

Trapping in Wyoming

An Overview of Statutes, Regulations and Public Involvement



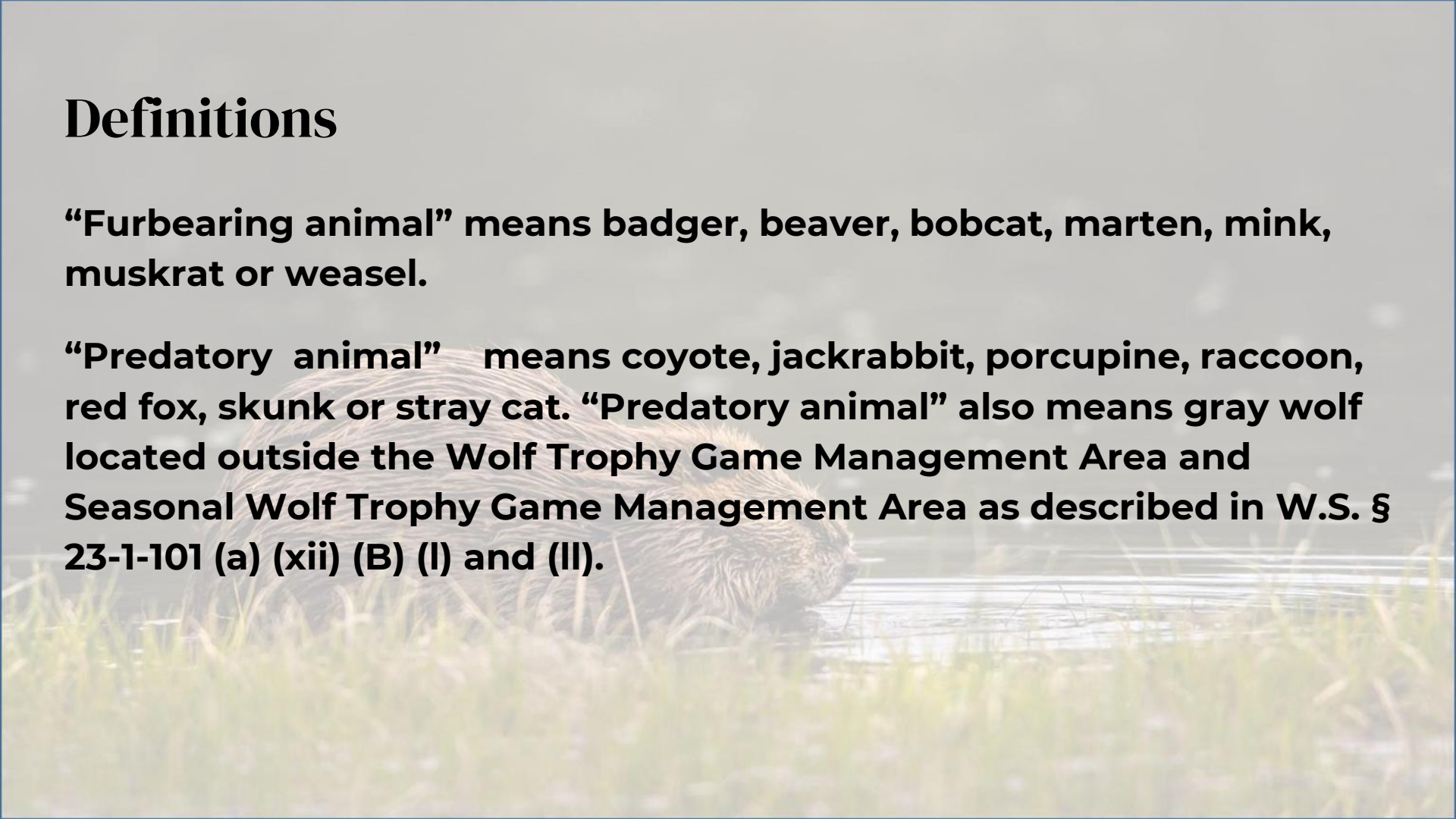
Recent Events

- **Petitions to the Commission at the April Commission Meeting**
 - **Wyoming Untrapped and WY Trap FREE-Mont County**
 - **Asked Commission to open Chapter 4 prior to 2022**
- **Department Committee Formed**
 - **Develop and implement a deliberate and information-based process to inform the Commission on trapping related matters identified during the April 2020 meeting. The presentation should also include past efforts by the Department and comments, concerns and opportunities learned from contacts with a broad group of current stakeholders.**
 - **Carefully consider all relevant information and compile meaningful information to help inform the Commission as they further deliberate any potential action pertaining to Chapter 4.**
 - **Members: Aaron Kerr, Jim Seeman, John Stephens, Erika Peckham, Emily Gates, Rene Schell, Ken Mills, Jason Hunter**

Definitions

“Furbearing animal” means badger, beaver, bobcat, marten, mink, muskrat or weasel.

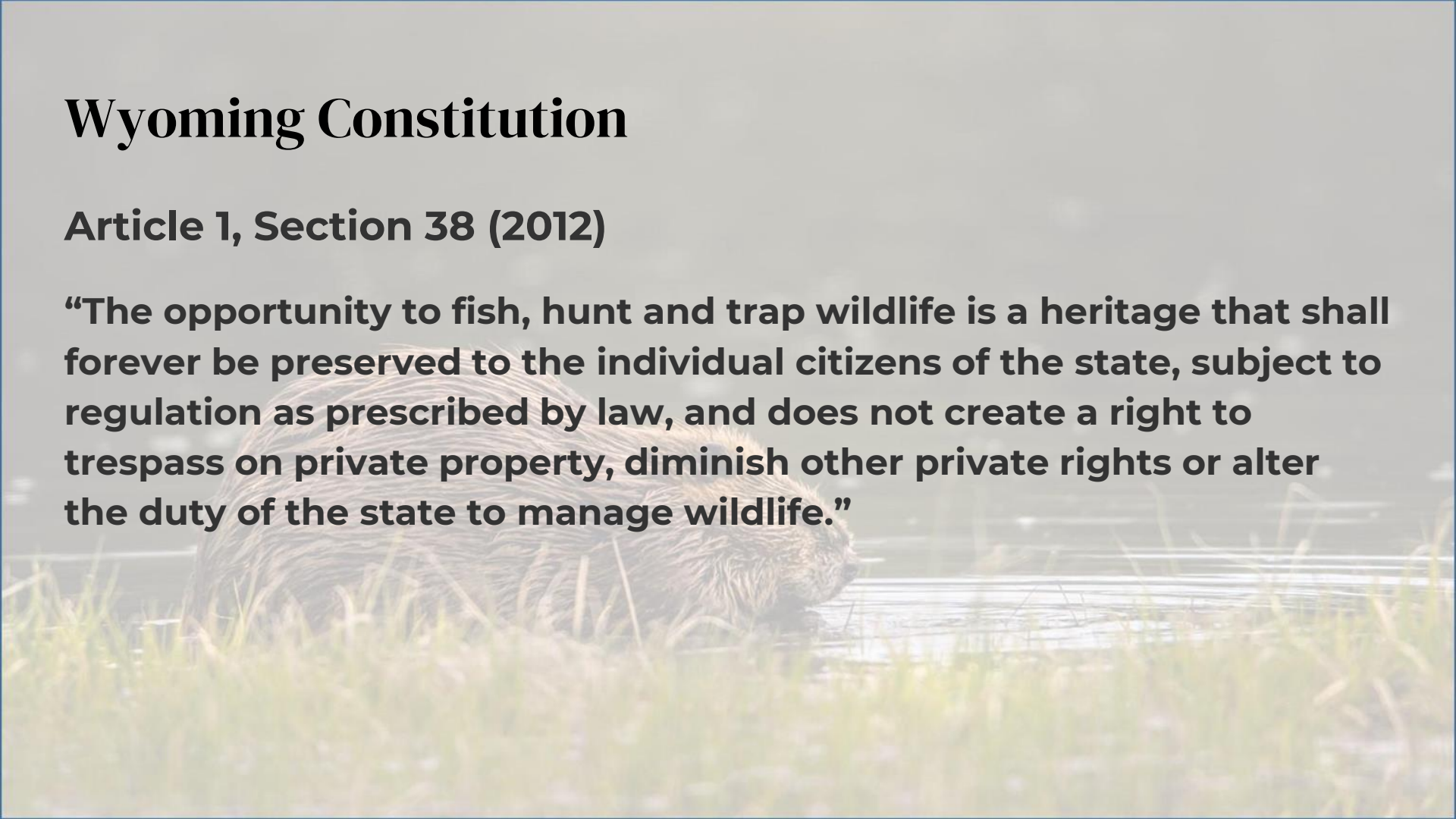
“Predatory animal” means coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, skunk or stray cat. “Predatory animal” also means gray wolf located outside the Wolf Trophy Game Management Area and Seasonal Wolf Trophy Game Management Area as described in W.S. § 23-1-101 (a) (xii) (B) (I) and (II).

A blurry background image of a beaver in a field of tall grass. The beaver is positioned in the center-left of the frame, facing right. It has brown fur and a long tail. The grass is tall and green, and the background is out of focus.

Wyoming Constitution

Article 1, Section 38 (2012)

“The opportunity to fish, hunt and trap wildlife is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state, subject to regulation as prescribed by law, and does not create a right to trespass on private property, diminish other private rights or alter the duty of the state to manage wildlife.”

A background image of a beaver in a pond, partially obscured by tall grass in the foreground. The beaver is positioned in the middle ground, facing right, with its head and back visible above the water. The water is calm, reflecting the light. The grass in the foreground is out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

- **W.S. 23-2-303, review of changes 2001-present**
 - **2001**
 - Added snares to tagging requirement
 - Allows for trap ID # to be issued by Department and used instead of name/address
 - Added language making it illegal to set traps/snares within 30 ft of exposed bait > 5lbs
 - Added definition of exposed bait
 - Added snare requirements
 - 295lb breakaway
 - Maximum 12 inch loop diameter
 - 72 hour check period excluding snares and quick kill body traps
 - Wildlife caught shall be removed upon discovery

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

○ **2004**

- **Made tampering/removing a legal trap/snare or releasing furbearers/predators from legal traps/snares illegal.**

○ **2009 - Department LD1 Project**

- **Added language allowing the Commission to regulate trap/snare requirements to establish specifications for snares, breakaway weights, location of breakaway devices, snare loop size and anchors for trapping and snaring of furbearers and predatory animals.** (requires consultation with other affected entities)
- **Removed all statutory language related to above**
- **Added once per week check period for snares and quick kill body traps**

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

- **Commission Regulation CH 4, 1994 - present**
 - **1994-97**
 - **Areas closed to the trapping of all species**
 - **Grand Teton NP**
 - **Closed to all trapping**
 - **National ELk Refuge**
 - **Closed to all trapping**
 - **JDR Memorial Parkway**
 - **Leghold traps and snares prohibited**
 - **Red Canyon Elk Winter Range**
 - **Closed to all trapping December 1-April 30**
 - **Medicine Bow River from Ranger Station to Bow River Campground**
 - **Closed to all trapping**

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

○ 1997-98

- Changed from trapping of all species closures to closed to furbearer trapping/closed to all legholds and snares and removed Red Canyon and Medicine Bow River from any type of closure.
- Closed to furbearer trapping
 - Grand Teton NP
 - National Elk Refuge
- Added Rawhide, Springer, and Table Mountain WHMAs to areas closed to furbearer trapping from October 1-January 31.
- Closed to all leghold traps and snares
 - JDR Memorial Parkway

○ 2002-03

- “Quick Kill Body Grip Trap” and “Trap Identification Number” added to definitions and the word “snare” added to the definition of Trapping.
- Added Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area to areas closed to use of leghold traps and snares
- Added trap ID# use and requirements to obtain a trap ID#

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

○ 2006-08

- All areas previously listed as closed to use of leghold traps and snares moved to areas closed to the taking of furbearing animals

○ 2009-12

- LD1 Project
 - Added snare requirements for the taking of furbearers and predatory animals to regulation
 - Breakaway weights
 - Location of breakaway devices
 - Snare loop size
 - Anchors for trapping and snaring of furbearers and predatory animals.
 - Added once/week check period requirement for snares and quick kill body traps

Review of Past Statute and Regulation Changes

○ **2012-14**

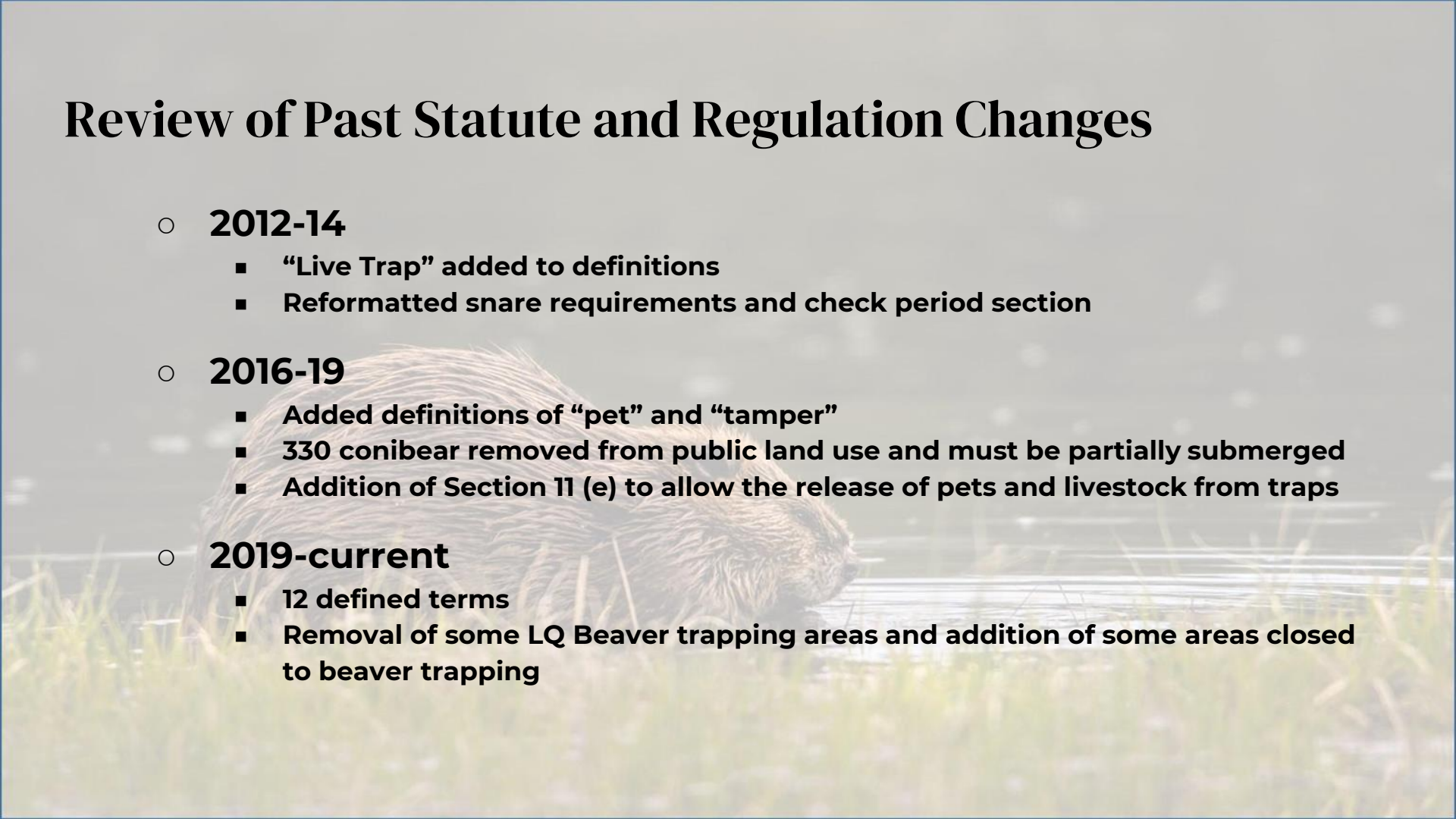
- “Live Trap” added to definitions
- Reformatted snare requirements and check period section

○ **2016-19**

- Added definitions of “pet” and “tamper”
- 330 conibear removed from public land use and must be partially submerged
- Addition of Section 11 (e) to allow the release of pets and livestock from traps

○ **2019-current**

- 12 defined terms
- Removal of some LQ Beaver trapping areas and addition of some areas closed to beaver trapping



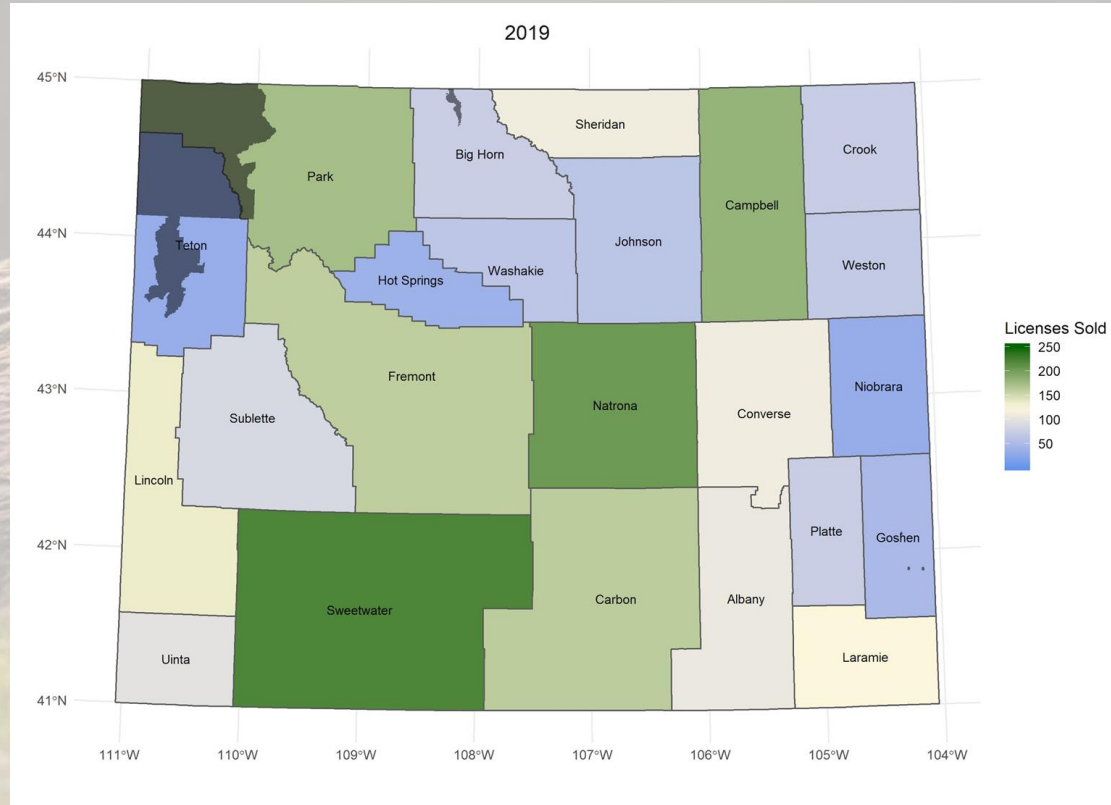
Furbearer License Sales and Harvest Information

- **License Sales**

- **2001- 1097 licenses sold**
 - **34 Nonresident**
- **2010- 1869 licenses sold**
 - **43 Nonresident**
- **2019- 2498 licenses sold**
 - **47 Nonresident**



Furbearer Licenses Sold in 2019 by Wyoming County



Harvest Information

- **Furbearers harvested 2010 / 2019**
 - **Totals 10,788 / 7,404**
 - **Trapped 9,861 / 6,682**
 - **Snared 179 / 205**
 - **Firearm 748 / 517**



Surrounding State Regulations

CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT

- **Trapper education required:** CO & ID (MT for wolves only)
- **Setbacks:** CO, ID, MT, NE - distance varies 10 - 1,000 feet
 - Trails, roads/highways, dwellings, feedlots, livestock road crossings, campgrounds/rec. sites
- **Closures for recreation:** CO, ID, MT, NE, SD, **WY**
 - Public ski area, residential rec. area, state game refuges/wildlife areas, some bird hunting areas
- **Trap signs recommended** - ID, CO
- **Trap checks:** CO, NE - 24 hrs; SD east - 48 hrs; ID, SD west - 72 hrs; (**WY**- 72 hrs, leghold and live traps, Once/week snares and quick-kill traps); UT - 48 hrs non-lethal and 96 hrs lethal trap check; MT - 48 hours recommended (required for bobcat sets); ND - none

Surrounding State Regulations

CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT

- **Report non-targets required:**

- MT - All non-targets
- UT - All protected species
- CO, ID, ND, SD - Dead furbearers/wildlife/protected species
- NE - None
- **WY** - Injured or dead game animals/raptors/furbearers out of season

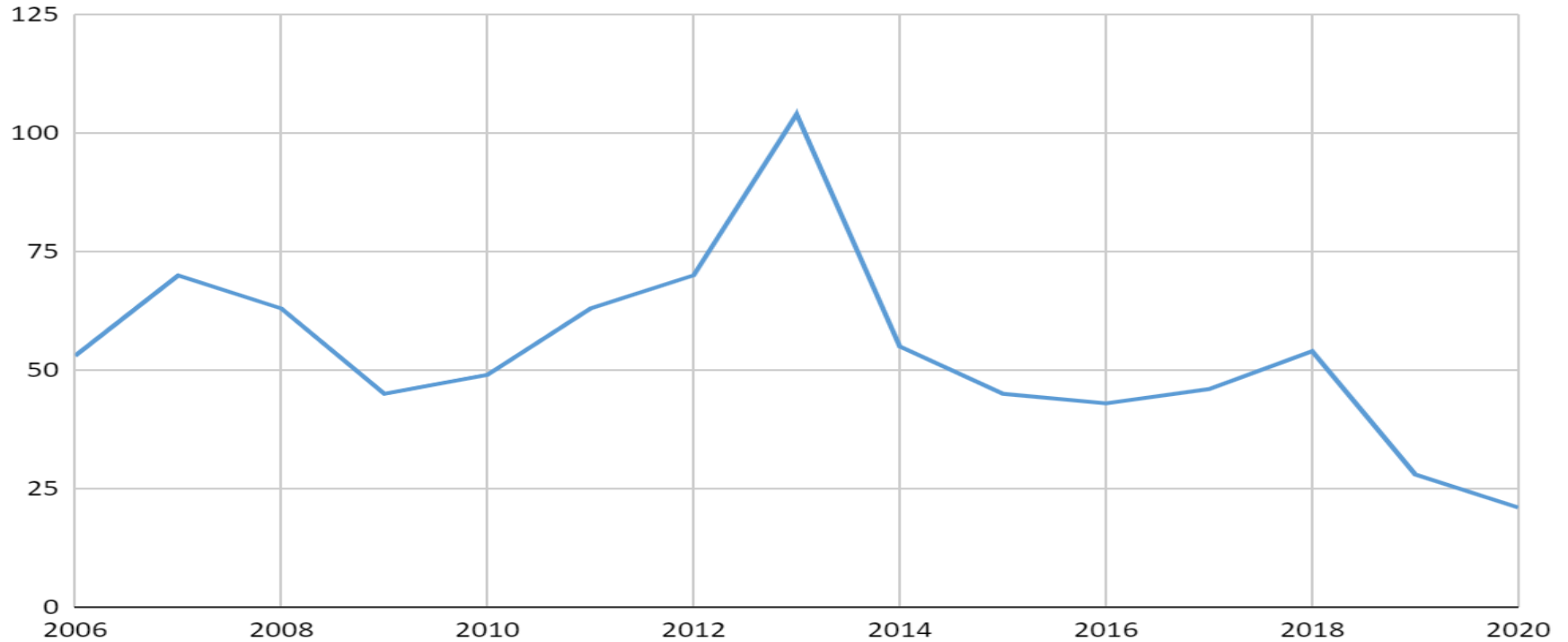
- **Trap types allowed:**

- ID, MT, ND, NE, UT, **WY**- All types with some restrictions to placement/types of quick kill body traps, lock type/breakaway for snares
- CO - Only live traps, footholds on private lands with strict conditions
- SD - Spring-powered snares banned

Trapping Violations 2006-2020

Violation Description	Warnings	Citations	NoActions	Total
TAKE FURBEARER ANIMAL WITHOUT A LICENSE	32	32	2	66
FAIL TO CHECK TRAPS WITHIN 72 HOURS EXCEPT CONIBEAR TRAPS	62	95	17	174
FAILURE TO TAG LEGHOLD TRAPS OR SNARES	94	78	53	225
USE GAME PARTS FOR BAIT	29	28	8	65
TAKE GAME ANIMAL WITH PIT- TRAP- ETC.	8	5	3	16
FAIL TO TAG BOBCAT PELT	21	22	1	44
FALSE STATEMENT TO PROCURE TRAP- FURBEARER LICENSE	4	12	0	16
TAKE FURBEARER OUT OF SEASON	8	25	3	36
FAIL TO CHECK BODY-GRIP/SNARE TRAP AT LEAST ONCE EACH WEEK	10	17	3	30
SET TRAP OR SNARE WITHIN 30' OF EXPOSED BAIT OVER 5 LBS. IN WEIGHT	17	19	3	39
SNARE WITHOUT A BREAK-AWAY LOCK	13	12	5	30
SNARE WITH BREAK-AWAY LOCK OVER 295 LBS.	7	0	1	8
SNARE SET WITH LOOP IN EXCESS OF 12"	6	2	0	8
FAIL TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN ANY TRAP/SNARE	8	3	3	14
FAIL TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT NON-TARGET WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN TRAP/SNARE	12	28	3	43
VIOLATION OF SMALL GAME/FURBEARER REGULATIONS NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE	10	12	1	23
Totals	341	390	106	837

Total Trapping Violations by Year 2006-2020



Trapping Violations

- **2006-2020**

- **837 violations** (390 citations, 341 warnings, 106 unknown suspects)
- **Total Fines - \$78,931**
- **Total Restitution - \$2,541**
- **Total License Suspensions - 85 years**

- **Other info (2006-2020)**

- **Dogs chasing deer-** 465 violations (233 citations, 205 warnings, 27 unknown suspect)
- **Unlawful tampering or removal of trap or snare -** 42 violations (19 citations, 11 warnings, 12 unknown suspect)
- **Unlawful release/removal of furbearer/predator from trap or snare -** 8 violations (2 citations, 4 warnings, 2 unknown)

Trapping Best Management Practices & Trapper Education

**All committee
members have taken
the online WAFWA
trapper education
course**

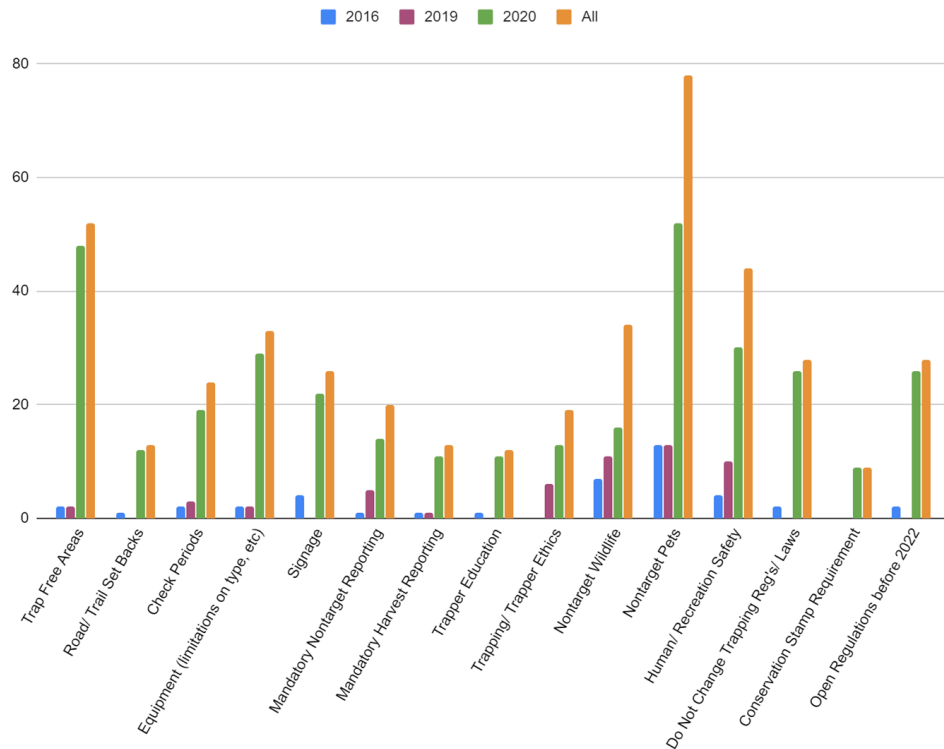
Bryant White-AFWA



Public Engagement

- **Public Comment Summary**
 - **2016-present**

Comment Themes by Year



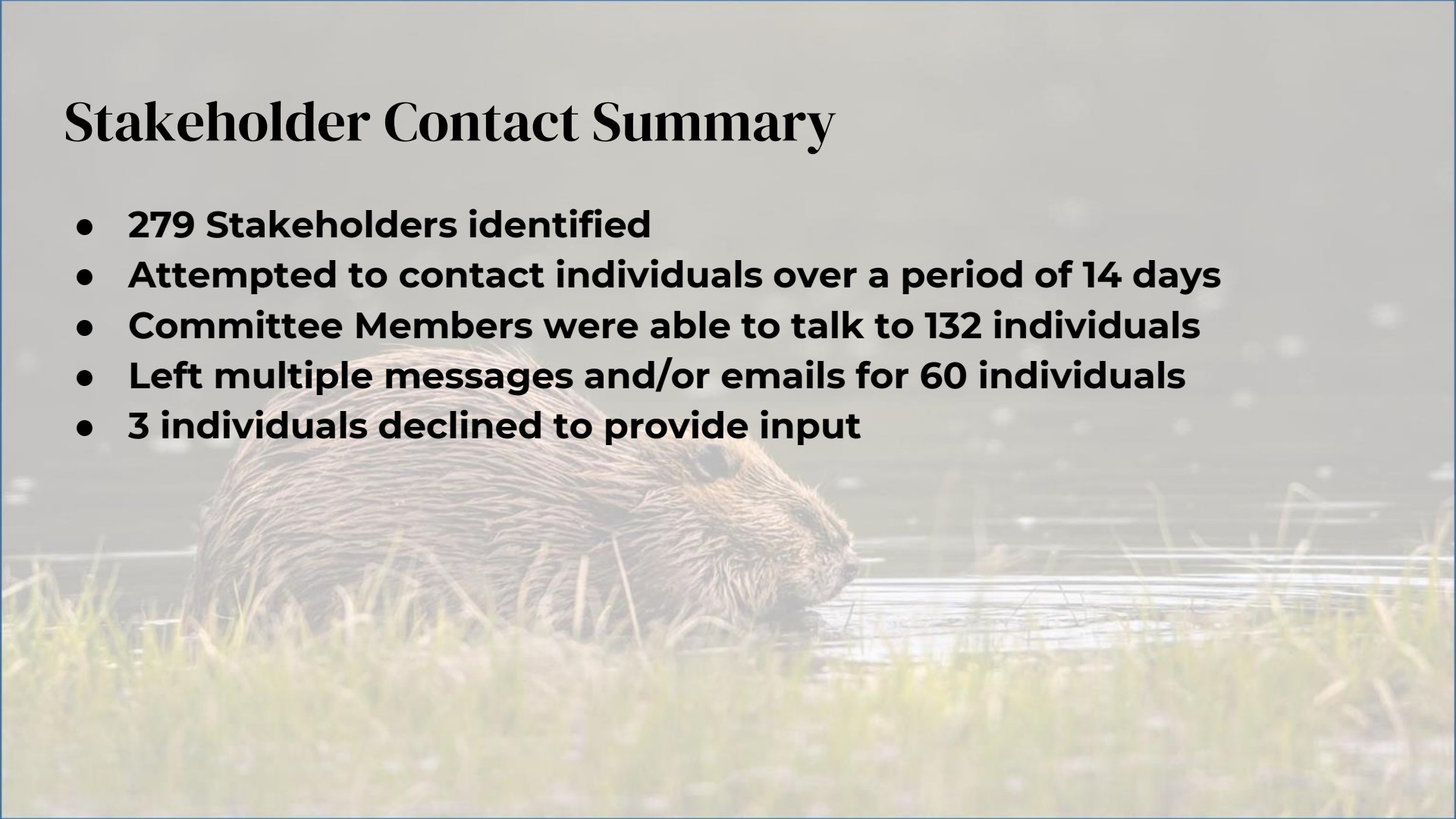
Other Engagement Efforts

- Recent efforts in Fremont County
- Past discussions in Jackson
- Strategic plan engagement summary
- How to release your pet from a trap workshops



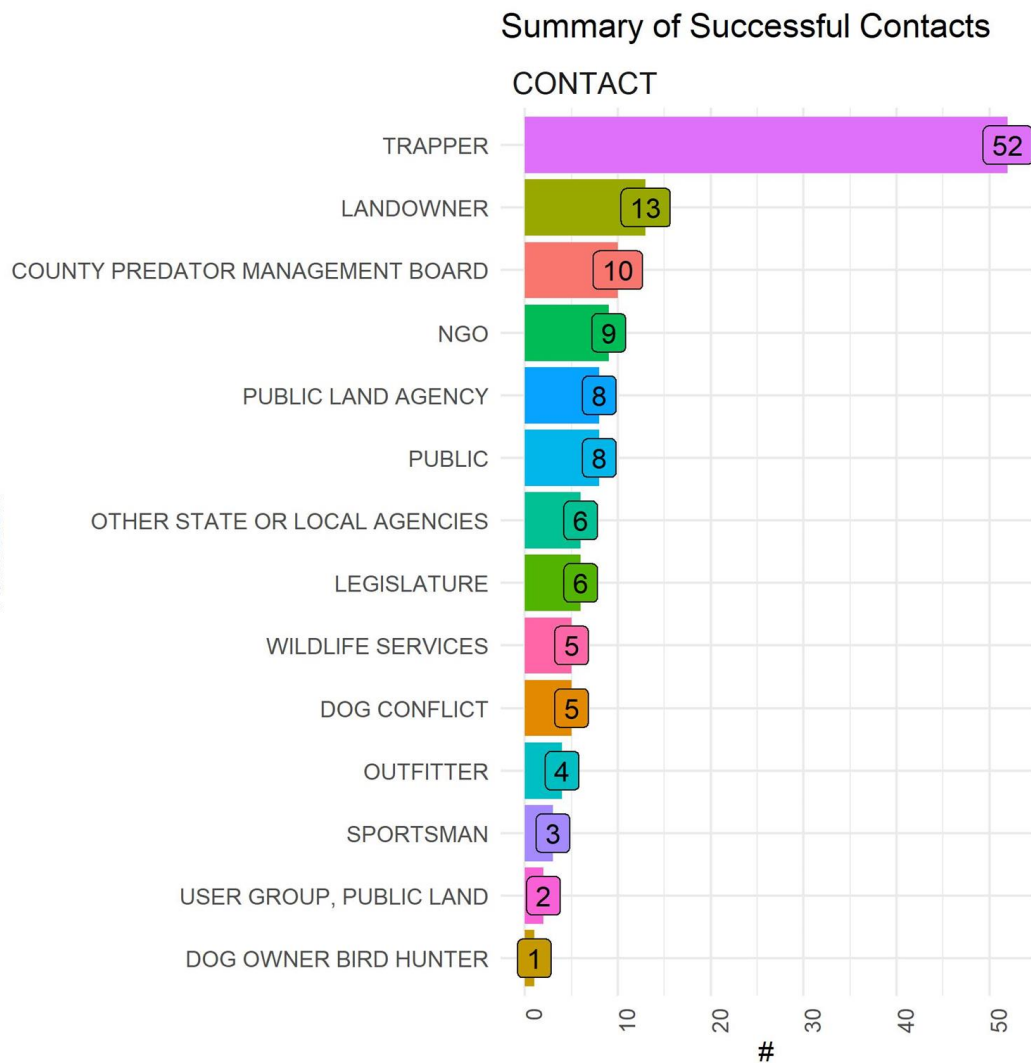
Stakeholder Contact Summary

- **279 Stakeholders identified**
- **Attempted to contact individuals over a period of 14 days**
- **Committee Members were able to talk to 132 individuals**
- **Left multiple messages and/or emails for 60 individuals**
- **3 individuals declined to provide input**

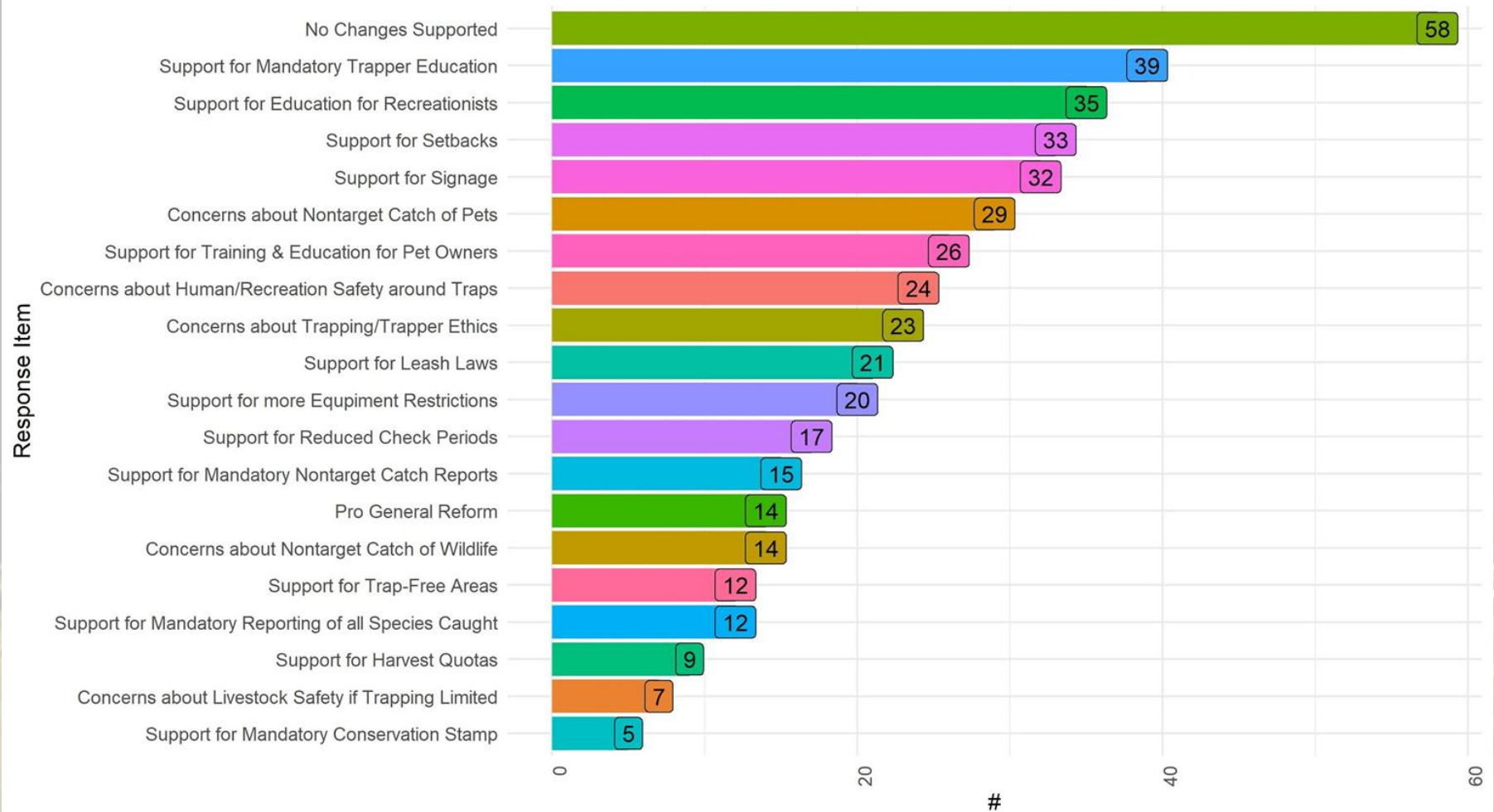


Stakeholder Contact Summary

Affiliation

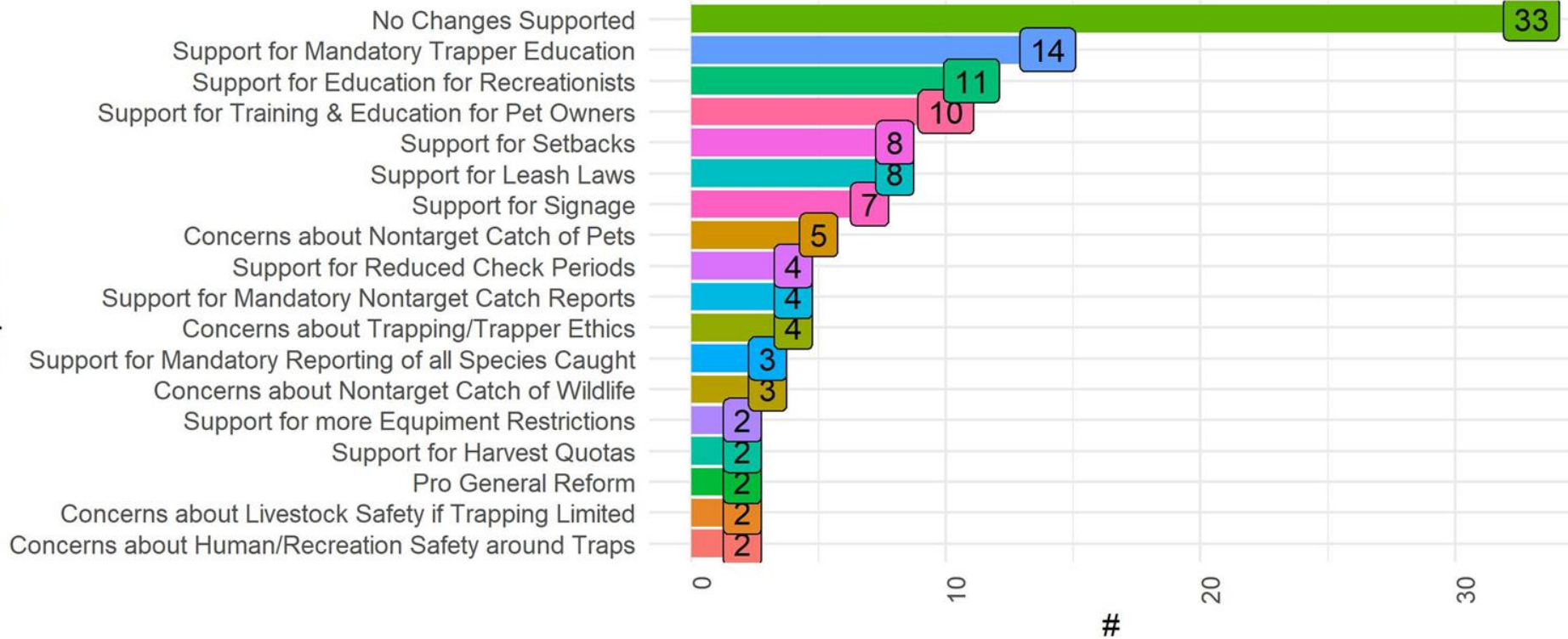


Summary of Common Responses



of Contacts = 132

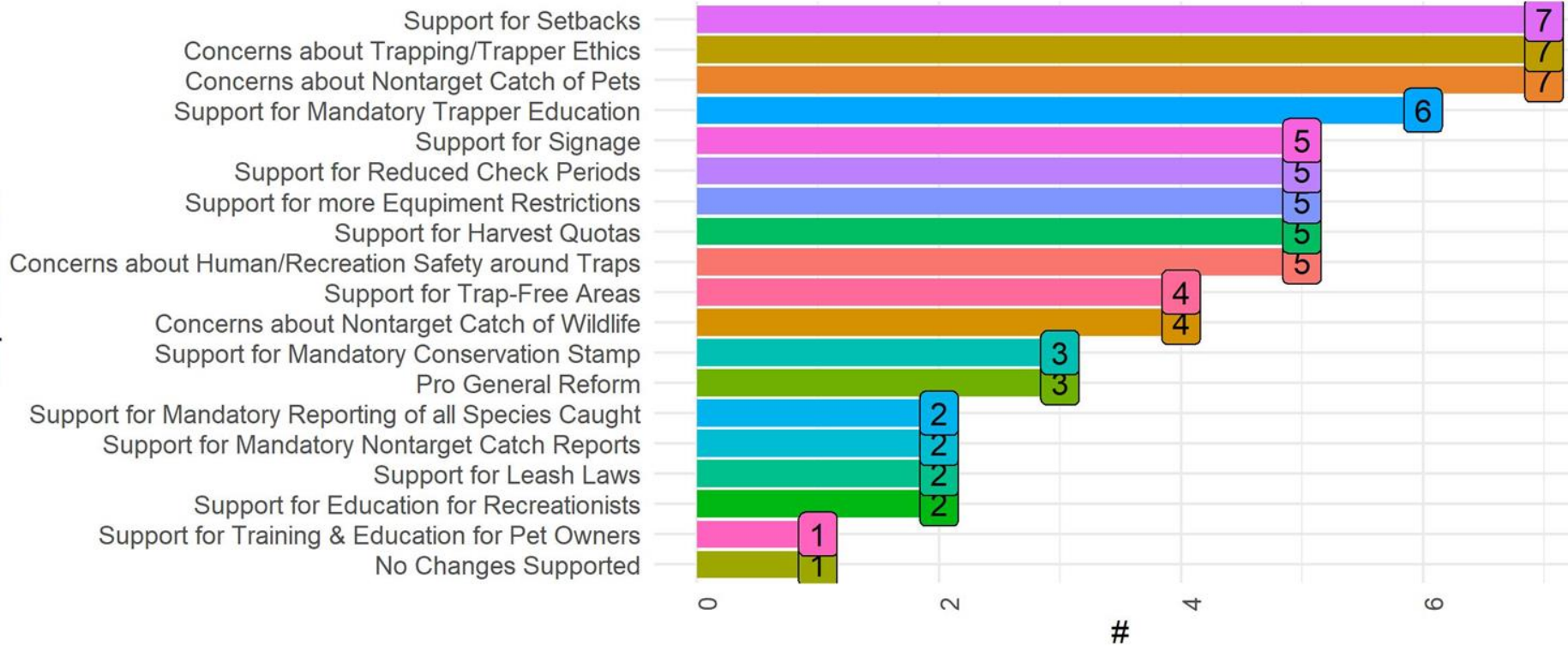
TRAPPER



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NGO

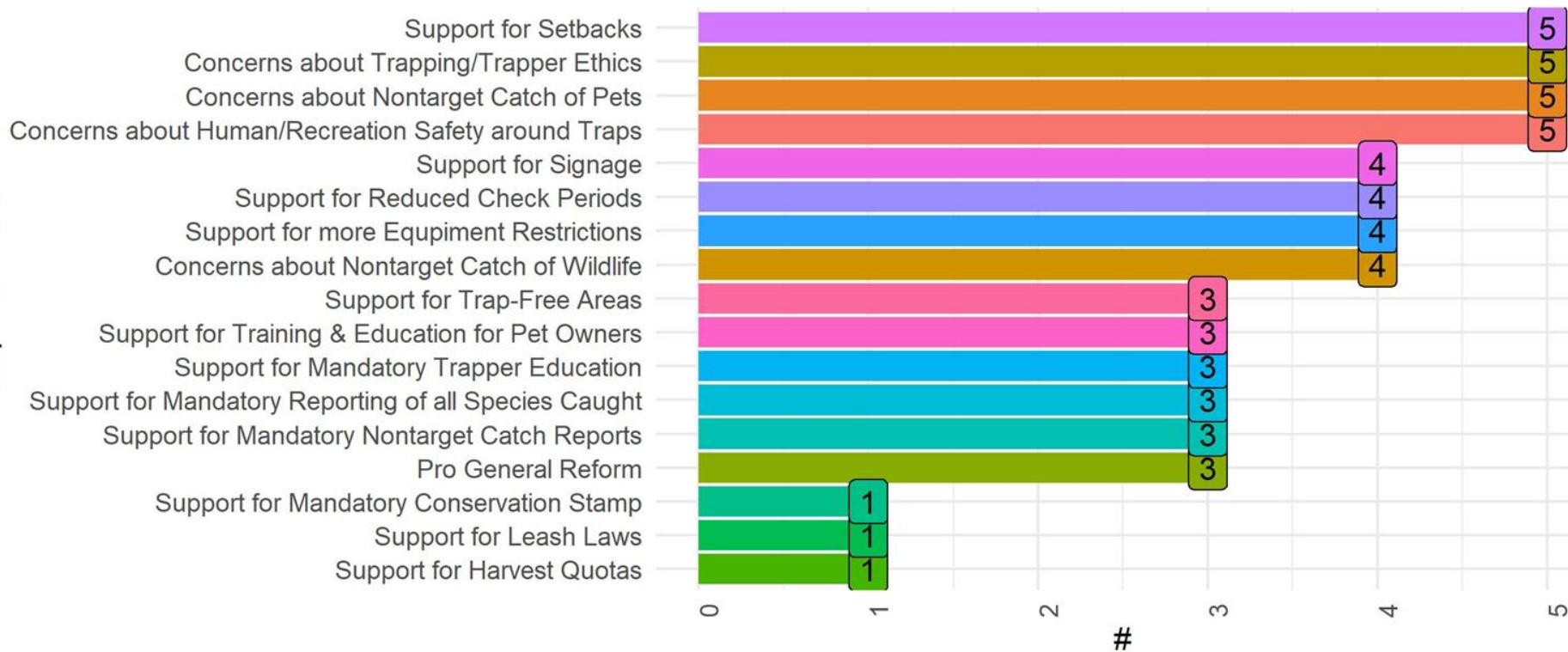
Response Item



of Contacts = 9

PUBLIC

Response Item



of Contacts = 8

Questions?

Next Steps

