Arizona Game and Fish Commission Rules

R12-4-301 Definitions

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

“Body-gripping trap” means a device designed to capture an animal by gripping its body, except as expressly permitted by this title.

“Confinement trap” means a device designed to capture wildlife alive and hold it temporarily.

“Evidence of legality” means the wildlife is accompanied by the applicable wildlife license, tag, stamp, or permit required by law and is identifiable as the “legal” wildlife for all purposes, which may include the evidence of species, gender, age or birth, health, maturity and size.

Definitions

R12-4-302 Trapping Regulations: Licensing; Methods; Tagging of Bobcat Pelt

A. Arizona trapping license permits an individual to trap predatory and fur-bearing wildlife. The Department shall issue a registration number to a trapper and enter the number on the trapping license at the time the trapper receives it. The trapper registration number is transferable.

B. A trapping license is required for any individual 14 years of age or older. An individual under the age of 14 is not required to purchase a trapping license, but shall apply for and be granted a trapping license if the individual is a minor and is an owner, manager, or agent of a person.

C. An individual born on or after January 1, 1967 shall successfully complete a state-certified hunter education program approved by the Department before applying for a trapping license.

D. Individual applying for a trapping registration number or trapping license shall provide all of the following information on the form:

1. Personal's name, address, telephone number; and
2. Date of birth and physical description;
3. Identification number (if any) as designated by the Department;
4. Category of license:
   a. Resident;
   b. Nonresident, or
   c. Juvenile, and
5. The applicant's signature.

A trapper may only trap predatory and fur-bearing animals during trapping seasons established by Commission Order.

A trapper shall:

1. Inspect traps daily;
2. Kill or release of predatory and fur-bearing animals.
3. Possess a choke restraint device that enables the trapper to release a jawless trap after being removed from a trap when it is released by the animal;
4. Possess a device that is designed or manufactured to restrain a trapped animal while it is being removed from a trap when it is released by the Commission Order; and
5. Release, without additional injury, all animals that cannot lawfully be taken by trap.

A trapper shall not:

1. A catch and return trap with:
   a. A live animal;
   b. Any part of such small game, big game, or game fish, or
   c. Any part of any game bird or nongame bird.
2. Any part of any game bird or nongame bird.
3. One-half of any of the following areas developed for public use:
   a. Boat launching area;
   b. Camping area;
   c. Picnic area, or
   d. Roadside area
4. One-half of any of any optional area; or building without permission of the person in charge of the Optional area; and
5. On any hunting patrolling area.

Arizona Revised Statutes

A.R.S.301(D) Exceptions; Methods of Taking

D. It shall be unlawful to take wildlife with any long gun, any instant kill body gripping device, any air gun, a .22 caliber or larger blowgun, or any pneumatic rifle, or any piston or other device designed to propel a bullet or any other deleterious substances.

1. The use of devices prescribed in this subsection by federal, state, county, city, or any other political subdivision of the state, or by any political subdivision of the state, which may have jurisdiction in the geographic area described, for the purpose of protection from or control of wildlife, or for other non-consumptive purposes, excluding such devices as may be defined or regulated by the Arizona game and fish commission, including but not limited to:
   a. Any device which requires less than 40 pounds of force to extend or open the spring.
   b. Any device which requires less than 40 pounds of force to extend or open the spring.
   c. Any device which requires less than 40 pounds of force to extend or open the spring.
   d. Fifty feet of any trail maintained for public use by a governmental entity.
   e. Seventy-five feet of any other road as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101;
   f. Subsections (H)(5), (H)(12), (H)(27), and (H)(32) do not apply when the trap is using a confinement trap; and
   g. Seventy-five feet or any other road as defined under A.R.S. § 17-101;

I. A trapper who uses a foothold trap to take wildlife with a land set shall use:

1. A report is required even when trapping activities were not conducted.
2. The report is submitted at any time by mail, online or at a approved site.
3. The Department shall deny a trapping license to any trapper who fails to complete an annual report until the trapper complies with reporting regulations.

4. Persons suffering property or losses due to wildlife and who take responsive measures as permitted under A.R.S. § 17-101(G) and 17-102 are exempt from this Section. This exemption does not authorize any form of trapping prohibited under A.R.S. § 17-101.

A.R.S. 17-370 Violations; classification

A. Unless otherwise prescribed by this title, it is unlawful for a person to:

1. Take, possess, transport, buy, sell or offer for sale wildlife without a valid trapping license as defined in this chapter.
2. Destroy, injure or molest livestock, growing crops, personal property, wildlife or property of others, except as otherwise permitted while hunting, trapping, fishing, etc.
3. Discharge a firearm while taking wildlife within one-fourth mile of an inhabited house, building or other structure.
4. Take a game bird, game fish, fur and game fish and knowledge permit; or any wildlife possessed therein to go to waste, except as provided in §17-3202.
5. Take big game, except bear or mountain lion, with the aid of dogs.
6. Take more than one of the same species of wildlife in a 24-hour period or any day.

B. A person who knowingly takes, or assists another person for monetary gain with the unlawful taking of big game.

1. The trapper shall submit the report to Arizona Game and Fish Department, Game Branch, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086 by April 1 of each year.

II. A report is required even when trapping activities were not conducted. The report is submitted at any time by mail, online or at a approved site.

A. Persons or persons presenting a validated bobcat seal only to a pelt or unskinned carcass presented with a validated transportation tag and a complete license information based on labels produced with the transportation tag. Department personnel or authorized agents shall collect the transportation tags and jump before attaching the bobcat seal.

I. Department personnel shall attach a bobcat seal to a bobcat pelts seized under A.R.S. § 17-218(B) (b4) before disposal by the Department to the public.

II. A licensed trapper shall file the annual report prescribed under A.R.S. § 17-218(B) (b4) before disposal by the Department to the public.

III. A licensed trapper shall file his report at any time by mail, online or at a approved site.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086
(602) 942-3000
www.azgfd.gov
Trapping: Commission Ruling 23

Trapping Notes:
1. Refer to A.R.S. §17-3103 for trapping restrictions on public land.

Game Management Units Closed to Trapping

Recent Rule Changes to R12-4-307

Trapping License plus Bobcat seal in accordance with R12-4-307.

Tight legal requirements for taking wildlife in city, county, or town parks and preserves.

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

Restrictions

Where can I trap with foothold traps?

What can I use as bait in my cage trap?

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use a bobcat seal on public land?

Can I use a bobcat seal on public land?

Arizona Trapping License:

Arizona Trapping License:

Upcoming Events

Arizona Trappers Association 2015 Summer Convention

Arizona Trappers Association 2015 Summer Convention

Arizona Trappers Association for Sale

Arizona Trappers Association for Sale

Arizona Trappers Association 2015 Summer Convention

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