

**Readopt with amendment Fis 301.071, effective 5-22-13 (Document #10347), and amended effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), and expired in paragraph (b) 5-22-23, to read as follows:**

Fis 301.071 Moose Hunter Diary. The shooter shall complete the “Moose Hunter Diary” form, Revised 1/24, available from the registration agent, and return it to the department:

(a) During the registration process at a biological check station as provided in Fis 301.08(e), if successful in taking a moose; or

(b) By mailing it to the department, post marked no later than November 10<sup>th</sup> of the year the permit was issued, if unsuccessful in taking a moose, to:

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

**Readopt with amendment Fis 301.08, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), and amended effective 6-3-16 (Document #11114), to read as follows:**

Fis 301.08 Moose Registration at Biological Check Stations.

(a) Moose taken during the open moose hunting season shall be presented at the nearest biological check station within 24 hours of the kill.

(b) Moose taken prior to the open season on hunting adventure permits under RSA 208:1-aa shall be presented to a department designated registration station within 24 hours of the kill.

(c) Biological check stations shall be open for 3 to 9 days during the open moose hunting season. The day after the season closes, moose shall be registered at any fish and game department regional office or at headquarters in Concord.

(d) At the registration station, the shooter shall provide completed moose hunter diary card, hunting license, moose permit, and completed moose tag, and shall complete a “Moose Registration” form, Rev 6/14, as provided by the registration agent.

(e) The shooter shall allow biological information to be taken from their moose, including the sex, antler beam diameter, number of points, antler spread, weight, estimated age, and estimated tick loads.

(f) The shooter shall bring in to the biological check station at least the following:

- (1) The lower jaw, including incisors, one of which shall be taken for aging purposes;
- (2) The intact antler rack on an antlered moose;
- (3) The skull plate on a male antlerless moose;
- (4) For female moose, both of the ovaries; and
- (5) All edible portions of the moose.

(g) Once all moose registration requirements are completed, a moose registration seal, as required by RSA 208:9, shall be affixed by the registration agent to the moose for transportation.

**Readopt Fis 303.05, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), to read as follows:**

Fis 303.05 Bobcat. There shall be no open season for the taking of bobcat.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 303.08, Fis 303.12, and Fis 303.13, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), to read as follows:**

Fis 303.08 Annual Trapper's Report.

(a) All persons licensed to trap furbearing animals shall provide an annual trapping report form to the department on or before April 30 of each year.

(b) Any person licensed to trap furbearing animals shall complete the “Annual Trappers Report” form, Rev 12/23, available at <https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt746/files/documents/trapper-report.pdf>.

(c) The trapper shall sign the report subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

(d) Any licensee failing to report shall be refused a license until the complete information has been filed.

Fis 303.12 Restrictions on Certain Traps.

(a) No foothold trap with auxiliary teeth added shall be allowed.

(b) ~~No f]~~Foothold traps, [shall be set on land] with an inside jaw spread greater than 6½ inches, measured between the inside edges of the opened jaws, across the trap trigger, and perpendicular to the trap base plate, **shall only be set in the water, unless there was a water level change that occurred during the previous 24 hours.**

(c) Body gripping traps with an inside jaw spread greater than or equal to 6½ inches, measured inside the jaws perpendicular to the trap’s pivoting joints, shall only be set:

(1) Five feet or more above the ground or surface of the snow unless there was a snowstorm during the previous 24 hours; or

(2) ~~In water f]~~For beaver or otter[-], in the water, unless there was a water level change that occurred during the previous 24 hours.

**(d) For purposes of this section, “in the water” means submerged to the middle of the trap, with the water level equal to the springs.**

~~(d]g)~~ Deadfalls, a device constructed of any material(s) utilizing material weight as the holding or killing method, shall be prohibited.

~~(e]f)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of Fis 308, no person shall set a snare on land.

~~(f]g)~~ When set, all traps shall be securely attached to the ground, to a fixed object, to a drag, or to a slide wire.

~~(g]h)~~ Traps shall not be set within 50 feet of exposed bait, as defined in paragraph (h) below, but may be set any distance from a covered bait, as defined in paragraph (i) below.

([h]i) “Exposed bait” means bait that is the body of any animal, including fish, or parts thereof including meat, organs, viscera, bones, or any other parts of an animal, that is visible from above, but does not include meat, organs, viscera, or bones totaling 4 ounces or less, or skin, hair or feathers 25 square inches or less, droppings, urine, or living or dead animals held in a trap as the result of lawful trapping activity.

([i]j) “Covered bait” means bait that is the body of any animal, including fish, or parts thereof including meat, organs, viscera, bones, or any other parts that are covered so as to not be visible from above, where cover includes, but is not limited to, brush, branches, leaves, soil or snow and is constructed in a manner to withstand wind and normal environmental conditions. “Covered bait” includes baits less than one-half pound when placed in a dirt hole 6 inches in diameter or less at a depth of 6 inches or greater, and baits of less than 5 pounds placed on pole sets 5 or more feet above ground are also considered covered bait.

([j]k) The following restrictions on traps shall apply while trapping in WMU’s A, B, C1, C2, D1, D2East, E, and F:

- (1) All foothold traps set on land must have one swivel in the chain or cable and one swivel connection to the trap;
- (2) Body gripping traps with an inside jaw spread of 4 inches or greater and less than or equal to 5 inches, measured inside the jaws perpendicular to the trap’s pivoting joints, which are set on the ground, shall only be set as follows:
  - a. Set in the water at all times, **unless there was a water level change that occurred during the previous 24 hours;**
  - b. Set under overhanging stream banks; and
  - c. Set as a blind set with no bait or attractant;
- (3) Body gripping traps, measured inside the jaws perpendicular to the trap’s pivoting joints, with an inside jaw spread 4 inches or greater which are set off the ground, shall only be set as follows:
  - a. Five feet or more above the ground or surface of the snow, unless there was a snowstorm during the previous 24 hours;
  - b. Affixed to a leaning section of a pole or tree, no greater than 4 inches in diameter, that is free of branches and angled 45 degrees or greater in its entirety;
  - c. Excluding branch removal, the pole or tree shall not have planed or altered sides;
  - d. The area within 4 feet of the trap shall be free of trees, poles, or other objects greater than 4 inches in diameter;
  - e. The areas within 4 feet of the trap shall be free of trees or poles that are angled less than 45 degrees to the ground at any point between the ground elevation and the elevation of the trap; and
  - f. The area within 4 feet of the trap shall be free of banks, bluffs, rocks, or immediate rise in ground elevation; and
- (4) Body gripping traps with an inside jaw spread greater than 5 inches and less than 6½ inches, measured inside the jaws perpendicular to the trap’s pivoting joints, which are set on the ground, shall only be set:

- a. Recessed in the den entry of nuisance wildlife with the den entry covered by wire mesh with openings that do not exceed 1½ inches side-to-side and wire gauge shall be 16 gauge or less or wire diameter 0.05 inches or greater;
- b. If placed in a lynx exclusion device, as follows:
  1. The trap jaws shall be completely within the device, but the trap springs may be outside of the device;
  2. The lynx exclusion device shall not have an opening greater than 6 inches by 8 inches;
  3. The opening shall not be directly in front of the trap but shall be either on the top or side of the device;
  4. The trap set within the device shall be a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the opening to the trap;
  5. The back of the device shall be secured to withstand heavy pulling;
  6. If using wire mesh with a wood box, the wire mesh shall wrap around 2 opposite sides of the box and be secured;
  7. There shall be at least 2 attachment points for each side of the device where there is a joint or where panels come together;
  8. The exclusion device shall be constructed of wood or wire mesh that does not exceed 1½ inch openings from side to side;
  9. The wire gauge shall be 16 gauge or less or a wire diameter of 0.05 inches or greater;
  10. The opening slot in the device that allows the trap springs to extend outside the device shall be no more than 7½ inches wide and a height of no more than 1½ inches; and
  11. The trap shall be anchored outside of the device.

Fis 303.13 Award of Trapping Permits for State Managed Lands.

- (a) Trapping rights on state managed lands shall be awarded for a 2 year period.
- (b) State managed lands shall be divided into trapping units.
- (c) The boundaries of each such trapping unit on state managed lands shall be outlined on maps maintained by the wildlife division, which shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours at Fish and Game headquarters in Concord and on the department’s web site at [www.wildlife.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.nh.us).
- (d) Trapping rights on state managed lands shall be awarded to properly licensed trappers as follows:
  - (1) Applicants for award of such trapping rights shall make application to the wildlife division, on the “Application for Trapping on State Managed Lands” form, Rev 12/23 available at <https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt746/files/documents/trapping-state-lands-app.pdf>; and
  - (2) Applications shall be received by the department headquarters on or before the second Monday of September or be postmarked on or before the third Friday in August.

(e) Trapping rights shall be awarded on the first Friday after the deadline by computer selection of random numbers.

(f) Based on the order of computer selection, applicants shall be assigned a trapping unit as follows:

(1) Applicants shall be awarded trapping rights for the highest priority trapping unit indicated on his or her application that has not been awarded;

(2) Assignment of trapping units shall continue, with each applicant being awarded trapping rights for the first trapping unit the applicant listed on the application which has not been previously awarded; and

(3) If trapping units are still available after all applications have been randomly selected utilizing each applicant's first choice, the procedure shall be repeated again using the second trapping unit the applicant indicated on the application and shall continue until all applicant choices have been awarded or until all trapping units have been assigned.

(g) Permits awarded during the lottery process shall become effective on October 1st of the year awarded and shall be valid for the 2-year drawing period.

(h) Permits shall be mailed to successful applicants, who hold a valid trapping license, prior to the opening of that year's trapping season.

(i) Units not awarded during the drawing shall be issued after the drawing on a first-come first-served basis at department headquarters, and these permits shall be valid for the remainder of the 2-year period.

(j) No more than one individual shall be awarded the trapping rights for any one trapping unit.

(k) Permittees shall eliminate nuisance beaver within any state managed trapping unit when such nuisance beaver has been identified by the department in their assigned unit(s).

(l) Permittees shall initiate actions to eliminate the nuisance beaver within 7 days of being notified by the department that their trapping unit has developed a nuisance beaver or return their permit for that area to the department within 7 days.

(m) Upon notification, the executive director shall remove the trapping unit(s) on state managed land that have been issued to a permittee when the executive director finds that the permittee has failed to comply with the provisions of paragraphs (k) and (l) above.

(n) Any permittee who has not purchased a trapping license by October 10 of the second year the permit is effective or whose trapping license has been suspended or revoked for any reason shall forfeit all permits to trap state managed lands.

(o) No permittee shall sell a permit for trapping on state managed lands.

(p) A permittee may surrender a property(ies) listed on their permit in writing to the department. These properties shall be made available and reissued as specified in paragraph (i) above.

(q) Permits shall be non-transferable.

(r) Permittees may have up to 2 helpers, who may trap within the permittee's trapping unit, under the following conditions:

(1) A helper shall be a licensed trapper in New Hampshire;

- (2) Permits to trap state managed lands shall be valid so long as there is no subsequent conviction for a trapping violation by the permittee or one of the helpers;
- (3) The helper(s) shall be listed on the permittee's permit; and
- (4) If a permittee wishes to add or remove a helper after a permit has been issued, the permittee shall return the permit to the department indicating the change, and the department shall then issue a new permit.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 308.03, previously effective 6-5-12 (Document #10142), amended effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), and expired 6-5-22 in paragraphs (a) through (f) and (h) through (m), to read as follows:**

Fis 308.03 Trapping Restrictions.

- (a) Traps shall be checked at least once in a calendar day pursuant to RSA 210:13 and the landowner or their agent may check box traps only for the wildlife control operator.
- (b) Snares shall only be used by wildlife control operators after completing a training course in the use of snares.
- (c) Wildlife control operators shall have held a New Hampshire trapping or wildlife control operator license for at least 3 years since 2000 before enrolling in the snaring course.
- (d) A training course for the use of snares shall be approved by the executive director and include legal requirements, equipment review, methods and techniques for use, target selection, and humane considerations.
- (e) Snares shall be non-locking, relaxing snares equipped with a deer stop and a durable tag with the name of the person setting them stamped or engraved in a legible manner.
- (f) Any domestic pet killed in a trap or a snare shall be reported to the department within 24 hours.
- (g) Body gripping traps shall be set in accordance with Fis 303.12.
- (h) Any non-targeted wildlife, incidentally killed, that has no open season shall be reported to the department within 72 hours.
- (i) Fisher and otter taken by wildlife control operators shall be sealed within 10 days and may be sold.
- (j) During the open season for otter and fisher, the limit for otter and fisher shall be in accordance with the season limits specified in Fis 303.02(c) and Fis 303.04(c), respectively.
- (k) Bobcat shall only be captured in live traps and released unharmed.
- (l) The wildlife control operator may relocate and release wildlife only after the wildlife control operator has obtained written permission of the landowner where the wildlife is to be released.
- (m) Wildlife control operators may release wildlife on state owned or managed lands for which they hold a valid trapping permit issued pursuant to Fis 303.13.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 310, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), to read as follows:**

PART Fis 310 CONTROL OF BLACK BEAR-HUMAN CONFLICTS

Fis 310.01 Control of Black Bear-Human Conflicts. No person shall use, place, provide, give, expose, deposit, scatter, or distribute any material that results in attracting black bears after receiving notice from the executive director or designee to cease the activity because the activity could result in injury to a person, damage to property, or create a public nuisance.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 311, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), to read as follows:**

PART Fis 311 USE OF LEASHED DOGS FOR TRACKING BIG GAME ANIMALS

Fis 311.01 Definitions.

(a) “Big game animal” means a bear, deer, or moose.

(b) “Licensed tracker” means a person licensed to use leashed dogs to track deer, moose, or bear in accordance with RSA 207:12-c.

Fis 311.02 Licensing for Use of Leashed Tracking Dogs.

(a) A leashed tracking dog licensee may use a leashed tracking dog to locate wounded or dead big game animals for another licensed hunter.

(b) Applicants for a leashed tracking dog license shall complete the “Application for Leashed Dog Tracking License” form, Rev 08/2019, available at <https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt746/files/inline-images/leashed-dog-tracking.pdf>, and signed subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

(c) The applicant shall submit the application and the fee for the leashed tracking dog license to the fish and game department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

(d) The annual fee for a leashed tracking dog license shall be \$50.00.

(e) The licensed tracker shall have and carry a current hunting license and current leashed tracking dog license when tracking big game animals.

(f) The dogs shall be properly licensed in accordance with existing New Hampshire laws.

(g) The licensed tracker shall not use more than 2 dogs for tracking big game animals at one time.

(h) The licensed tracker shall not charge for services of tracking big game animals.

(i) The licensed tracker shall submit an annual summary report to the fish and game department no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they held a license to track big game animals.

(j) The required “Mandatory Licensed Leashed Tracking Dog Report form, Rev 3/2007, is available at <https://www.wildlife.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt746/files/inline-images/leashed-tracking-dog-rpt-.pdf>.

(k) Individuals who fail to submit the required report shall not be eligible to purchase another leashed dog tracking license until the report is submitted.

Fis 311.03 Use of Leashed Dogs for Tracking Big Game Animals.

(a) A hunter who has killed or wounded or reasonably believes they have killed or wounded a big game animal during the applicable open season may engage a person licensed to use a leashed tracking dog to track and recover the animal.

(b) A licensed tracker may use a leashed tracking dog to locate wounded or dead big game animals:

- (1) During the appropriate open hunting season and until midnight the day immediately following the last day of the appropriate hunting season;
- (2) During the day or at night; and
- (3) With or without the use of an artificial light;

(c) A licensed tracker using a licensed tracking dog may temporarily possess big game animals until lawfully tagged by the hunter or delivered to a New Hampshire fish and game conservation officer.

(d) Unless physically incapacitated, the hunter shall accompany the licensed tracker while tracking the animal. For purposes of this paragraph, “accompany” means to be within sight and hearing, excluding electronic devices, of the tracker.

(e) The licensed tracker shall ~~notify~~ **make notification between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, directly to** the conservation officer, ~~in person or~~ by telephone by calling 603-271-3361, **or by the NH Operation Game Thief Tips411 application** and provide:

- (1) The licensed tracker’s name and tracking license number;
- (2) The hunter’s name, address, telephone number, and hunting license number;
- (3) The species and general location of the wounded or dead animal; and
- (4) Whether the hunter is physically incapacitated and unable to participate in the recovery of the big game.

(f) When tracking wounded or dead big game, the licensed tracker shall wear 2 articles of hunter orange clothing to include:

- (1) A solid-colored hunter orange hat; and
- (2) A jacket, vest, coat, or poncho which is a minimum of 50 percent hunter orange in color to cover a major portion of the torso.

(g) The licensed tracker shall maintain physical control of the leashed tracking dog(s) at all times while tracking big game animals by means of a lead attached to the dog’s collar or harness.

(h) No person other than the licensed tracker or the hunter, who shot the animal and who has engaged the licensed tracker, may carry a firearm or bow of any description while tracking dead or wounded big game.

(i) During legal hunting hours, the hunter or licensed tracker shall euthanize the wounded big game animal when found by the licensed tracker by a means which is lawful during the open season.

(j) In addition to the methods in paragraph (i) above, the licensed tracker may use a handgun of no less than .35 caliber and in accordance with RSA 208:3-d.

(k) Outside of legal hunting hours or outside the open season, only the licensed tracker shall euthanize wounded big game animals and only with a handgun of no less than .35 caliber.

(l) After the big game animal has been recovered, the hunter shall immediately complete and affix the appropriate tag to the animal, as required by existing hunting rules.



(m) If the hunter was unable to accompany the licensee due to physical incapacitation, then the hunter shall provide the licensed tracker, prior to the onset of tracking, with a written signed statement to take and possess the wounded or dead animal.

(n) The written signed statement in paragraph (m) above shall include:

- (1) The hunter's name, address, telephone number, license number, and tag number;
- (2) The name of the licensed tracker;
- (3) The date and time of the tracking effort; and
- (4) The general location of the wounded animal.

(o) The licensed tracker shall sign the written statement specified in paragraph (m) above prior to tracking the wounded animal.

(p) If the hunter is unavailable to accept the recovered animal, the licensed tracker shall notify a conservation officer in person or by calling 603-271-3361 and advising the department of that fact, and the animal shall be turned over to a conservation officer.

(q) The licensed tracker shall report any suspected game law or rule violations to a conservation officer.

(r) If requested, the licensed tracker, the hunter, or both shall accompany a conservation officer in a review of the wounding site, tracking line, and recovery site.

**Readopt with amendment Fis 1102.07, effective 6-2-14 (Document #10619), to read as follows:**

Fis 1102.07 Bear Guide Tags. The "Guided Bear Transportation Tag", Rev 6/20, shall be completed:

(a) By the hunter in Section A and signed subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3; and

(b) By the guide in Section B and signed subject to the penalties for making unsworn false statements under RSA 641:3.

**APPENDIX**

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Specific State Statute the Rule Implements</b>
Fis 301.071	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 208:1-a, I
Fis 301.08	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 208:1-a, I
Fis 303.05	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 210:23
Fis 303.08	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 210:23
Fis 303.12	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 210:17; RSA 210:23
Fis 303.13	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 210:23; RSA 212:19
Fis 308.03	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 210:13; RSA 210:17; RSA 210:24-b, I
Fis 310.01	RSA 206:10, I
Fis 311.01	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 207:12-c
Fis 311.02	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 207:12-c
Fis 311.03	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 207:12-c
Fis 1102.07	RSA 206:10, I; RSA 215:2