

THE ALBERTA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

- MEMBERSHIP
- TRADITION
- CULTURE
- HERITAGE
- RESEARCH
- SCIENCE
- STUDIES
- CONSERVATION
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- PUBLIC EDUCATION
- YOUTH PROGRAMS

**WILDERNESS IS NOT A LUXURY BUT A
NECESSITY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.**

Edward Abbey



Our Vision:

We see an Alberta where the sustainable harvest and management of wild furbearers is an established and recognized conservation activity that is integral to our Heritage, CULTURE, and Identity

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alberta Trappers Association Annual Report to Government, Stakeholders & Members

Greetings,

It is with confidence and pride that I endorse the Annual Report of the ATA for 2024-2025. I am continually humbled and inspired by the hard work and passion of the ATA staff, our trapping local chapters and our partners and volunteers across Alberta. Our association and our community have gone to great lengths this past year to educate, engage and inspire not only our own people in towns, cities, and Indigenous communities across Alberta, but also everyday Albertans, Canadians, and society globally. Each day in some capacity we are showcasing our history, culture and traditions and sharing our unique connection to the land that must be experienced to truly be understood.

The current educational framework we have developed has expanded beyond trapping courses and classroom presentations to an outreach of opportunity for those in the broader scope of society to participate to a degree of comfort in the array of skills, knowledge and experiences that make up our traditional bushcraft and culture. To be successful we not only utilize our impressive in-house pool of human resources but have created a broader pool of expert partners and organizational partnerships that have greatly expanded the depth of our capacity and scope regarding what we can offer in not only professional development, but also personal skills, experience, and growth.

The key word in our current efforts is "inclusion." Our current offering has components that appeal to both young and old transcending ethnic and cultural boundaries. The Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bush Craft has played a pivotal role in creating these opportunities and now our priority will be to build a much more robust funding model that will allow us to fully staff and operate our programming to meet the ever-growing demand. In short, we have developed the programming and now we must build capacity and sustainability.

For trappers and the trapping community we continue to move forward with our ATA Logbook Program. Thanks to our partners in the Alberta Conservation Association, it has already proved its value and this critical data gathering tool is ready now to the point where it can be a mandatory component for trappers across Alberta.

The trapping community has supported two highly successful programs this year. The ATA Wolf Management Program for Caribou Recovery in partnership with Alberta Environment and Protected Areas subsidizes trapper effort to manage wolves and collect critical data in Caribou ranges across northern Alberta. Trapper participation is high, and the data stream is consistent.

Alberta Trappers' Association



The other program is the Ungulate Enhancement Program sponsored by our partners at the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society. This program provides additional subsidies to licensed trappers for wolf harvest on both crown and private lands across Alberta. This year was its inaugural season, and the participation, harvest and data collected proved to be a resounding success.

We are looking forward to a great year in the 2025-2026 season. Our hopes and expectations for advancement and improvement are high, and I have every confidence that we are up to the challenge!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Abercrombie', written over a horizontal line.
Signature

Bill Abercrombie, President
Alberta Trappers Association





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The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA)

Is a non-profit organization that has been in operation since August of 1971.

- Providing educational programs for schools, community groups, and other interested public groups to ensure accessibility across Alberta.
- Offering curriculum related programs through classroom virtual and in-class presentations, fur kit loan program and facilitating field trips.
- Delivering unique event programming such as youth summer camps, mentoring programming, attendance at trade shows and specialized group presentations.
- Organising workshops for educators to facilitate improvements in fur industry regulations and operational procedures.
- Offering post-secondary scholarships to students from active trapping families
- Our Mission is to ensure that trapping continues in Alberta as a way of life that promotes respect for wildlife and stewardship of the land.



2024-2025 ATA Waterfowl Warmup Team



Alberta Trappers Association Head Office



ATA 2024 – 2025 Members of the Board of Directors

Bill Abercrombie	President
Kevin Klein	Vice President
Brian Bildson	Secretary
Albert Mast	Treasurer
Rene Roy	Director – Zone 1
Corey Grover	Director – Zone 1
Landon Delorme	Director – Zone 2
Colin Truman	Director – Zone 2
Colin Robson	Director – Zone 3
Terry Batt	Director – Zone 3
Jim McConnell	Director – Zone 4
Joe Gauthier	Director – Zone 4
Ken Hildebrand	Director – Zone 5
Brian Jackson	Director – Zone 5

ATA 2024 – 2025 Staff Members

Donna Moore	Executive Director
Tracey Fedorvich	Trapper Education Coordinator
Ross Hinter	Community Liaison and Program Development
Perry Kulmatyski	Program Development Coordinator – ACTB
Tiffany Miner	Executive Assistant
Hunter Botham	Operations Assistant
Deborah Hinter	Webmaster and Contractor



A Year in Review: Donna Moore, Executive Director

The fiscal year 2024-2025 has been a remarkable period for the Alberta Trappers Association (ATA), characterized by high levels of activity and productivity. Our commitment to fostering the trapping community and promoting sustainable practices has been evident in all our initiatives.

Highlights of the Year

1. Increased Membership Engagement

We experienced an increase in membership this year, with many new trappers joining our ranks. This surge has led to enhanced participation in events, workshops, and community outreach programs.

2. Successful Rendezvous in Plamondon, AB

The annual rendezvous held in Plamondon was a resounding success, drawing participants from across the province and beyond. The event featured:

- Educational workshops led by experienced trappers covering various topics, including best practices, conservation, and new regulations.
- Networking opportunities that allowed trappers to share experiences and insights.
- A showcase of trapping gear and supplies, supporting local businesses and artisans.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the value of the educational sessions and the community spirit fostered by the event.

3. Productive Outreach and Education

Throughout the year, we have focused on outreach initiatives aimed at educating the public about the importance of trapping and wildlife management. We conducted several workshops in schools and community centers, emphasizing the role of responsible trapping in conservation efforts.

4. Advocacy and Policy Engagement

The association actively engaged with government bodies to advocate for the interests of trappers. Our efforts included discussions on policy changes, wildlife management practices, and sustainable trapping regulations. We remain committed to ensuring that the voices of the trapping community are heard.



A Year in Review: Donna Moore, Executive Director – (continued)

5. Ungulate Enhancement Program

The Ungulate Enhancement Program (UEP) is designed to boost ungulate habitat and numbers in Alberta. Working with the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS), the program manages wolf populations to improve conditions for at-risk ungulates, ensuring they have access to food, shelter, and breeding sites.

6. Wolf Management Program

The Wolf Management Program aims to address both the ecological function of wolves and the considerations of human communities, especially in regions where caribou recovery is a concern. The program utilizes regulated trapping methods to manage wolf numbers. Participants are expected to complete their logbooks to provide necessary information and data. Data gleaned from the logbook helps to understand the dynamics between wolves, prey species, and human activities.

7. Financial Overview

Prudent financial management this fiscal year helped us allocate resources efficiently. Success in events and education programs led to financial stability, supporting future investments.

Conclusion

The Alberta Trappers Association has had a very busy and productive year in 2024-2025. The success of our rendezvous in Plamondon serves as a testament to our vibrant community and the dedication of our members. Moving forward, we aim to build on this momentum, continuing to promote sustainable trapping practices and strengthen our community ties.

The Alberta Trappers Association's programs, including the Ungulate Enhancement Program and the Wolf Management Program, play vital roles in wildlife management and conservation in Alberta. By focusing on habitat enhancement, population monitoring, community involvement, and research collaboration, these initiatives aim to maintain healthy ecosystems while addressing the needs and concerns of local communities. Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support and commitment to the future of trapping in Alberta.



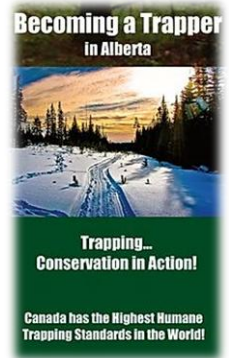


Development and Delivery of the Approved Standard Trapper Education Course Across the Province of Alberta

What is Trapper Education?

The Alberta Trappers' Association Trapper Education Program provides the Standard Trapping course, as well as numerous workshops and presentations to schools and other interested groups year-round throughout the province.

The Standard Trapping Course is your first step toward becoming a trapper. The course includes instruction on the safe use of traps and other equipment, biology of furbearers, animal management, marketing and grading of furs, skinning, and fur handling, as well as humane trapping techniques.



**Instructor Rene Roy with the Standard Trapper Education class
Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – November 2024**



Trapper Education Programming – Tracey Fedorvich

The Alberta Trappers Association (ATA) is committed to:

In the 2024/2025 fiscal season we delivered **32** Trapper Ed Courses, **8** of which were hosted by Locals. We have also held **8** workshops and one new workshop called Wolf Skinning for taxidermy.

A total of **526** students attended our courses and/or workshops. We currently have a total of **15** instructors, four who are apprentices. As always, all our instructors strive to achieve the following:

- Delivery of the approved Standard Trapper Education Course to certify first time trappers to obtain their Fur Management License.
- Teaching Best Practices courses and workshops to increase the competency level of Alberta's Trappers.
- Youth Camps introducing youth to the possibilities our organization and more importantly what Alberta's landscape has to offer.
- Creating and sustaining partnerships with Indigenous groups and communities to increase conservation and sustainability beyond our membership.
- Adjust and accommodate students whenever the need arises.
- And finally, as Ross would put it "Riding for the ATA Brand".



Standard Trapper Education Course, MD Ranchland, AB September 2024



To Develop and Implement Relevant Workshops to increase the Competency Level of Alberta's Trappers

Currently we teach several training workshops and courses including:

- Remote 1st Aid Course
- Adult Mentoring Program
- Advanced 7 Day Trapping Course
- Brain Tanning Fur Workshop
- Brain Tanning Hides Workshop
- Resident Trapline Management
- Hide Processing Workshop
- Footholding Workshop
- Fur Handling Workshop
- Wolf Workshop
- Snaring Workshop
- Under Ice Beaver Workshop
- Northern Bushcraft/Wilderness Survival Course
- Public Programs
 - County & Municipalities
 - Landowners Predator Control
 - Industry Presentations

These workshops offer hands-on training, demonstrations, and group activities to support learning. Our education department is also developing new programs and seeking training partnerships.



Fur Handling Workshop in Fort Saskatchewan, AB with Malcolm Abercrombie, April 2025



To Develop and Implement Trapper Instructor Training Courses and Workshops to Maintain and Improve Competency Levels of Trapping Instructors

The Instructor's Camp included demonstrations by Jason Parker, Perry Kulmatyski and Rene Roy. The group enjoyed learning more about what is being offered at the Alberta Centre for Trapping and bushcraft. The 2025 Instructor's Camp is planned for September, with a demonstration from Gary Godberson, who will share his techniques with our instructors.



Annual Instructors Camp Team Building



Development and Delivery of School Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

In School Trapper Industry Presentations

Learning about Canada's fur trade is part of Alberta's grade 4 and 5 curriculum. We offer school kits with furs, skulls, and trade beads upon request, and also give in-person presentations to students.

The main goal of this project is to inform youth about both the historical significance and contemporary relevance of the trapping industry. The presentations addressed key topics including fur trading, modern trapping practices, animal damage management, and the evolution of animal habitats over time.

To date, our public education team has reached **4,500** students across schools in Alberta, and supplied fur kits to **9** schools, which were utilized in **56** presentations delivered to **226** Alberta students. We engaged with students, educators, and members of the public interested in learning about the significant role that trapping plays in maintaining animal habitat balance and promoting overall conservation efforts.

Educating Alberta's youth about trapping and the fur industry helps build future conservation efforts. Instruction covers the impact of trapping on wildlife management, fostering an understanding of its role in ecological balance and responsible stewardship of natural resources.



Busby School Goes outside with Perry Kulmatyski & Russ Meades – November 2024



Development and Delivery of Public Education Programs to Enhance Understanding of the Fur Industry and Humane Trapping Practices

Public Presentations and Trade Show Booths

We provide public presentations and educational sessions to diverse groups throughout Alberta. This year, alongside school programs, we delivered or participated in **19** specialized presentations, including those for AHEIA, Jr Forest Wardens, Alberta Wildlife Federation, on topics such as predation, wildlife conservation and dog safety. In addition, we participated in trade shows and teachers' conventions with exhibition booths.

We currently have three completed fur kits, including all furbearer pelts and skulls, that we specifically use for our public education programs and our youth camps.

This past winter, Calgary, West Central and Edmonton Locals manned the Boat and Sportsman shows, this is greatly appreciated, so thank you all.



Edmonton Local at The Edmonton Boat & Sportsman Show - 2025



Development and Delivery of the Alberta Trapper Magazine and Maintenance of the Alberta Trappers Association Website

Alberta Trapper Magazine

The Alberta Trappers' Association publishes the Alberta Trapper Magazine—a glossy, professional quarterly that serves as a vital hub for the trapping community. Beyond reporting current issues and concerns, the magazine features expert advice, in-depth interviews with experienced trappers, and updates on industry regulations. Regular columns highlight best practices in humane trapping, fur handling, and wildlife conservation, making the publication an indispensable resource for both newcomers and veterans in the field.

Members are actively encouraged to contribute stories, photos, and personal anecdotes about their experiences on the trapline. These contributions not only enrich the magazine with diverse perspectives and authentic voices but also help foster a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose among readers. Classified ads further connect members by providing a dedicated space to buy and sell equipment relevant to trappers across Alberta.





The Alberta Trapper's Website – Deb Hinter; Webmaster and Social Media Administrator.

Apr 1, 2024 – Mar 31, 2025, saw **18,032** unique visitors to the website and direct traffic from Google is up 7%.

Most Popular Pages visited on this website:

1. Standard Trapping Course with **370** page visits
2. Workshops with **215** page visits
3. Becoming a Trapper with **139** page visits

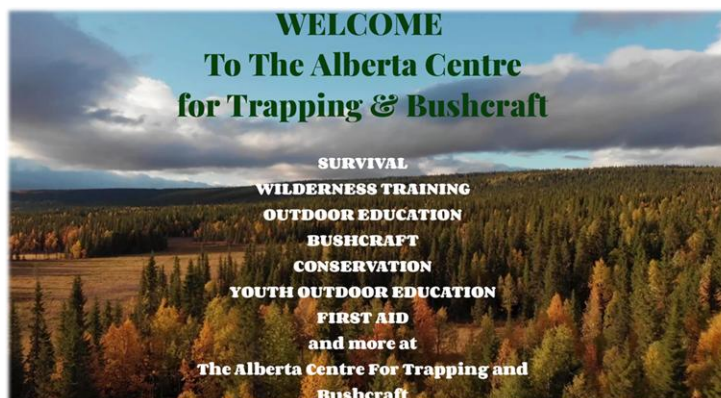
Members Only Section of the website has **363** members vs **299** last year.



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Website

Apr 1, 2024 – Mar 31, 2025, saw **3,935** visitors to the website.

Major traffic is coming from the albertatrappers.com website, with an increase of 185% in the last 365 days from the ATA website. Direct traffic is down 49% and down 52% from Facebook. Visits to the Bushcraft Courses & Workshops page is down 33% for the period Jan 1, 2025 - Aug 23, 2025.





ATA Facebook Group

There are currently **4,164** members on the group. The group quality is rated as GOOD by Facebook. Thank you to the diligent members who advise the admin team of any possible spam taking place on the group. The majority of the group's members are from Canada, with the United States being next.

The Admin Team consists of Bill Abercrombie, Deb Hinter, Ben Brochu and Vic Toutant. The announcements keep everyone on the group up to date and cover:

- Upcoming Courses and Workshops with the Alberta Trappers Association
- Youth Trapper Camps
- Office hours along with Fur Depot and Fur Pick Up Schedules
- Membership Information and magazine deadlines
- Research in Science and Conservation projects
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft programs
- The members share their fur, their stories, their triumphs, and questions

Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Facebook Page

- This is a Facebook BUSINESS PAGE which is very **different** than a Facebook Group.
- It is focused on the Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft where we post upcoming courses and workshops and relevant posts and drive traffic to register for courses/workshops.
- It currently has **372** followers.



<https://www.facebook.com/trappersupplies>



<https://www.facebook.com/albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft>

ATA Google Business



There are 2 Business Profiles managed under Google Business:

- Alberta Trappers Association listing on Google saw **2,159** interactions from March to August 2025, this metric only shows a 6-month period.
- Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft listing on Google saw **309** interactions, Mar - Aug 2024, date stats are as the above time frame also, only showing a 6-month period.
- The listings show contact info, website, map directions, reviews, star ratings and what we offer.



Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft Instagram Business Page

- This Instagram Profile has **428 followers** and posts upcoming workshops and courses.



<https://www.instagram.com/albertabushcraftcenter/>

ATA YouTube Channel

The Channel is called, **Alberta Wilderness Education Centre.**

It is a holding area for the video links that appear on the ATA website and the Alberta Centre for Trapping and Bushcraft website, currently hosting **38 videos**.

The online world is changing at a faster pace than ever before with the launch of AI. My tasks are in perpetual motion with improvements, monitoring, revisions, posts, content creation and the technical challenges involved with web centric workflows.

I appreciate feedback and will continue to work toward maintaining our public footprint current, on the internet.



<https://www.youtube.com/@albertawildernesseducation>



LIKE



SHARE



SUBSCRIBE



Administration of Compensation Programs

Trappers Compensation Program

The Trappers Compensation Program (ATCP) is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Forestry and Parks (AFP).

This program provides a framework for compensating trappers for business losses incurred through industrial activity on their RFMA's when they are not able to reach a settlement with industry. Incidences of theft and vandalism to assets on RFMA's are also considered.

ATCP	April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025
Number of claims submitted	5
Number of claims paid	5
Total claim amounts paid	\$22,700.00
Number of claims denied	0
Claims awaiting further information	0
Claims Coordinator Expenses	\$3,355.00
Misc. Expenses (advertising, fees, etc.)	\$1,428.57

Trappers Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program

The Forest Fire Cabin Compensation Program is a program of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Forestry and Parks (AFP) that provides a framework for compensating trappers' business losses incurred from forest fire damages. Sadly 2024-2025 showed extreme cabin loss due to fire. There were three claims paid out to this program in this fiscal year in the amount of **\$9,000.00**.





Successful Partnerships



Youth Camp Programs

Many thanks to our partners in environmental education, the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society for teaming up with the ATA on various projects.

In 2024-2025 our youth camps were held in three locations throughout Alberta including on the ATA trapline where the participants and instructors all stayed in outfitter tents. For our northern location, students went to Marten Lakes, near Slave Lake, AB and our final camp of the year was held in the southern location of Alford Lake located near Caroline, AB.

The attendance at each camp was great with 73 young people ages 9-15 learning from our seasoned team of instructors and enthusiastic volunteers. In addition to increasing the number of young trappers, the Youth Camp is an important part of our education initiatives which not only encourage young people to take an interest in trapping but, more importantly, will teach the importance of trapping and hunting in the conservation of wildlife.

Youth Camp is a journey that never ceases to amaze me, yes, we teach them, but they also teach us!



Fire making in action



FIRE is the one thing that is unexplainably mesmerizing it is without a doubt the campers favorite activity. It is our goal at camp to teach them to make fire without accelerants. Give a child a ferrocerium rod and watch them succeed; its amazing!



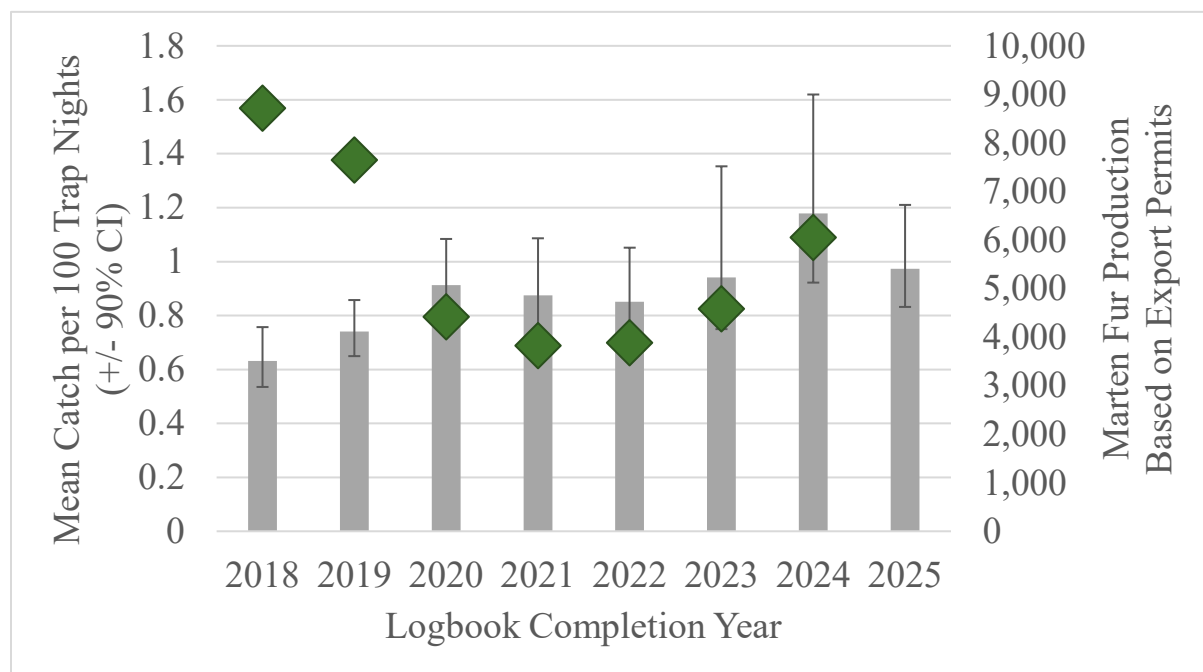
Successful Partnerships – ATA Logbook Program

Michael Jokinen

Early this year the ACA completed a report that summarized the past seven years of trapper provided furbearer data and this report has been made public on both the ATA's and ACA's websites. It could be found here ([Detecting Furbearer Population Trends in Alberta using Trapper Logbooks 2018 - 2024](#)). This data set provides a benchmark for the status of furbearer populations in Alberta and will further illustrate the dedication of this trapper-led organization. A job well done by everyone involved and a big thank you to all the trappers who have provided their logbook data and continue to do so.

Information was collected from 236 RFMA's this year, a new record number of logbooks! Certainly, a step in the right direction and let's keep that momentum going. Over the past eight years, we have received logbooks from a total of 427 individual RFMA's. A total of 21 RFMA's submitted a logbook all eight years.

To this point, we have not seen trends in the provincial marten data that cause concern in terms of harvest sustainability. The provincial male to female harvest ratio (64% in 2025) is within the suggested range of >60% male each year. Provincial marten fur sales (blue diamonds) were on a declining trend when we began tracking effort, but the catch rate for an equivalent amount of trapping effort (grey bars) has continued to be stable over time.





ATA Logbook Program – Michael Jokinen (continued)

Having a total of six years of data for species of interest and multiple years where well over 100 RFMA logbooks include lynx, fisher, and wolf data, is a sign we are headed in the right direction. In fact, the number of RFMAs submitting lynx data hit a new record at 156 logbooks in 2025. It was also a record year for marten (186), fisher (126), and wolf (162) logbook submissions. Even though we have reached a record number of logbook submissions in 2025 and had no quota in place, average harvest of all species in 2025 was similar to previous years.

This year marked the fourth-year wolf harvest data was included in the logbooks as part of the ATA wolf management program. A total of 34 non-program participants also submitted wolf data in 2025.

ATA members are encouraged to keep track of their trapping effort and submit their completed logbooks, let's reach 300 logbooks next year!

Have a great season out there!



ALBERTA TRAPPERS' ASSOCIATION RFMA LOGBOOK

Contact Info

Sr. Licence Holder: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

RFMA # _____

Please read instructions on page 4 before completing the logbook

I would like a summary of my data returned to me: ☐ yes, my contact info is included ☐ not necessary

TRAPLINE ACTIVITIES (includes prep, scouting, setting and catching)

Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Estimated monthly hours

DISTANCE

kms of road/trail you travel (average distance you travel to check all regular traps)

Total kms of road/trail you travel



Successful Partnerships – Walk Wild Project



Walk Wild is Land based learning connected to the Alberta Curriculum K-12



Among so many other things these young people discovered the sheer joy of spending time in the wilderness.



Jackson Height School – Southeast Edmonton
(Millwoods)

Grade 3- “Most Students had never been to a Forest”

Active Beaver habitat, Active Muskrat Habitat, Shelter Making, Camp cooking set ups, Fire from tinder and ferro rod demo

This project would not have happened without the Walk Wild Pilot Project Grant



Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

Athabasca	Local 1010
Bonnyville/Cold Lake	Local 1021
Calgary	Local 1031
Drayton Valley	Local 1060
Edson	Local 1050
Eureka River	Local 1053
Fort Assiniboine	Local 1061
Grande Cache	Local 1066
Grande Prairie	Local 1070
Greater Edmonton	Local 1054
High Level	Local 1080
Hinton	Local 1082
La Crete	Local 1188
Lac La Biche	Local 1120
Manning	Local 1020
Northeastern Trappers	Local 1130
Peace River	Local 1195
Rocky Mountain House	Local 1180
Slave Lake	Local 1190
South Country Trappers	Local 1110
Sundre	Local 1193
Wabash River	Local 1210
West Central	Local 1040
Whitecourt	Local 1231





Successful Partnership with the Government of Alberta Wolf Management Project – Donna Moore

The wolf program for **2024/2025** reached the highest numbers yet! We targeted areas where the caribou populations continue to decline. Most trappers have reported that it was another tough year.

Trappers have reported that wolf signs are scarce and that there were increased bear signs earlier in the season.

This year we had **130** Trappers involved.

- 27 from the Chinchaga Region
- 48 from the East Side Athabasca Region
- 17 from the La Peche Region
- 5 from the Red Rock Region
- 9 from the Cold Lake Region
- 7 from the Nipisi Region
- 17 from the Slave Lake Region



With the **130** trappers actively trapping and targeting wolves we were able to harvest **121** wolves. From the past years of this program this is the highest number harvested yet.

We have had multiple sightings of Caribou and larger groups at that on the landscape, which have been significantly increased from past years, so in saying that the program is doing what we need it to do. The area where the wolves were harvested were as follows.

Total Wolves	Juv Male	Adult Male	Juv Female	Adult Female	Total
Chinchaga	4	9	6	8	27
Cold Lake	2	5	0	2	9
ESAR	5	13	9	13	40
La Peche	0	2	0	0	2
Red Rock	0	1	1	2	4
Nipisi	0	3	3	8	14
Slave Lake	5	7	6	7	25

121



Great job to all trappers involved, the Alberta Trappers Association wants to thank all trappers for their continued support and dedication into this program and future programs.



ATA Volunteers – Tiffany Miner

The Alberta Trappers Association relies heavily on the commitment and generosity of our volunteers to ensure our operations and events run smoothly throughout the year. As a non-profit organization, their support is not just appreciated; it is essential.

One of the key areas where volunteer assistance makes a significant impact is at the Fur Depot, particularly on our Last Receiving Days, which take place twice annually in January and April. These days mark the final intake of pelts before they are shipped to auction. The depot becomes extremely busy with trappers delivering their furs, and while our staff works hard to keep up, the help of volunteers is critical. Volunteers assist with tagging pelts, moving full boxes into the seacan, and ensuring the day flows efficiently despite the high volume of activity.

Additionally, Shipping Days, when the fur is picked up by truck and sent to auction, also benefit from volunteer support. Without the use of machinery like a skid steer, volunteers help load all boxes and fur bags from the seacan into the truck by hand. Thanks to their teamwork and willingness to step in, the process typically takes less than two hours and always runs smoothly.

Beyond depot operations, our volunteers are also at the heart of the annual Rendezvous and Outdoorsman Show. This event requires months of preparation and would not be possible without a dedicated volunteer base. From collecting donations and auction items, to decorating, helping at the registration booth, and assisting with event setup and cleanup, volunteers fill vital roles that make this event a success year after year.

We sincerely thank each and every volunteer who has given their time and energy this past year. Your dedication not only supports the day-to-day operations of the association, but also helps foster a strong, connected trapping community across Alberta. We simply could not do it without you.





ATA Manufacturing – Hunter Botham

Manufacturing has been in the ATA for a long time, and it is an important part of the store section with regards to allowing flexibility in the products we provide. **Coyote snares, Lynx snares, Wolf snares,** and small and large **sub traps**, are examples of the products made in house. **Trap drags, anchors, Power Ram setting tool, muskrat floats and beaver drowning rods** are also items manufactured in house and by members of the ATA. With these products produced in house this can leave us a little wiggle room for small improvements and some custom orders to a reasonable extent.

Manufacturing – 2024-2025			
Description	Unit	On Hand	No. Sold
COYOTE SNARE KIT	Each	0	10
MUSKRAT FLOAT	Each	7	1
Coyote Snare 1/16 1x19 Tail Wire 3/32 7x7 8 feet long	Each	161	428
LYNX SNARE 1/16 1X19 YELLOW TIE	Each	33	156
WOLF SNARE 5/64 1x19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7-11' BLACK TIE	Each	98	241
Lights Out Snaring-Coyote 5/64 1X19 TAIL WIRE 3/32 7X7 8'	Each	2	0
BEAVER SNARE 1/16 1x19	Each	0	0
#9 WIRE - SNARE CABLE	Each	93	1
Muskrat Submarine Trap (2)	Each	3	0
LARGE SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	0	2
SM SUBMARINE MUSKRAT TRAP	Each	0	3
HEAVY DUTY 2' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	1	0
HEAVY DUTY 1.5' TRAP ANCHOR STAKE	Each	1	1
GAMBREL	Each	0	0
HEAVY DUTY WOLF DRAG-2 PRONG	Each	1	0





Successful Partnership with Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS)

Ungulate Enhancement Program – Tiffany Miner

This past season, the Alberta Trappers Association successfully delivered the Alberta Ungulate Enhancement Program, made possible through a **Wildlife Management Fund grant from the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS)**. The total received from this grant was \$120,500. The purpose of this program was to reduce predation pressure on Alberta's ungulate populations by supporting licensed trappers in the targeted removal of wolves while rewarding trappers for their efforts.

A total of 159 trappers registered to take part in the program. The target was the removal of up to 400 wolves. By the end of the reporting period, 386 wolves were harvested, representing 96.5% of the goal. This strong participation reflects the high level of engagement and capability within the trapping community.

Trappers received \$250 per verified wolf. A total of \$96,500 was paid out, with all claims processed efficiently and in line with program guidelines. Demographic data collected included age and sex of the wolves as well as WMU.

It is important to note that 81 of these wolves were removed under resident trapping licenses, representing trappers who would not have been included in the Caribou Management Program alone. This highlights the broader reach and impact of the Alberta Ungulate Enhancement Program in engaging a wider segment of the trapping community.

Top Wolf Pelt Contest

To recognize excellence in fur handling, a Top Wolf Pelt Contest was held. Three outstanding pelts were selected by independent judges and awarded cash prizes. The winners were:

- **1st Place:** Rick Stelter – \$5,000
- **2nd Place:** Isac Dahlman – \$3,500
- **3rd Place:** Richard Aarsen – \$2,000

The winning pelts have been sent for professional tanning and will be used by APOS at their discretion to showcase the skill and craftsmanship of Alberta's trapping community.



Alberta Ungulate Enhancement Program –Tiffany Miner (Continued)

2025-2026

The Alberta Ungulate Enhancement Program demonstrates how targeted, community-based conservation efforts can support wildlife balance. The program also reaffirms the important role of licensed trappers in delivering measurable conservation outcomes when equipped with proper resources and clear objectives.

The Alberta Trappers Association has submitted a new application to the Wildlife Management Fund for the 2025/2026 season. If funding is approved, we plan to run the program again, continuing our work to support ungulate populations and further strengthen the role of trappers in Alberta's wildlife management framework.

The Alberta Trappers Association extends sincere thanks to all participants and to APOS for their continued support through the Wildlife Management Fund.





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Locals

ATA Regulatory Committee – Brian Bildson

As Chair of the ATA regulatory committee, I had the privilege of working with committee members and the ATA Board to review suggested regulatory changes and provide assistance to our trapping locals.

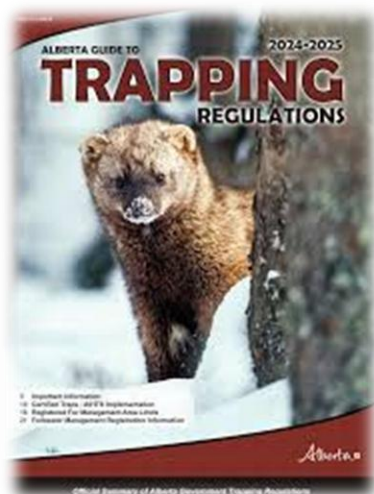
This year, the committee have worked with the Grande Cache Local and the Slave Lake Local on resolutions that will be presented at our 2025 AGM. Our committee commends the locals for their thought and research that went into their submissions for your consideration.

In addition to working on the resolutions submitted by the locals, the ATA Board had the committee review and comment on the logbook project as well as the Trapline Disturbance Standards. The committee was able to report back to the Board with their comments and recommendations for both documents, which proved to be of value.

In closing, as Chair, I'd like to thank the ATA Board and the Regulatory Committee members for their participation in this vital committee. Positions on the committee rotate every year, so if you're interested in serving, please let the Zone rep in your district know. We are seeking as much representation from the different zones as possible. The Terms of Reference for the committee are available in the Members Only area of our website.

Committee members: Duncan Abercrombie, Corey Grover, Gary Godberson, and Jason Parker.

I thank all the committee members for their continued dedication.





Successful Partnerships with Our ATA Local Communities

Annual Alberta Trappers Association Rendezvous & Outdoorsman Shows

The annual Rendezvous is a provincial event featuring demonstrations, speakers, a trade show, competitions, and entertainment designed to unite the trapping community and inform the public about the trapping and fur industry in Alberta. Attendees participated in activities while visiting Lac La Biche County and Plamondon, AB during the 50th annual Rendezvous. The event provided information, meals, various competitions, and a trade show. Planning for the 2026 Rendezvous is ongoing, with Westlock, AB set to host the 51st annual event.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft – Perry Kulmatyski

Our Mission statement guides us as we prepare and develop courses, workshops, and adventures for our Centre. So, what does that look like in practice? Here are just a few examples of what we offered this past season.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING (WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY)

We have developed land-based programming connected to the curriculum for k-12 classes

Pillars of Land Based Learning:

The pillars of land-based learning generally focus on experiential, place-based, and holistic education. While different educational frameworks might define them slightly differently, the key pillars often include:

Connection to Place: What do you see, hear, smell?

Land-based learning encourages students to form a deep, personal connection to their surroundings. This involves understanding the local environment, ecosystems, and natural resources, and recognizing the significance of a specific place or land in cultural and historical contexts. Once a person is connected to place, they have a better understanding of why we need to take responsibility for managing populations because of the effects of human disturbances have on fur bearer populations. Ask who are the people that are aware of the state of the flora and fauna of our wild areas (habitat)?





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft - (Continued)

Respect for Ancestral Knowledge: Our ancestors did not buy everything from a store, they knew how to make things from nature. History shows us you can be a consumer of nature and be a steward of the land. Consumer vs Protector is a very uninformed way of seeing conservation.

Much of land-based learning draws from ancestral ways of knowing, which are rooted in respect for the environment, sustainability, and intergenerational learning. This pillar involves honoring traditional ecological knowledge and practices passed down through generations.





Alberta Centre for Trapping & Bushcraft (Continued)

Environmental Stewardship: The focus is on fostering an ethic of care and responsibility for the land. Students are taught about sustainable practices, conservation, and the importance of protecting the earth for future generations.

The Why of trapping: Sometimes killing animals is a tough place to start for urban people. Cattails, mushrooms, and making them aware of the impacts on populations because of our human disturbances is a good place to start.





Alberta Centre for Trapping& Bushcraft (Continued)

Get Outside and Experience Nature! K to 12 Adventures in the Forest

These one-day or more programs have students immersed in the bush where they experience land-based learning in nature. During these learning opportunities they will discover and gain skills such as shelter making, foraging, fire making, cooking systems, knife skills, carving, tracking and identification of wildlife as they learn to be comfortable in the outdoors.



Please visit our Photo Galleries at <https://www.albertacentrefortrappingandbushcraft.com/photo-galleries> to view more pictures of what we offer. We look forward to planning and developing more adventures. To experience and benefit from a bushcraft experience all you need to do is **BE PRESENT** and **BE CURIOUS**, the rest will take care of itself.



ATA Research Projects – Ross Hinter

We have had a few projects again this year. Some were continued from the last year.

First, the Fur Institutes snare science project for Western wolves was completed this year. This was a 2-year program involving our Alberta trappers and the Trap Research and Development Team. The findings are up now on the Trap Research and Development page of the FIC.

The FIC website is a good resource once you spend some time learning to navigate through it. It helps answer a lot of questions about the research work done in Canada.



Both the “Lights Out” system signature series and the Senneker “Stinger 33” as well as his new “Stinger 44 Terminator” system has passed. These are the only two systems that passed in the study done on Wolves over this past two years. Here is a link to the up-dated snare best practises which includes the wolf.



https://fur.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/M1065_Meilleures_pratiques-mai-2025_ANG_EPF_Killing-neck-snares_web.pdf

This is all good news for trappers so you can let your locals know about this as well.

We have had several projects with science going on this past year but unfortunately, I was not made aware of some of them until they were already going. What I can tell you is that we did a little better this year with the tissue sampling of large predators. They will not have their total numbers that came in from all sources until next week.

This program will continue for this year. We have made note of some confusion with the program, and I will be writing up a protocol sheet to post for all our staff here. It can be confusing for them so we will make it easier to know how to proceed. If you have any information, please let me know.

Best Trapping Practices



Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Wolves Across Borders European Conference on Wolf Management Ross Hinter

This was an amazing conference with wildlife professionals, biologists, veterinarians and wolf experts from all over the world. They had so many speakers there for 6 days. June 2nd to the 6th.

I was asked to attend and do a training session on some of our management practises in Alberta. I was also asked to work with Hans Van Eijden, a wildlife control expert from the Netherlands, to track and see what they are facing in their small country with wolves. This was a real eye opener to see what they are dealing with in the second smallest country in the world.

This was an incredible trip for this old trapper, and I consider this a real honour to be there to speak and represent our Canadian trappers. The European Union was very vocal back in the 90's about "Canada's Barbaric Practice" of trapping fur bearing animals so it was the highlight of my work with Public Education.

When I did the presentation, it was in 2 parts. One hour to do a power point on wolf management and then another hour of field demonstration of how to set up traps for wolf capture. We ended up with over 180 people attending this, so I was so pleased. I felt we really hit a home run.

A more detailed report will be in our next magazine of my trip.





ATA 2024 – 2025 Fur Depot – Tiffany Miner

During the 2024-2025 season, a total of **17,231** pelts were shipped to auction 6,272 in January and 10,959 in April. This is a significant decrease from the previous year. Payments received for this year's shipments totaled **\$30,314.06**.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the upcoming season and expect to begin receiving fur again in mid-October 2025.

We were once again fortunate to have the support of many dedicated volunteers during our receiving and shipping days. Your time and effort are truly appreciated



**Thank you to all our members for your continued support
of the Fur Depot!**



Indigenous Community Engagement, Training and Education



Standard Trappers Course held in Fort McMurray
September 2024

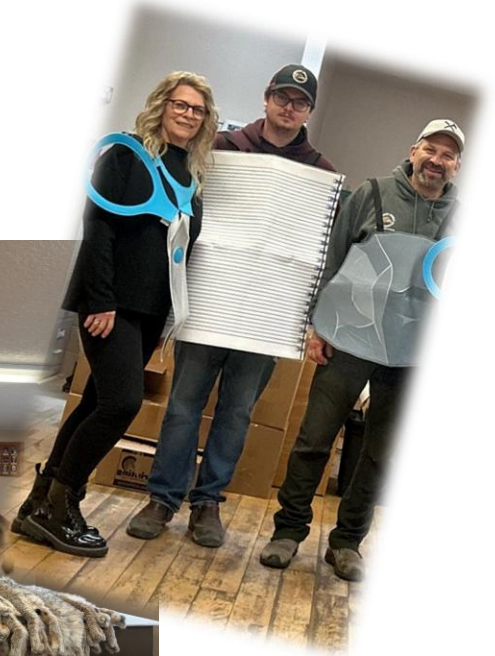


Janvier Chard Metis
Nation Standard Trapping
Course May 2025

Alberta Trappers' Association



Fur Depot, Retail Store, and Staff



Alberta Trappers' Association



THANK YOU!

We wish to thank all our supporters who are key to our success!

Alberta Forestry and Parks
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
Alberta Professional Outfitters Society
Alberta Forest Products Association
ATCO
Government of Canada

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Visit us on the web at: www.albertatrappers.com

Donna Moore ATA Executive Director

The Alberta Trappers Association is a registered society.
No. 500063862

***“THIS IS A WONDERFUL DAY. I’VE NEVER
SEEN THIS ONE BEFORE.”***

Maya Angelou