupied structure, or
 - Golf course.
 - Require a person entering a city, county, or town park or preserve, for the purpose of hunting, to declare the person’s intent to hunt within the park or preserve, if the park or preserve has a check in process established.
 - Allow a person to take wildlife in a city, county, or town park or preserve only during the posted park or preserve hours.
- C. The requirements of subsection (B)(1) do not apply to a reptile and amphibian limited weapon hand or hand-held implement season established by Commission Order.

Special Note Regarding Collared Bobcats

The Department will be collaring bobcats across the state as part of a study to collect data on survival, home range size, disease, and denning characteristics. Collared bobcats are legal animals to take. If you would normally harvest the bobcat, we are not asking you to refrain. Simply return the collar as well as any other marking device, such as an ear tag, to a Department office or officer so that we can account for the mortality. To turn in a collar, please contact the nearest Department office or the Predator/Furbearer Biologist at 623-236-7352.

Eligibility requirements for a disabled veteran, wounded warrior, or Purple Heart hunt are provided on the Camp Navajo website: <https://dema.az.gov/arizona-national-guard/training-area-ranges/camp-navajo/camp-navajo-hunting-information>. Written proof is required prior to being allowed to hunt on Camp Navajo.

29. For hunts in Units 5A and 5B North, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a Landowner Compact Agreement with the Bar T Bar Ranch and Flying M Ranch located in the northern portion of Units 5A and 5B. A Ranch Pass and adherence to Ranch Rules is required to access these ranches. Signage at points of entrance to the ranch provides notification of the Landowner Compact Agreement. The free Ranch Pass, a copy of Ranch Rules, and location map may be obtained online from the Department’s Landowner Relations Program web page www.azgfd.gov/landownercompact. Ranch Passes and Ranch Rules for the Flying M Ranch may also be obtained at sign-in boxes located at either of the two entrance points onto the ranch. Ranch Passes and Ranch Rules for the Bar T Bar Ranch may also be obtained at the Meteor Crater Gas Station/Convenience Store.
30. For hunts in Unit 4A, Unit 5A, and Unit 5B, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into an agreement with the Hopi Tribe to allow access to Hopi Trust lands on the Hopi Three Canyon Ranch. This includes the Aja Ranch (Unit 4A), the Clear Creek Ranch (Unit 5A) and the Hart Ranch (Unit 5B). Access is permitted by written permission through the Department Landowner Relations Program web page,

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to get my bobcat sealed 10 days after the close of trapping season?
No, the new rule is April 1 (R12-4-307). Every bobcat taken by trapping in Arizona must be sealed (CITES tagged) no later than April 1 of each year. The lower jaw of each bobcat trapped in Arizona must be presented with the pelt in order to be sealed. The lower jaw must be cleaned, dry, free of any moist tissue, and have a completed jaw tag attached to it.

Can I use feathers?
The use of feathers from either a game bird (quail, ducks, doves, etc.) or a nongame bird (blue jay, woodpeckers, flickers, etc.) are prohibited by both statute and rule (A.R.S 17-309A18 and R12-4-307H1c). This restriction does not apply to feathers from pigeons, domestic fowl such as chickens, white ducks or white turkeys, or feathers from a feather pillow since these feathers are not from a game or a nongame bird. These feathers may be used both inside and, now with the new rule change, outside a confinement trap.

The use of feathers with foothold traps is not recommended. The definitions found in R12-4-301 define “Sight-exposed bait” as “a carcass or parts of a carcass lying openly on the ground or suspended in a manner so that it can be seen from above by a bird...” This includes any feather from any bird. Although feathers placed in a dirt hole set and not visible from above by a bird may initially be lawful, it is easy for this set to become unlawful when the feathers are blown or removed from the hole by the wind, birds, or rodents. Once the feathers are visible from above by a bird the set becomes unlawful and in violation of R12-4-307H3. (A trapper shall not set a foothold trap within 30 feet of sight-exposed bait.)

What can I use as bait in my cage trap?
Prior to the rule changes only nongame mammals such as jackrabbits, rock squirrels and rodents could be used as bait. Now, in addition to nongame mammals, the inedible portions of small game, big game and game fish may be used as bait. Remember, feathers or any other part of game and nongame birds are prohibited by statute and may not be used as bait.

How do I detach, clean and tag the lower jaw of a bobcat?
The lower jaw of a bobcat can be detached in two ways. After skinning, cut the muscle and connective tissue away at the point where the jaw is attached to the skull and separate the entire lower jaw from the skull. The other way is to cut the jaw bone on each side of the jaw behind all the teeth and in front of the point where the jaw attaches to the skull. After removing the jaw cut away all the tissue until only the jaw bone and teeth remain. Complete the jaw tag information with a permanent marker and attach with a zip tie or metal wire. Allow the jaw to air dry. Rubbing the jaw with borax or placing the jaw in borax for a day or two will dry the jaw quickly. A partial lower jaw or a jaw that is not dry and free of tissue will not be accepted and the bobcat pelt associated with that jaw will not be sealed with a CITES tag.

Where can I trap with foothold traps?
Foothold traps may not be used on public land. This includes all federal land, regardless of agency, state land, county land and any land owned by any municipality. The only land where foothold traps may be lawfully used is private land. If an individual wishes to trap on any land other than private land they must use a confinement trap.

www.azgfd.gov/landownercompact or by scanning the QR code on signs at all approved access points. All hunters and everyone in their party must have written permission.

32. Hopi Trust Lands in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B North-The Hopi Tribe Wildlife and Ecosystem Management Program requires all AZGFD State Certified/Licensed Outfitters and Guides who conduct business (guide, pre-scout, or request access on behalf of their clients) on the Hopi 3 Canyon Ranches in Units 4A, 5A, and 5B North to contact the Hopi Tribe’s Office of Revenue Commission at (928) 734-3172 or (928) 734-3171, or access business license application at www.hopi-nsn.gov under the Office of Revenue Commission link. Upon approval of a Hopi Business License, access to the Hopi 3 Canyon Ranches may be obtained via email at hophihunts@hopi.nsn.us and/or PNutumya@hopi.nsn.us and/or by calling the Hopi Wildlife and Ecosystems Management Program at (928) 734-3673 or (928) 734-3671.
42. For hunts in Unit 18A and Unit 18B, The Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a Landowner Compact Agreement with the Fort Rock Ranch. The Fort Rock Ranch is located in the northern portion of Unit 18B. If you drew this hunt and are interested in hunting on the Fort Rock Ranch, please visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Access Program website: www.azgfd.gov/fortrockranch for how access is granted by Fort Rock Ranch.
43. For hunts in Unit 10, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a Landowner Compact Agreement with the Boquillas-Diamond A Ranch. The Boquillas-Diamond A Ranch encompasses the entire western half of Unit 10, about 720,000 acres. This hunt may have restricted access. Visit the Ranch’s website for details, www.HuntBigBoRanch.com.
44. For hunts in Unit 10, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a Landowner Compact Agreement with the Perrin Ranch located in the eastern portion of Unit 10. A Ranch Pass and adherence to Ranch Rules is required to access this ranch. Signage at points of entrance to the ranch provides notification of the Landowner Compact Agreement. The free Ranch Pass may be obtained at sign-in boxes at these points of entrance. A location map and Ranch Rules can be viewed and printed from the Department’s Landowner Relations Program web page www.azgfd.gov/landownercompact.
45. For hunts in Unit 7, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has entered into a Landowner Compact Agreement with the Walking Cane Ranch located in the southeastern portion of Unit 7. Adherence to Ranch Rules is required to access this ranch. A location map and Ranch Rules can be viewed and printed from the Department’s Landowner Relations Program web page www.azgfd.gov/landownercompact.

130. Refer to A.R.S. 17-301D for trapping restrictions on public land.

Game Management Units Closed to Trapping

Refer to R12-4-108 for game management unit boundaries. The information is included in the 2026-27 Arizona Hunting Regulations or online at www.azgfd.gov/rulemaking in the AZGFD Laws and Rules Book.

Unit 11M
Unit 25M
Unit 26M
Unit 34B — closure is for beaver and muskrat only
Unit 38M

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use a Belisle foot snare on public land?
Belisle foot snares are considered a foothold trap and may not be used on public lands. They may only be used on private land and are subject to the same restrictions as traditional foothold traps.

Do I have to inspect my traps every 24 hours?
A.R.S. 17-361.B states all traps in use shall be inspected daily. This means traps must be inspected once every calendar day. For example, an individual may check their traps in the morning of one day and in the afternoon or evening of the following day. In this scenario the traps have been checked daily even though the period of time is greater than 24 hours between checks.

Arizona Trapping License

Resident.....	\$30.00
Youth (10-17 years old)	\$10.00
Nonresident	\$275.00
Arizona Bobcat Seal (CITES Tag)	\$3.00

Trapper Education

A.R.S. 17-333.02

Trapping License; Education: Exemption

- A. A person applying for a trapping license must successfully complete a trapping education course conducted or approved by the department before being issued a trapping license. The department shall conduct or approve an educational course of instruction in responsible trapping and environmental ethics. The course shall include instruction on the history of trapping, trapping ethics, trapping laws, techniques in safely releasing nontarget animals, trapping equipment, wildlife management, proper catch handling, trapper health and safety and considerations and ethics intended to avoid conflicts with other public land users. A person must pass a written examination to successfully complete the course. The department shall not approve a trapping education course conducted by any person, agency, corporation or other organization for which a fee is charged greater than an amount the commission determines per person.
- B. A person who is born before January 1, 1967 or who has completed, from and after December 31, 1987 and before March 1, 1993, the voluntary trapper education course on responsible trapping conducted in cooperation with the Arizona game and fish department is exempt from subsection A of this section.

For more details or to register for a class please go the AZGFD website at: www.azgfd.gov/huntered

Trapping Organizations and Upcoming Events

Arizona Trappers Association

Check out the Arizona Trappers Association online for information about the annual convention and fur sale.
www.arizonatrappersassociation.com
Facebook: Arizona Trappers Association, Az ATA