



SUPPORT SENATE BILL 32

Wildlife Conservation & Public Safety Act – “Roxy’s Law”

Senator Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales, Senator Brenda McKenna,
Representative Matthew McQueen, Representative Christine Chandler

ABOUT THE BILL

- **Prohibits all traps** (leghold, body-gripping, cage traps), **snares, and wildlife poisons**
- **Applies to public land only** – defined in the bill to include lands owned, leased, or held in trust by the state, federal, local governments; but not Indian nation, tribe, or Pueblo lands or the inside of structures
- **With explicit exemptions for:**
 1. All other types of hunting, fishing, archery, falconry, etc.
 2. The taking of birds, fish, or rodents not classified as “furbearers”
 3. Protecting human health and safety by a government entity
 4. Ecosystem management by Dept. of Game & Fish, US Fish & Wildlife Service, or conservancy districts
 5. Bona fide scientific research
 6. Dept. of Game & Fish acting on nuisance/depredation complaints using non-lethal traps or snares
 7. Cage traps to protect property/crops/livestock, or to recover lost or feral domestic animals
 8. Use by a member of an Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo for religious or ceremonial purposes
- **Establishes misdemeanor penalties** for persons who violate the law

WHY BAN TRAPS, SNARES, POISONS ON PUBLIC LANDS? BECAUSE THEY:

- 1 Undermine Other Uses of Public Lands & Harm Our Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Economy:** Traps, snares, and poisons endanger people and pets who are engaging in hiking, camping, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, wildlife watching, backpacking, climbing, or nearly any other activity one can imagine. And, while trapping season spans November through mid-March, these devices can be legally set for some species year-round.
- 2 Violate the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation:** Unlike hunted game species, furbearer species targeted by traps, snares, and poisons can be taken in unlimited numbers and sold in commercial markets. This drains a public resource for private profit, violating the North American Model supported by ethical sportsmen and NM Dept. of Game & Fish.
- 3 Injure & Kill Endangered Species:** As an example, of the at least 46 endangered Mexican wolves trapped in New Mexico in the past two decades, 46% were injured/required veterinary care. Of all injured wolves, 38% died. In comparison, in the same time period, just 4 wolves were accidentally trapped in Arizona where traps are already banned on public lands.
- 4 Harm Non-Target Wild & Domestic Animals:** Traps often maim or kill non-target animals and there are many past instances across the state, including trapped black bears, endangered wolves, mountain lions, and wild native birds. Along with non-target wildlife, leghold traps have injured or killed domestic dogs or cats in nearly every county in New Mexico, including in sparsely populated rural and wilderness areas.
- 5 Subject Animals to Unnecessary Cruelty:** Trapped and snared animals are subject to prolonged pain, dehydration, starvation, broken bones, predation, dislocation, self-amputation, trauma & death. If found alive, wildlife is typically dispatched by bludgeoning, choking, or torso-stomping in order to preserve the pelt for commercial sale. **Roxy, a senior heeler, strangled to death in a neck snare on public land in 2018.**

ADDRESSING CONCERNS AND MISCONCEPTIONS



New Mexicans Broadly—including Rural and Urban Dwellers—Oppose Traps, Snares, and Poisons on Public Lands. Polls over recent years have shown that New Mexico voters, statewide, support banning these devices from public lands by approximately a 2-1 to 3-1 margin.



Fur Trapping is Not a Key Source of Income for an Average Trapper: The fur market has been in decline for years, as supply far outpaces demand and fashion brands swear off the use of fur. The *average* NM trapper who attempted to sell every harvest from the '18-'19 season grossed only \$264.54–\$440.76.



Traps, Snares, and Poisons Are Not Necessary to Protect Livestock or Control Wildlife Populations –

These devices were banned in Colorado (statewide) and Arizona (public lands) in the 1990s. In those states, cattle depredation is actually lower than in New Mexico. Recent published research confirms that mass trapping of many carnivore species actually results in overall population increase.

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

“[T]rapping is indiscriminate, cruel, threatens recreationists and tourists, kills our threatened and endangered species...and, because there are no bag limits, presents a real threat to our already threatened ecosystem.”

—Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board, *Nothing About Traps is New Mexico True*, Dec. 7, 2020



“I once had a beautiful black & white two year old Husky...She got caught for many days in a deadly, hidden trap. My family and I found her after endless searching, more dead than alive, and I can only imagine the suffering she endured. This is why I support Roxy’s Law.”

—Derrick Toledo, *Jemez Pueblo, Indigenous Community Organizer*

KNOWN NEW MEXICO TRAPPING INCIDENTS IN THE 2020-2021 TRAPPING SEASON

1. **Nov. 14** – Lake Farmington: a Siberian husky named Ivy was trapped, \$750 in vet costs
2. **Nov. 20** – Santa Teresa: skinned coyote carcass piles found, evidence suggesting a trapper dump site
3. **Nov. 21** – Chimayo: hikers found a lost dog languishing in a leghold trap; Rescue group saved dog named Mahlia and provided costly veterinary treatment including amputation of several toes
4. **Nov. 26** – Jemez National Recreation Area: a trained search & rescue dog Jessie the Dutch shepherd was trapped on a hike with her human, experienced swelling and a split nail on her foot.
5. **Dec. 2** – Bernardo: a quail hunter’s German shorthair pointer was trapped during a hunt, minor injuries
6. **Dec. 17** – Santa Fe Nat’l Forest: heeler named Cruzer trapped, couldn’t put weight on bruised leg
7. **Dec. 30** – Rowe Mesa: dog Nelli trapped while her human was collecting wood
8. **Jan. 6** – Rio Rancho: concerned citizens reported a coyote limping with a trap attached to his foot
9. **Jan. 11** – Cloudcroft: Tooli was trapped while hiking on forest road and was difficult to release
10. **Jan. 23** – Caja del Rio Plateau: hiker came upon skinned bobcats presumably dumped by area trapper
11. **Jan. 26** – Dixon: German shepherd named Ceniza found choking in a neck snare in a nearby arroyo.
12. **Feb. 2** – Dixon: 10-yr-old heeler/shepherd caught in two leghold traps in an arroyo in northern foothills

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS Amigos Bravos ♦ Animal Protection Voters ♦ Born Free USA ♦ Center for Biological Diversity ♦ Conservation Voters New Mexico ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Endangered Species Coalition ♦ Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association ♦ Mountain Lion Foundation ♦ New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association ♦ New Mexico Wild ♦ Project Coyote ♦ Sandia Mountain Bear Watch ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Southwest Environmental Center ♦ WildEarth Guardians ♦ Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest

Questions? Contact Jessica Johnson at jessica@apvnm.org