

**PROPOSAL 14**

**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Require trappers to post identification signs for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless a sign is posted within 50 yards that list the trapper’s name and address or the trappers permanent identification; the trapper must use the trapper’s Alaska driver’s license number or state identification card number as the required permanent identification number. Signs at a snaring site must be at least 8.5” x 11” in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one inch high and 1/2-inch-wide in a color that contrasts with the background color of the sign. Signs must be placed at both the start and end of a trapline.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is currently no requirement for trappers to provide warning or post a sign near traps in an area where trapping occurs. Furbearers are a public resource, used by consumptive and non-consumptive persons, however, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans, their dogs, and to non-target wildlife. As a user of wildlife resources (through wildlife viewing and photography), as well as an avid hiker and dog owner, I feel that trappers should shoulder some responsibility for the danger that their activity poses to other user groups by placing signs within 50 yards of a trap set. Placement of signs will warn recreational user groups of the potential for danger ahead, allowing hikers a choice whether to continue into an area where traps are present. Posting traps and traplines may help to reduce the unintended capture of domestic pets. Placement of signs demonstrates that trappers are actively trying to reduce conflicts with other wildlife users; I believe this action will go a long way toward building public support for trapping. Some trappers have voluntarily taken the initiative to use signs to mark trails where they are trapping; I know this activity is greatly appreciated by dog owners. In most circumstances, especially when hiking only with my dogs (and not a second person), I will avoid an area if I know it is actively being trapped. One consideration is to require signage only for large traps and snares, as these are most likely to injure or kill unintended targets.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lauri Jemison

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