

Nuisance Wildlife Guidelines

General Guidelines and Definitions:

- Landowner: The owner or occupant of any land, and any member of his or her family, may hunt or trap without license and subject to all other restrictions except seasons, hunt or trap on their own property for coyotes, beavers, foxes, raccoons, woodchucks, rabbits, and squirrels year-round. However, hunting is not allowed during the 24-hour period immediately preceding the gun deer season and coyotes may not be hunted in that area of the State closed to Coyote hunting during the gun deer season. s. 29.337(1)

- Landowner Assistant: All persons assisting a landowner (acting as an agent of a landowner) in the removal of animals causing damage must possess: NR 12.10(3)(c)
 - - a. Valid hunting license if shooting the animal or a valid trapping license if trapping the animal.
 - b. Written approval from the landowner.
 - c. Name, address and phone number of landowner.
 - d. Name, address and phone number of person removing wild animals.
 - e. Property location and removal activities.
 - f. Authorized time period of removal, species of animals authorized for removal
 - g. Signature of the landowner or lessee and date.

- Animal Relocation: Animals that have been live captured may not be relocated to DNR controlled lands. Persons must have permission from the landowner when relocating animals to private property. NR 12.10(1)(a)3., s. 169.04(2)(a)2.

- Animal Carcass Care and Disposition: Fur from fur bearing animals taken during the closed season may be retained by the trapper, landowner or agent and sold **only** if the harvest was authorized by a permit issued by the DNR and retention of the animal is authorized as a condition of the permit. Beaver, coyotes, foxes and raccoons retained by a landowner under s. 29.337, Stats. authority or an assistant trapping with written authorization (as described above) may retain and sell these species during the closed season. All other animals harvested during the closed season by agents of landowners cannot be retained and must be disposed of in a sanitary manner.

- Trap Tagging Requirement: Each trap used under a trapping license shall be tagged with a metal tag stamped with the name and address of the owner of the trap.

BEAVER DAMAGE CONTROL

- No permit is needed for landowner, lessee, or agent of landowner to hunt or trap beaver causing damage. NR 10.13(1)(a)1., 29.337(1)
- Landowners, lessee or agent of landowner (see definitions above) may remove a beaver dam. People who are an agent of the landowner must have written authorization by the landowner to remove the dam (see above requirements). NR 12.10(1)(b)(3)
- Only the landowner may set traps on a dam. This privilege cannot be transferred to an agent or employee. The exception to this is when the landowner is a corporation or municipality. In this situation an employee or elected official may set traps on a beaver dam. NR 10.13(1)(b)(5)
- A DNR permit is required to remove a beaver lodge, active or vacant. 29.885, 29.885(2)(b), 29.088(3), NR 10.13(2)(c)

Shooting Beaver

- Must comply with shooting hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 20 minutes past sunset). NR 10.06(5)
- No artificial lights or shining are allowed. 29.314
- Must have a valid small game or sports license (landowner is exempt – see above). 29.024(1), 29.337(1)

Trapping Beaver

- May not trap with foot traps that have a jaw spread larger than 8 inches at any time and smaller than 5 ½ inches except during the open muskrat/mink season. NR 10.13(1)(b)9, 11
- Traps with teeth must be set underwater at all times. NR 10.13(1)(b)10
- May not trap with conibear type traps that have a jaw spread smaller than 6 ¾ by 6 ¾ inches except during the open muskrat/mink season. NR 10.13(1)(b) 11
- Snares must not exceed 5 feet in length and the diameter of the wire or cable may not exceed 1/8 inch. Each snare must have a relaxing mechanical lock and swivel. NR 10.13(1)(b) 13.b.
- Only residents may assist landowner/occupants and must have a trapping license except that nonresident landowners are exempt and may trap the listed species on their own property without a license. (see above) 29.337

MUSKRATS

- Landowners, occupants, and/or agents may without a permit trap or shoot muskrats that are causing damage to dikes, dams, shoreline or roadways. NR 12.10(1)(b)1(d)
- An agent of the landowner is also required to have a valid hunting/or trapping license when removing these animals (see above for agent requirements). NR 12.10(3)c, 29.024
- A landowner/occupant may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of muskrats when causing damage. NR 12.10(3)(c)

BATS

- Landowners, occupants, and/or agents may trap or shoot bats* that are causing damage. NR 10.04(3)
- Landowner/occupants are not required to have a hunting or trapping license to shoot or trap bats* on their own property. However, an agent of the landowner/occupant is required to have a valid hunting and/or trapping license when removing these animals (see above for agent requirements). NR 12.01(3)(c)
- A landowner/occupant may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of these animals when causing damage. NR 12.10(3)(c)

*The Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) is classified as an endangered species and is protected. No unauthorized person may shoot/trap this animal. NR 27.03

COYOTE, BEAVER, FOX, RACCOON, WOODCHUCK, RABBIT, SQUIRREL

- Landowners, occupants, and/or agents may trap or shoot these species when causing damage. s. 29.337(1)
- Landowners/occupants are not required to have a hunting or trapping license to shoot or trap these species on their own property, year-round. However, an agent of the landowner/occupant is required to have a valid hunting and/or trapping license when removing these animals (see above for agent requirements). 29.337, 29.024. NR 12.10(1)(b)1.c.
- A landowner/occupant may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of these animals when causing damage. NR 12.10(3)(c)

CROWS, COWBIRDS, GRACKLES, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS

- Neither state nor federal permit is required of any person to shoot or trap these birds when committing or about to commit damage upon agricultural crops, livestock, ornamental or shade trees or when constituting a health hazard. NR 12.05
- Landowners, occupants, and agents of a landowner are not required to have a hunting or trapping license for the removal of these birds when causing or about to cause damage.
- NOTE: Any person shooting or trapping the above-mentioned depredating birds shall permit at all reasonable times including during actual operations, any Federal or State agent/warden or other game law enforcement officer free and unrestricted access over the premises on which such operations have been or are being conducted; and shall furnish promptly to such officer whatever information he or she may require, concerning said operations. NR 12.05(2)(b)
- During the migratory bird, gun deer and crow seasons, migratory waterfowl and crow hunting hours apply only during the open season of the above-mentioned depredating birds. Hunting hours do not apply when removing these depredating birds during the closed seasons of migratory waterfowl and crow seasons unless there is an open gun deer season. NR 10.06
- Landowner/occupants may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of these animals when causing or about to cause damage. An agent is not required to have a hunting/trapping license; however, all other agent requirements apply (see above for agent requirements). NR 12.10(3)(c)

UNPROTECTED SPECIES

- Species included: Starling, English (House) Sparrow, coturnix quail, chukar partridge, opossum, skunk, weasel, and all other wild mammals not specifically mentioned in the hunting, trapping, and migratory game bird regulations. NR 10.04
- Landowners/occupants are not required to have a hunting or trapping license to shoot or trap these species, year-round, on their own property if these species are causing damage or nuisance. Agents of the land owner or occupant is required to have a valid hunting and/or trapping license when removing these animals. NR 10.04 Note, NR 12.10(1)(b) & (3)(c)
- Landowners/occupants may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of these animals (see above for agent requirements).
- Unprotected species, coyote, fox and raccoon may be hunted without hunting hour restrictions except:
 - a) During the bow bear and bow deer seasons when all hunting hours apply to all bow hunting. NR 10.06(8)(a)
 - b) During the regular gun deer season, when hunting hours apply to all bow and gun hunting. This restriction does not apply during the muzzleloader deer season. NR 10.06(8)(b)

SNAKES, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

- Generally*, these three groups of animals are classified as unprotected species, however, there is a limit to the number of each species that may be taken or killed. NR 10.04, NR 16.12(3)(b), NR 19.275
- *Timber rattlesnakes, bullsnakes, black rat snakes and the racer snakes are protected and may not be killed, except that a timber rattlesnake may be killed in emergency situations involving an immediate threat to human life or domestic animals. It is requested that each person who kills a rattlesnake under this provision provide to the department no later than 48 hours after the kill, not to include Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, factual information related to the kill including the location, date of the kill and the name and address of the person who killed it. NR 10.02(9), NR 10.02(10)
- Landowners/occupants are required to have a fishing or small game approval to take or kill turtles and may only do so during the open season unless issued a nuisance or damage removal permit. Landowners/occupants are not required to have trapping or hunting license to trap and take or kill most snakes* or amphibians, year-round, on their own property. However, an agent of the landowner/occupant is required to have a small game, fishing and/or trapping license when removing these animals. 29.337, NR12.10(3)(c), NR 19.275(3)(a)
- No person may take frogs with the aid of a firearm or air gun. NR 19.26(2), NR 19.275(3)(b)
- Landowners may solicit an agent to aid in the removal of these animals (see above for agent requirements). NR 12.10(3)(c)

*Several species of snakes, reptiles and amphibians are classified as being threatened or endangered. Prior to removal, these animals must be property identified. If an animal is classified as threatened or endangered, it is then protected as described by NR 27.03.