

# Trapping Matters

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REPORT ON 2019 WORKSHOPS

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PHOTO BY GABRIELA ZALDUMBIDE, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Tom Decker, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discusses Best Management Practices for Trapping with cage traps at a Trapping Matters Workshop held during The Wildlife Society Annual Conference.

# Welcome to Trapping Matters

**REGULATED TRAPPING CAN BE AMONG THE MOST CONTENTIOUS** and least understood of all programs within an agency’s wildlife responsibilities. Many agencies have some staff unfamiliar with trapping, and as a result, avoid discussions about it.

**TRAPPING MATTERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS** were initiated in 2003 to help improve agency professionals’ ability to communicate about the role and benefits of regulated trapping in wildlife management. Since their inception, more than **5,000 wildlife professionals** have attended workshops throughout the United States. The Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and state fish and wildlife agencies partner to deliver workshops related to effective communication and regulated trapping. The fundamental purpose of these professional development workshops is to advance awareness and communication skills related to regulated trapping among agency professionals and to increase understanding of Best Management Practices for regulated trapping in the United States.

- WHAT'S IT ABOUT?**
- Workshops cover:
- Introduction to Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping
  - A cursory demonstration and overview for familiarity with basic trapping techniques
  - Human dimensions studies overview and public understanding of regulated trapping
  - How the media works and how to use key messages
  - Tips on effective communication
  - Social media tips
  - Key messages for communication about trapping and wildlife management.

## IN 2019, WE ENGAGED ...

**15**

State Agencies

**5**

Federal Agencies

**1**

Provincial Agency

**14**

Universities

**2**

Indian Tribal Organizations

**8**

NGOs

*Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature.*



**THESE PROJECTS WERE SUPPORTED BY** Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration funds, through grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Trapping Matters Exit Survey

**OVERALL WORKSHOP** Ranked on a scale from 1 to 5. 257 surveys completed.

Value of Information



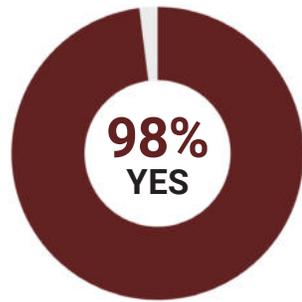
Objectives Clearly Stated



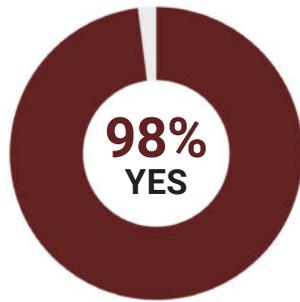
Knowledge of Instructors



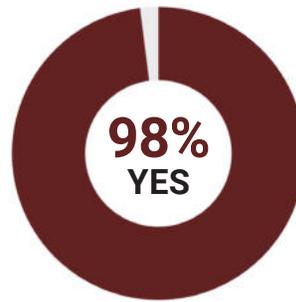
Delivery Style of Instructors



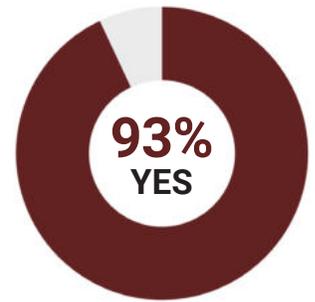
Are you better prepared to discuss trapping with the public?



Are you more familiar with the BMP process to improve trapping?



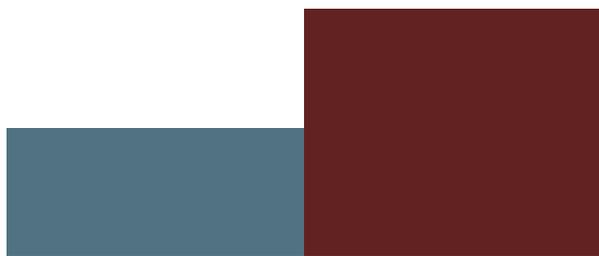
Are you more knowledgeable about how to communicate about trapping to others?



Did attending make you more knowledgeable about technical aspects of trapping?

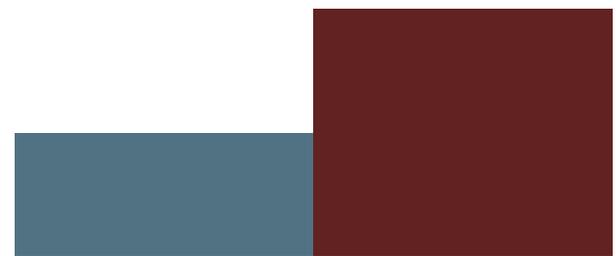
Increase in knowledge on Trapper Motivations

■ PRE ■ POST 48%↑



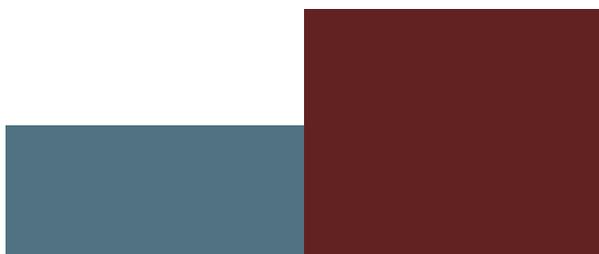
Increase in knowledge on Trapper Demographics

■ PRE ■ POST 50%↑



Increase in knowledge on relationship to conservation

■ PRE ■ POST 47%↑



Increase in knowledge on messaging and techniques

■ PRE ■ POST 53%↑

