

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

LCB File No. R157-12

COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 418

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.570.

A REGULATION relating to wildlife; establishes provisions pertaining to trapping.

Section 1. Chapter 503 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto sections 2 through 10, inclusive of this regulation, to read as follows.

Sec. 2. *As referenced in NRS 503.570 “Visit or cause to be visited” means a physical examination of a trap, snare or other lawful device by a person holding a current trapping license. An inspection must be conducted in-person in a manner that ensures any animal caught is removed.*

a. The use of signal flags, optical enhancements, remote video or camera, or other devices does not constitute visitation as described in this section.

Sec. 3. *As referenced in NRS 503.570 “devices which cause immediate death” means a body gripping trap.*

Sec. 4. *A person trapping wildlife may place, set or maintain only the following types of trapping devices under the following conditions.*

a. Trapping devices that may be placed, set or maintained on land:

i. Steel leghold traps,

ii. Snares, or

iii. Box or cage traps.

b. Trapping devices that may be placed, set or maintained partially submerged in water:

i. Steel leghold traps, or

ii. Snares.

iii. Steel leghold traps or snares placed, set or maintained partially submerged in water must have a length of cable, chain or other attachment that will provide a trapped animal with the ability to completely remove itself from the water, unless using a submersion set that has a trap attached to a slide wire, or one where a tangle stake is used, designed to cause a furbearer to asphyxiate under water.

c. Trapping devices that may be placed, set or maintained completely submerged in water:

i. Steel leghold traps,

ii. Snares, or

iii. *Body gripping traps.*

iv. *Steel leghold traps or snares placed, set or maintained completely submerged in water must have a length of cable, chain or other attachment that will provide a trapped animal with the ability to completely remove itself from the water, unless using a submersion set that has a trap attached to a slide wire, or one where a tangle stake is used, designed to cause a furbearer to asphyxiate under water.*

d. *The provisions of this section do not apply to an employee or agent of the Department who is acting within the scope of their official duties or a person trapping under the authority of a special permit issued by the Department.*

Sec. 5. *It shall be unlawful for any person to place, set or maintain a steel leghold trap, snare, body gripping trap or other lawful device, other than a box or cage trap to control unprotected wildlife doing damage, outside the prescribed season for the taking of furbearing mammals or unprotected mammals unless on private land or with a valid permit issued by the Department.*

a. *The provisions of this section do not apply to an employee or agent of the Department who is acting within the scope of their official duties.*

Sec. 6. NAC 503.090 Seasons: Protected wildlife; unprotected wildlife.

1. There is no open season on those species of wild mammals, wild birds, fish, reptiles or amphibians classified as protected.

2. There is no closed season *for hunting* on those species of wild mammals or wild birds classified as unprotected. *The Commission shall establish a trapping season for unprotected wild mammals.*

Sec. 7. NAC 503.153 ~~[Steel leghold traps]~~ Trapping: Definitions. As used in this section and NAC 503.155 and 503.157, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Bait” means the flesh, fur, ~~or~~ ~~hide,~~ ~~viscera or feathers~~ of any animal.

2. “Exposed bait” means bait, any portion of which is visible from any angle.

3. “Trap” means any device designed, built or made to close upon, contain, confine or hold fast any wild mammal or wild bird.

4. *“Snare” means a trapping device using a loop designed and set for capturing mammals by closing the loop upon the mammal.*

5. *“Body Gripping trap” means a trapping device designed to grip the body of a mammal and kill the trapped mammal quickly.*

6. *“Steel leghold trap” means a trap with two jaws, a spring device and a trigger pan designed to close upon the foot of a mammal.*

7. *“Box or cage trap” means any device designed to contain or confine an animal within a box or cage. Any device designed, built or made to close upon any portion of an animal shall not be considered a box or cage trap.*

Sec. 8. NAC 503.155 Steel leghold traps~~[- Spacers]~~.

a. All steel leghold traps ~~[of]~~ *larger than a size number [2] 1 or larger or with an outside jaw spread of [5-1/2] 4 inches or larger* used in the taking of any wildlife must have lugs, spacers or similar devices permanently attached so as to maintain a minimum trap opening of three-sixteenths of an inch *for the entire length of the catching surface of the trap jaws.*

- b. All steel leghold traps must have a minimum of one swivel which must be used to attach the trap to the chain, cable or other device used to anchor or attach the trap to a drag. The chain, cable or other device used to anchor or attach the trap shall not have a breakaway device attached.*
- c. Steel leghold traps shall not have an outside jaw spread greater than 8 ¾ inches and shall not have any teeth or serrations on the jaws.*

Sec. 9. NAC 503.157 ~~[Steel leghold traps]~~ Trapping: Use of bait.

1. It is unlawful for a person to:

- (a) Place, set or maintain a ~~[steel leghold trap]~~ trapping device, other than a box trap, within 30 feet of exposed bait;*
- (b) Capture a mammal or raptor with a steel leghold trap that is placed, set or maintained within 30 feet of exposed bait; or*
- (c) Use any **edible** part of a game mammal, game bird, game fish, game amphibian or protected species of wildlife for bait. **Viscera may only be used as a mixture for scent.***

2. A person using bait is responsible if it becomes exposed for any reason.

Sec. 10. Snares.

a. A snare shall have:

- 1. A loop stop shall be installed to prevent a snare loop from closing past a minimum of 2 inch diameter.*
- 2. A breakaway device that breaks away at a force of 285 pounds or less. Break away devices must be attached to the relaxing lock.*
- 3. A minimum of one swivel which must be attached to the anchor point.*

b. A snare shall not:

- 1. Be attached to any type of spring pole, counter balance weight, spring or other device to assist in its closing.*
- 2. Be constructed with a loop size greater than 12 inches in diameter.*
- 3. Be used on a drag. A snare must be attached and anchored to an immovable object or stake.*
- 4. Be constructed of a less than a minimum of 1/16 inch cable or more than a maximum of 1/8 inch cable.*
- 5. Be set with the top of the snare loop more than 24 inches above the first surface beneath the bottom of the snare, whether the surface is dirt, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard material.*