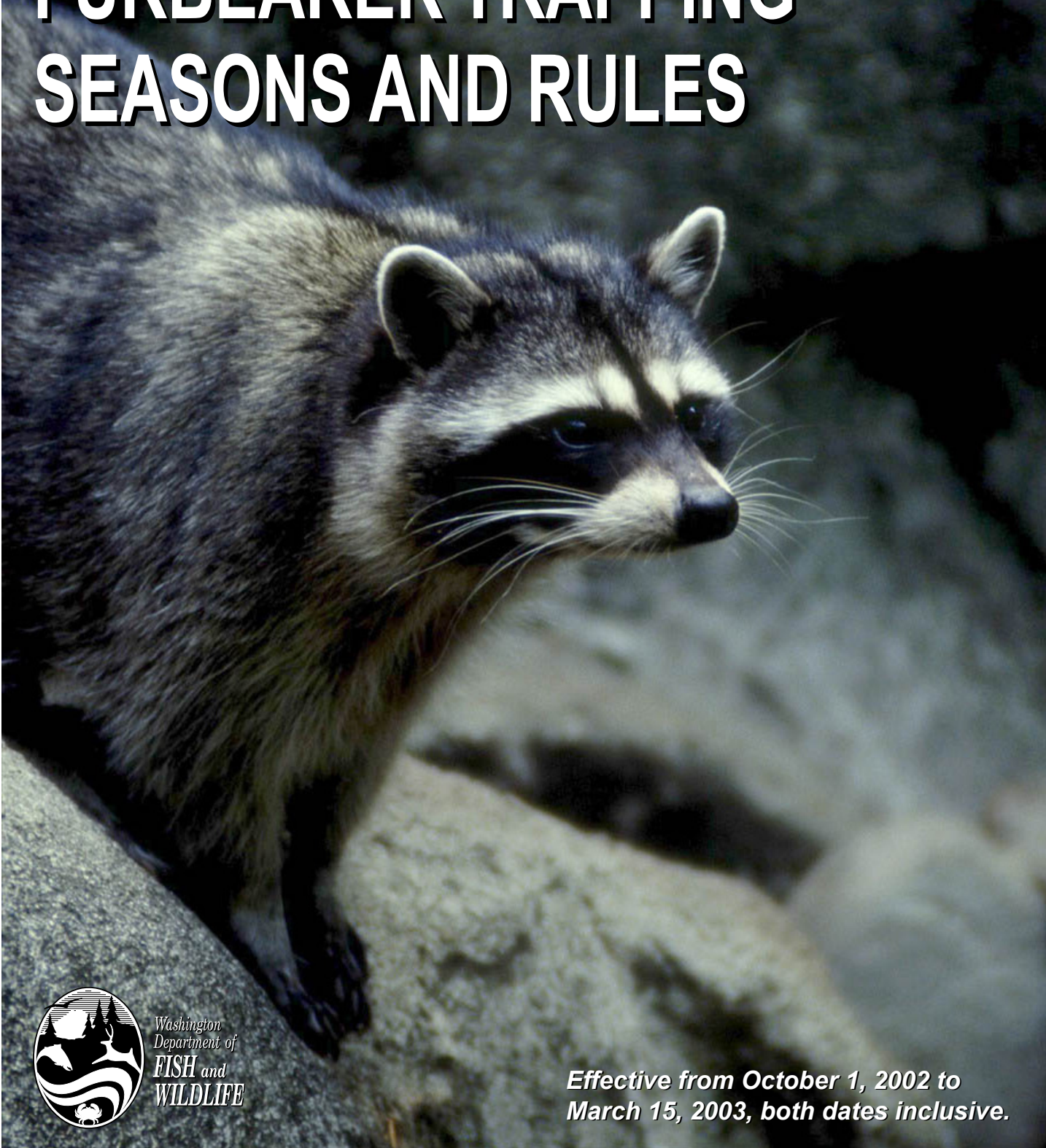


STATE OF WASHINGTON

2002-2003 pamphlet edition

FURBEARER TRAPPING SEASONS AND RULES



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

*Effective from October 1, 2002 to
March 15, 2003, both dates inclusive.*

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Annual License Fees

Resident Trapping License	\$36.00
Non-Resident Trapping License	\$180.00
Resident Youth Trapping License	\$15.00
Fur Dealer's License	\$180.00

Trapping and Fur Dealer's licenses are available only at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Olympia headquarters office (in person or by mail).

New trappers in Washington must pass the trapper education exam to be issued their first license. A trapping license is void on April 1, following the date of issue.

Trapper's Report of Catch

Licenses will be issued only to those trappers who have submitted their mandatory Trapper's Report of Catch postmarked on or before April 10 of the previous year. Trappers who fail to submit an accurate Report of Catch must wait a year before purchasing another trapping license. False reports will be considered the same as failure to report. A Trapper's Report of Catch is included in this pamphlet. Additional Trapper's Reports are available at the Olympia and Regional WDFW offices. It is the responsibility of each licensed trapper to obtain and submit a Trapper's Report of Catch.

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

Russ Cahill, Chairman Olympia	Ron Ozment Cathlamet	Bob Tuck Selah
Will Roehl, Vice Chairman Bellingham	Lisa Pelly Bainbridge Island	R.P. Van Gytenbeek Seattle
Kelly White Kettle Falls	Fred Shiosaki Spokane	Dawn Reynolds Pullman

Commission Phone: (360) 902-2267

Summary

This pamphlet is a summary of the trapping seasons and regulations (Chapters 232-12, 232-16 and 232-28 of the Washington Administrative Code) adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. This pamphlet does not contain nor is it intended to contain all department regulations. Regulations specific to the trapping seasons described in this pamphlet are found in Sections 232-12-024, 232-12-141 and 232-28-515 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Caution: Emergency regulation changes may occur while seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jeff P. Koenings, Ph.D., Director

Wildlife Program

Dave Brittell, Assistant Director

Olympia Office: (360) 902-2200

Visitors– Natural Resources Building
(Main Office)
1111 Washington St. SE, 1st Floor
Olympia, WA

Mailing Address– 600 Capitol Way N
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Regional Offices:

Region 1

(509) 456-4082
8702 N Division St.
Spokane, WA 99218-1199

Region 2

(509) 754-4624
1550 Alder St. NW
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699

Wenatchee Office

(509) 662-0452
3860 Chelan Hwy N
Wenatchee, WA 98801-9607

Region 3

(509) 575-2740
1701 S 24th Ave.
Yakima, WA 98902-5720

Region 4

(425) 775-1311
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296

Region 5

(360) 696-6211
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661-4624

Region 6

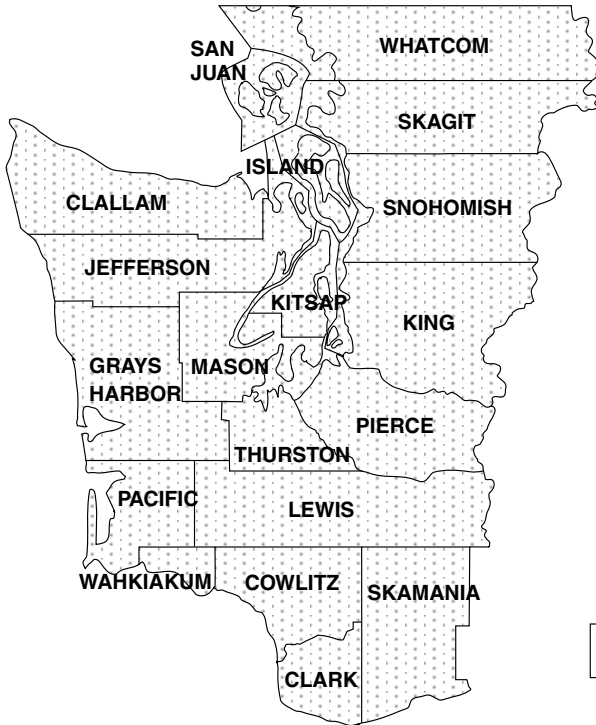
(360) 249-4628
48 Devonshire Rd.
Montesano, WA 98563

Website

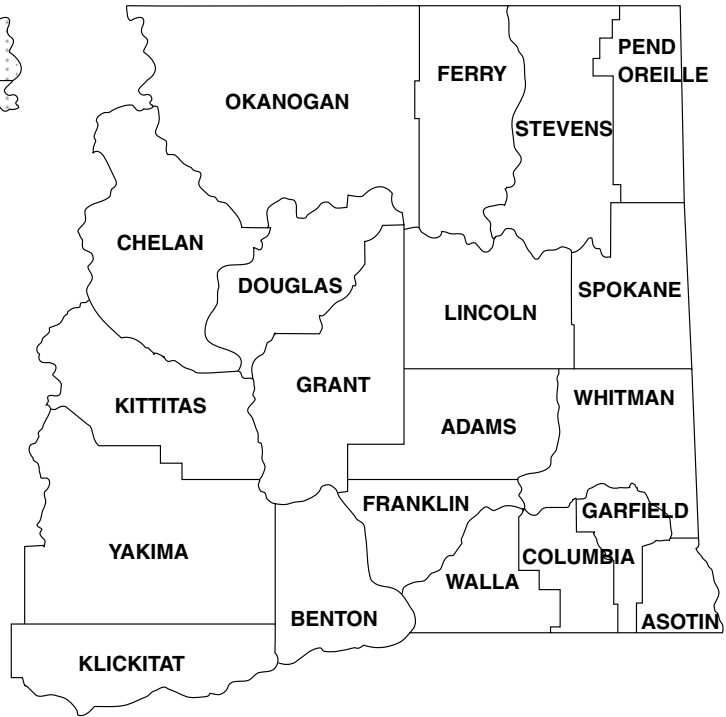
<http://www.wa.gov/wdfw>

Trapping Zones

Western Washington



Eastern Washington



Trapper Education

People buying a Washington State Trapping License for the first time pass an exam in safe, humane, and proper trapper techniques. For information on trapper education courses contact the Hunter Education section of the WDFW office in Olympia at (360) 902-8111.

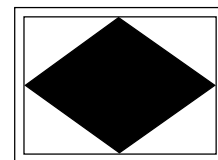
Additional Information

All lands within national parks and monuments and federal lands within Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas are closed to trapping. In addition, city and state parks are closed to trapping.

As an aid to prevent theft of traps, any licensed trapper in the state of Washington may obtain a registered permanent identification number for their traps. This number is to be permanently stamped or affixed to all traps. A licensed trapper may apply for this identification number from the WDFW License Division in Olympia in person or by calling (360) 902-2464, or by including a request with the license application.

Reminder

It is recommended that all land-based trapping areas be identified by the red diamond sign developed by the Washington State Trappers Association. These signs are available from the Trappers Association and from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Olympia headquarters and all regional offices listed on page 2. Posted signs must be removed immediately after the close of trapping seasons.



2002 - 2003 Trapping Seasons

Certain areas have extended, shortened, or closed seasons for listed species. Refer to the general season, then look for special seasons and exceptions. All openings and closing dates are inclusive. Trapping season starts at 7 a.m. on opening date.

SPECIES	WESTERN WASHINGTON GENERAL SEASON		EASTERN WASHINGTON GENERAL SEASON	
	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
Badger	<i>See Eastern Washington General Season</i>		November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Bobcat	November 16, 2002	February 15, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Red Fox	November 16, 2002	February 15, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Weasel	November 16, 2002	February 15, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Marten	November 16, 2002	January 31, 2003	December 15, 2002	January 31, 2003
Raccoon	November 16, 2002	January 31, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Mink	November 16, 2002	January 31, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Muskrat	November 16, 2001	January 31, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
Beaver	December 14, 2002	February 15, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
River Otter	December 14, 2002	February 15, 2003	November 9, 2002	February 28, 2003
<i>Season bag limit in all of Eastern Washington is 6 river otter.</i>				

Trapping Season Exceptions: Western Washington

Additional restrictions for designated Urban Trapping Areas are on page 5.

Game Management Unit 522 (Loo-wit) in Cowlitz and Skamania counties is CLOSED to all trapping.

ISLAND COUNTY

Red fox season is CLOSED.

LEWIS COUNTY

Green River drainage, above and including Miners Cr. drainage, is CLOSED to trapping except for bobcat and coyote.

SKAGIT AND WHATCOM COUNTIES

Ross Lake National Recreation Area is CLOSED to all trapping. Red fox season is CLOSED except within the boundaries of Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan National Forests.

SKAMANIA COUNTY

The following areas are CLOSED to all trapping, except for bobcat and coyote: Muddy River drainage, above and including Bean Cr. drainage; Pine Cr. drainage above USFS Road 83; and Green River drainage, above and including Miners Cr. drainage.

Trapping Season Exceptions: Eastern Washington

A permit is required to trap on Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. Contact Little Pend Oreille Refuge Headquarters to obtain permits.

RIVER OTTER

River otter trapping season is closed in all Eastern Washington counties, except that it is OPEN in Chelan, Ferry, Klickitat, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima counties, as well as in the Snake and Walla Walla river drainages.

CHELAN COUNTY

Beaver season is CLOSED in Swakane and Mudd creek drainages.

KITTITAS COUNTY

Beaver season is CLOSED in the following drainages: north fork of Tarpiscan Cr. and Umtanum Cr.

Urban Trapping Areas

TRAP RESTRICTIONS:

The following described areas are CLOSED to the taking of classified furbearing animals, and coyote, opossum, nutria, and skunk, by the use of body-gripping or kill traps except by permit under WAC 232-12-142.

Thurston County: Within established city limits (including county islands) of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater.

Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties: Beginning at the confluence of Snohomish River and Puget Sound; east up Snohomish River to I-5; south on I-5 to I-405; south on I-405 to I-5; south on I-5 to Pioneer Way; east on Pioneer Way to Waller Rd.; south on Waller Rd. to SR 512; west on SR 512 to Hwy 7; south on Hwy 7 and Hwy 507 to Pierce Co. line; north on Pierce Co. line to Puget Sound; north along coast to mouth of Snohomish River and point of beginning.

Trap Check Time

Non-body gripping kill traps must be checked within 72 hours. Animals must be removed from non-lethal restraining traps (e.g., cage traps) within 24 hours of capture.

Trapping Regulations

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO: Trap for wild animals before October 1, and after March 15, in western Washington; **EXCEPT** unclassified wild animals (e.g., coyote, opossum, nutria, and skunks) causing damage or predation on private property may be trapped at any time by the owner or person legally controlling said property.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO: Place traps prior to 7 a.m. on opening day of trapping season.

SPECIAL COYOTE REGULATIONS:

A hunting or trapping license is required to take coyote. Coyote may be trapped in western Washington from October 1 to March 15, and may be taken in eastern Washington year-round; **EXCEPT** no coyote may be taken from September 15 to November 30 in the following areas: Pasayten Wilderness, GMUs 426 and 450, and those portions of GMUs 218, 245, and 448 within exterior boundaries of Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests.

Tribal Lands

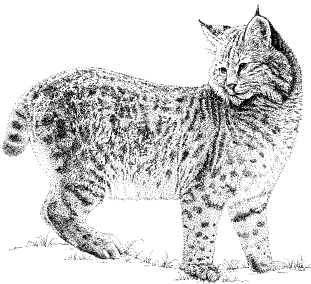
Check with appropriate tribal authorities before entering Indian lands. There are tribal rules pertaining to non-Indian activity upon these lands for the purpose of hunting, trapping, and fishing.

When hunting, trapping, or fishing within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation, you should contact the office of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Director of Fish and Wildlife Department [(509) 634-4711] to determine tribal permits and regulations applicable to such activities. When hunting or fishing within the Yakama Indian Reservation you should contact the office of the Yakama Indian Nation at (509) 865-5121, Ext. 666.

SEALING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER:

It is unlawful to possess or export from the state of Washington bobcat or river otter pelts taken in Washington without a department identification seal attached. Bobcat and river otter pelts, on or off the carcass, must be sealed within 20 days after the close of the appropriate hunting or trapping seasons in which they were harvested. All bobcat and river otter pelts must be presented by the person harvesting them to an authorized Department employee or department office for sealing. Pelts must be presented in a way that the hide can be sealed. No frozen hides or carcasses will be accepted. To make sure office personnel are available for pelt sealing, hunters and trappers should contact a department office prior to bringing in a bobcat or river otter.

RCW 77.15.180 UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE. It is unlawful to take a wild animal from another person's trap without permission, or to spring, pull up, damage, possess or destroy the trap; however, it is not unlawful for a person to remove a trap placed on property owned, leased, or rented by the person.



The Land and Landowners

A true sportsperson respects the land and demonstrates his or her respect and appreciation while in the field. Remember to obtain permission from the owner before entering their land to hunt, fish, or trap. And, while in the field, conduct yourself in a way that will ensure a welcome to those who follow you.

RCW 77.32.545 IDENTIFICATION OF TRAPS - DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITIES.

Trappers shall attach to the chain of their traps or devices a legible metal tag with either the WDFW identification number of the trapper or the name and address of the trapper in English letters not less than one-eighth inch in height.

When a property owner, lessee, or tenant presents a trapper identification number to the WDFW and requests the identification of the trapper, the WDFW shall provide the requestor with the name and address of the trapper. Prior to disclosure of the trapper's name and address, WDFW shall obtain the name and address of the requesting individual in writing and after disclosing the trapper's name and address to the requesting individual, the requesting individual's name and address shall be disclosed in writing to the trapper whose name and address was disclosed.

RCW 77.65.450 TRAPPER'S LICENSE—PERMISSION TO TRAP ON PRIVATE LAND.

A state trapping license allows the holder to trap furbearing animals throughout the state; however, a trapper may not place traps on private property without permission of the owner, lessee or tenant where the land is improved and apparently used, or where the land is fenced or enclosed in a manner designed to exclude intruders or to indicate a property boundary line, or where notice is given by posting in a conspicuous manner.

WAC 232-12-141 WILD ANIMAL TRAPPING.

1. The trapping season authorizes taking of furbearing animals for their hides and pelts only. Furbearers may not be taken from the wild and held alive for sale or personal use without a special permit pursuant to WAC 232-12-064.
2. Any wildlife trapped for which the season is not open shall be released unharmed. Any wildlife that cannot be released unharmed must be left in the trap, and a WDFW representative must be notified immediately.
3. Lawfully trapped wild animals must be lethally dispatched or immediately released. A firearm may be used to dispatch trapped animals.
4. It is unlawful to trap for wild animals:
 - (a) With body-gripping traps EXCEPT by permit to abate an animal problem under WAC 232-12-142. This includes, but not limited to, padded foot-hold traps, unpadded foot-hold traps, all snares, and conibear-type traps.
 - (b) Unless non-body gripping kill traps are checked and animals removed within seventy-two hours.
 - (c) Unless animals captured in restraining traps (any non-killing set) are removed within 24 hours of capture.
 - (d) With a neck or body snare attached to a spring pole or any spring pole type of device.
 - (e) Using game birds, game fish, or game animals for bait, except nonedible parts of game birds, game fish, or game animals may be used as bait.
 - (f) Within thirty feet of any exposed meat bait or nonedible game parts which are visible to flying raptors.
5. Game bird feathers may be used as an attractor.

Washington Wildlife Areas



Opportunities for public use on Wildlife Areas are extensive. Individuals and groups can spend an hour, a day, or a week exploring beautiful estuaries, forests, mountains, canyons, and shrub steppe. There are ample opportunities for bird watching, hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, taking pictures, and much more. People typically see all kinds of animals including elk, deer, snow geese, cranes, ducks, eagles, grouse, mink, otter, and butterflies.

Wildlife Areas are scattered throughout the state in almost every county. They comprise over 820,000 acres of public land providing habitat for nearly every species of wildlife and fish in Washington and we are the largest state managers of fish and wildlife in the nation.

Management of these lands is based on habitat needs of endangered and threatened species, big game, waterfowl, furbearers, upland game, fish, invertebrates, birds, and their collective, associated recreation. Management activities include day-to-day maintenance responsibilities, farming, revegetation, shrub planting, wetland developments, timber and range management, reintroduction of wildlife, and recreational use developments. Management plans are developed based on agency policy, the best science available, and public participation through scoping meetings and citizen advisory groups.



Upland Wildlife Restoration

The Upland Wildlife Restoration Program was developed to restore important upland habitats and the wildlife that utilize those habitats. To meet these goals, WDFW:

- 1) acquires and restores habitat,
- 2) provides incentives for habitat enhancement and public access on private lands,
- 3) works cooperatively with federal and state agencies with compatible goals, and
- 4) provides information and technical assistance to improve public education.

Several programs and funding sources were combined to create the Upland Wildlife Restoration Program in 1991. Since 1991, 16,000 acres of critical habitat have been purchased for sharp-



tailed grouse, 240 acres were acquired for pygmy rabbits, and 1,143 acres of small parcels for pheasants and other farmland wildlife were purchased in the Columbia

Basin. Several important upland habitat parcels have also been acquired through the Snake River Mitigation Program. All of these sites are currently being restored and enhanced by Department staff.

In addition to acquired sites, the Upland Wildlife Restoration Program has over 1,200 private landowners and 3 million acres in the habitat development and public access program.

Benefits from the Upland Wildlife Restoration Program help perpetuate Washington's upland wildlife, restore and enhance upland habitats, increase recreational opportunities, and increase public support for wildlife. For additional information, please contact the Upland Wildlife Restoration Program at WDFW offices.

REWARDS

Poachers take many fish and wildlife each year.
If you care about these losses there is something you can do.

Report poachers! Stop them in their tracks!

The DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
is offering \$50 to \$500 rewards and bonus preference points for deer and elk special permits (depending on the species and severity of violations) for information leading to any arrest for violating wildlife laws.

The INLAND NORTHWEST WILDLIFE COUNCIL
is offering \$500 rewards for information leading to the successful resolution of an investigation identifying people responsible for illegally taking moose, bighorn sheep, caribou, or grizzly bear.

WASHINGTON STATE BIG GAME COUNCIL
will pay one \$200 reward this year for information leading to the conviction of a person or persons found illegally killing big game or poaching big game for a profit or vandalizing property in conjunction with big game hunting or poaching.

The WASHINGTON STATE ARCHERY ASSOCIATION
is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons violating archery hunting laws.

The TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTERS OF WASHINGTON
will pay a \$100 reward in addition to any reward paid by WDFW for information leading to the arrest of a person who commits a big game violation with archery equipment.

The NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
will pay a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons poaching grizzly bear.

The WASHINGTON STATE HOUND COUNCIL
will pay one \$500 reward each year for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally killing a black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat or raccoon with the aid of dogs.

The WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
will pay \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals responsible for illegally taking wild turkeys.

The WASHINGTON FALCONERS ASSOCIATION
will pay a \$150 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons intentionally and wrongfully killing or crippling a raptor.

The WASHINGTON STATE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
will pay five \$50 rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals violating any trapping laws and/or regulations including the damaging, possessing, or destroying of any legally set traps.

Help stop poaching! It can pay in more ways than one.

**To report a violation contact your local Fish and Wildlife officer
through the nearest Washington State Patrol office.**

