

# YFWMB Final Report 2016

## Humane Wolf Trapping Snare Set-Up

### **Project Activities:**

The original intent of this proposal was to work with 3 different trappers on their “registered trapping concessions” (RTC). And bring them up to speed with the latest humane wolf snares, wolf trapping methods, and care of their harvest, through proper pelt preparation and boarding technics.

In early January I worked with John Schonewille on RTC #334 in swift River area. His brother from Ft St John attended as well. We spent day one snare building, and line assessment pertaining to what they knew of their traditional wolf pack movements and behaviour. Two additional days were spent building separate sets, one on Downy Lake and a larger second one the swift river. A fourth day was spent travelling to and from my home base. Both sets were baited, and the two trappers worked together as a team throughout the wolf trapping season. The sets have a total of 150 human style snares installed. The trapper is planning on running them until end of season, and next season as well. He harvested a total of three wolves this past trapping season.

This trapper already understands the difference active trappers will make in their area, by way of harvesting several wolves annually in an area with suppressed moose populations. The trapper also enjoys having people accompany him on his line teaching non trappers life skills on the land. He was very thankful to have received assistance from YFWMB on this program.

My second trapper was Minnie Clark on her family RTC # 320 . This line runs along Teslin Lake and Teslin River, touching into Squanga area as well. We installed 150 new snares of various designs using the new human snares. All our activity was in the Johnsons Crossing area. Minnie is becoming a very good lynx trapper but has not tried for wolves until this season.

The third trapper to receive assistance was an experienced older trapper who was catching and losing wolves through homemade snares that were breaking apart allowing wolves to escape. Art Locke on RTC# 206 now has new snare sets on the Nordenscold River area between Whitehorse and Braburn (closer to Braeburn)

This season again was very poor ice and snow conditions, limiting safe movement on the land. I trapped a full season on my line, and northern BC, only to harvest less than half of last year’s wolf harvest. Moose and caribou stayed up high. Wolves were very scarce and weary to traps. They were turning their noses up at bait, yet they were skinny.

### **Communications:**

Prior to deciding set locations I discussed the project with our local RRC and area trappers. Local area trappers assisted in local knowledge of best areas for set locations based on wolf pack crossing areas

over years of observations. . YFWMB was mentioned in all discussions in regards to funding the program in order to assist local area trappers learn, understand and becoming stewards on the land in their areas. This assisted them in utilisation of an underutilised resource (wolves). Local trappers, residents and TRRC also are trying to offset the heavy moose hunting in these areas. These trappers are now seeing themselves as part of the plan.

Talking to the local area trappers and residents are the best way to promote this type of activity. They are very receptive to having their hands involved in the management of big game, within “their back yards”.

**Finacial:**

- Three registered trapping concessions were accessed
- Three individual trappers participated in building 5 gang sets for wolves
- 450 snares installed in the Teslin, Swift and Braburn area, with a total of 750lb breakaway snares
- 3-4 days minimum spent on each trapline
- All sets baited, and supplied additional bait in the weeks following if needed
- Weather was unusually different this season, low snow, chinooks and dangerous ice until late winter
- Low wolf movement in some areas this winter
- All plan objectives were met
- Next year I as a local trapper will go assist all this concession holders open their snares and push them in early season preparation regarding their sets and bait needed.
- Thank-you for this oppportunity

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