



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS

Are you using the most effective, selective, and humane tools and techniques for capturing furbearing animals? If not, take a minute to learn about AFWA's best management practices for trapping.

WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)?

BMPs for humane trapping standards are a series of free handbooks developed by wildlife management professionals, researchers, and trappers that describe the most effective, selective and humane methods and techniques for capturing furbearer species in the United States.

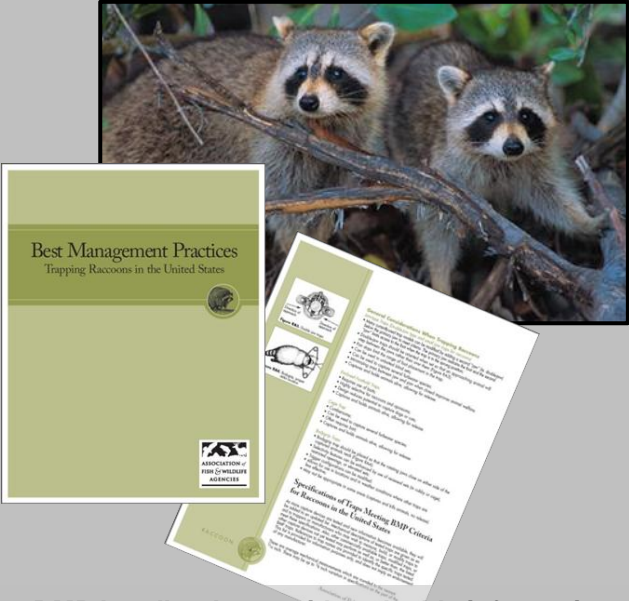
The recommendations contained in the BMPs include practices, equipment and techniques that ensure the welfare of trapped animals, avoid unintended captures of other animals, increase the safety for the trapper, improve public confidence in trappers and wildlife managers, and help maintain public support for trapping and wildlife management.

WHO SHOULD USE BMPs?

BMPs are practical tools for trappers, wildlife biologists, wildlife agencies, and anyone interested in improving traps and trapping methods.

HOW ARE BMPs DEVELOPED?

BMPs are developed by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) in collaboration with numerous State and Federal wildlife professionals, researchers, and private trappers. They are the result of the most extensive study of animal trap selectivity, efficacy, and humaneness ever conducted in the United States. Each recommended technique and trap has been rigorously tested by researchers with the help of experienced wildlife biologists and trappers. The research and development of BMPs are a dynamic and continuous process.



BMP handbooks provide valuable information on trapping tools and techniques. These free guides are available for a wide variety of species:

American Marten	Muskrat
Badger	Nutria
Beaver	Opossum
Bobcat	Raccoon
Coyote	Ringtail
Fisher	Red Fox
Gray Fox	River Otter
Gray Wolf	Striped Skunk
Lynx	Weasel
Mink	

Based on sound science and research, BMPs help improve and modernize the technology of trapping.



Trapping is an important part of our Nation's history and future. By using BMPs, you ensure trapping for wildlife research, management, income, and recreation is maintained for generations to come.



WHY USE BMPs?

In the United States, wildlife agencies depend on traps and trappers for the successful implementation of many wildlife management and conservation programs. Traps are used not only to maintain healthy furbearer populations, but also to manage game species; protect threatened and endangered species, habitat and property; reintroduce wildlife to historical ranges; and maintain public health and safety.

In addition to improving trapping technologies for the benefit of U.S. trappers and wildlife, BMPs also meet international standards and agreements for humane trapping. In 1997, the United States signed an Agreed Minute with the European Union to conduct research to identify traps meeting specific criteria for humaneness, selectivity, and efficacy. This ensures foreign markets remain open for America's multi-million dollar fur and skin trade.

The use, support, and continued improvement of BMPs ensure that regulated trapping remains a valuable and effective wildlife management tool.

TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about BMPs or to download a species' handbook, please visit AFWA's website at www.fishwildlife.org.

BMPs are developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program.