

Modern trapping is both ethical and humane

Many people lose sight of the simple fact that a population of any species is more important than an individual of that species. Trappers and Biologists consider both very important.

Trappers work with Biologists in many ways for the health and wellbeing of entire populations and ecosystems. Sometimes this is done individually and sometimes through trapping organizations. Biologists consider the trappers their eyes and ears.

Trappers in most states give harvest reports. Due to high cost and time requirements, Biologists rely heavily on trappers harvest reports for valuable information. Many states have tagging requirements for certain species and require the carcass to be surrendered for biological data, such as age, sex, and general overall health of that species. This information is difficult or impossible to achieve without trapper help.

Often trappers and the same tools they use to harvest animals are called upon to collect certain species for reintroduction. This is something that has been going on for many years, most recently with river otters in 18 states. Other species that have been reintroduced are fisher and martin.

The reverse is also true. Trappers have been called upon to remove some species where they did not fit into an ecosystem, Nutria in Maryland for instance. Many species require spot removal due to ecosystem damage or conflicts with people and domestic animals. This is a huge problem with many different species in many different situations. In fact, a large and growing industry has developed around this issue.

Most people not involved in the trapping industry are not aware of the simple fact that trappers have been continuing to make their tools more humane to the individual animal. This has been going on for decades. Many of the changes are simple but have a profound effect on the wellbeing of captured animals. Today's trapping tools are continually being updated to increase animal welfare, selectivity, and effectiveness.