

Reducing Mortality and Injuries to Incidentally Captured Lynx

All trappers need to carry a catchpole to allow safe release of any unintended animal captures. Care should be taken to approach any trapped animals slowly to avoid their excessive movement. A trapped lynx will allow the catchpole loop to be placed over its head, but it can be expected to react when the loop is tightened. Tighten the catchpole loop only sufficiently to hold the lynx securely without preventing its ability to breathe. It is important to keep the head of the lynx pinned to the ground so that



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Use a catchpole to release any lynx taken incidental to harvests of other furbearers. Tighten the catchpole loop sufficiently to immobilize the lynx without cutting off its air supply. Then quickly remove the trap and release the catchpole loop.

the front end of the body is restrained. Once the head is down, quickly place a foot, with light pressure only, on the hindquarters to restrain the rear legs. A heavy canvas is also useful to protect the trapper from the cat's claws. Once the lynx is immobilized, the canvas can be placed over the prone animal to quiet it as the trap is removed quickly. Then the catchpole loop should be relaxed and removed to allow the lynx freedom to escape.

If a catchpole is not available, an alternative method to release lynx is to cut a strong forked stick to allow the pinning of the lynx's neck and shoulder to the ground while the trap is removed.

Never attempt to render a trapped lynx unconscious with a blow to the nose or head or by any other means. Life threatening injury to the lynx may result.

Care should be taken at all times when releasing a lynx because they are capable of injuring the trapper with their teeth or claws. Always be aware a trapped lynx may try to kick at you with claws extended on any foot. Wearing thick gloves to release trapped animals is always wise.

If you need help releasing a lynx from a trap, please contact your local game warden or state fish and wildlife office (Monday-Friday, business hours) listed on the facing page for assistance.

Colorado	303-291-7336
Idaho	208-334-2920
Maine	207-941-4466
Michigan	517-373-1263
Minnesota	218-327-4130
Montana	406-444-2612
New Hampshire	603-271-3361
New York	518-402-8885
Oregon	503-947-6000
Utah	801-538-4700
Vermont	802-885-8831
Washington	360-902-2200
Wisconsin	608-266-8204
Wyoming	307-332-2688

Front Cover:

Lynx

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