

## Furbearer Management

Management is a key factor in just about everything. What people do not typically realize is that people are not the only beings that need managing. Mother Nature also needs help in managing all of her resources.

For a trapper furbearer management makes sense, it is a way of life. Without it there would be no trapping industry. For others it is not the easiest concept to grasp. Furbearer management is so vital yet there are hundreds of thousands of people that know nothing anything about it.

The beaver is a great animal to use as an example; many young beaver die every winter. When the kits are “kicked out” of their homes they must fend for themselves, catch their own food, and build their own homes. It is in this time that many young kits will die, simply because of Mother Nature and starvation. It is also not uncommon for diseases to wipe out an entire beaver house. To many people they think this is simply the way of life, they live, they die, and there is nothing that we can do about it. They are wrong! This is where trappers come into action, trappers, whether or not people believe it are very considerate to nature. They have to be, they know what is needed out there in the bush.

A good trapper will only trap what needs to be taken that year, most of what a trapper will catch would have likely died over the course of the winter. If there are a large number of beavers and marten in a year, than they are what a trapper will presumably target. If you talk to a trapper with a registered trap line he will know where to put traps to ensure that he does not take out the breeding stock for future years. For a trapper it is crucial to have a plan, on what he will take each year and what he should leave. Over trapping is also an issue that people will address. They think that trappers will wipe out an entire species from an area, and do it without caring. This is about as far from the truth as possible, as it is completely useless to the trapper if they want to continue on in the trapping industry, they cannot wipe out the population. Trappers also care about the animals; they are their way of life. If they did not care, they would not use humane traps.

In reality if trappers did not trap, more animals would die every year from natural causes including: starvation, diseases, and predators then get trapped in a regulated manner. Furbearer management helps to eliminate the huge swings in population numbers for many different species (that also cause hundreds of deaths). It helps to regulate the amount of predators that are killing game or other farm animals. If the predator numbers get too high the only way they will reduce through Mother Nature is through starvation, diseases, or other such causes. Trappers simply help Mother Nature take her course. This is essentially what furbearer management is all about, being certain that each species will grow, and move on into the future generations.

Without furbearer management trapping would not exist, without trapping many furbearers would not exist.

*Jasmine Boucher*

About me!

**During High School:**

While in high school I played on the high school football team. I also enjoyed hunting and trapping, being outdoors is one of my favorite things. In my spare time I love to do photography and play the piano. I was also a member of the band playing a variety of instruments including: clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, and the tuba.

**Future Plans:**

As of right now I am in my first year of a two year business program at the Olds College. I am really enjoying it and considering majoring in either marketing or accounting... or both. Do to my love of photography I also plan on taking the digital photography certificate at Red Deer College. I would love to be able to travel around the world into many different cultures and take pictures to bring back to everyone at home. One of the other courses I would like to take here at the Olds College is the motorcycle mechanics course. I plan on taking the education that I will receive to better myself and create a thriving career for myself.

Thanks for the consideration!

*Jasmine Boucher*