

Update on Fox Trapping Season

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Introduction

- Brian Lisenby – NC Trappers Association – presented at 4/9/18 GLUE Committee Meeting
 - Advocated for Fox Trapping Season in Wake County
- Action Item – Staff tasked with reviewing this item and providing a recommendation of findings

Reviewed With

- Colleen Olfenbuttel – Furbearer Biologist, NCWRC
- Brian Lisenby – NC Trappers Association
- Greg Batts – Wildlife Biologist, NCWRC

History

- Foxes are not regulated by NCWRC
- Foxes are considered game
- Foxes are NOT considered furbearer
- General Assembly responsible for fox trapping season laws



Current Regulations in Wake County

- Coyotes
 - Firearms: Year-round except Sunday mornings (9:30am to 12:30pm)
 - Bow & Arrow: Year-round
 - Trapping: November 1 – February 28th
- Foxes
 - Firearms: Saturday preceding Thanksgiving to January 1st
 - Trapping: Not permitted

Caveat to Regulations

- There may be City laws restricting trapping and discharge of firearms



NC Wildlife Resource Commission

- Subject Matter Expert
- Recommends opening a fox trapping season
- No trapping = trappers in close proximity to rabies vector to release them



2012 NCWRC Report

- Directed by General Assembly
- Study fox and coyote populations
- Recommend management methods and controls
- Ensure statewide conservation of fox population
- Manage adverse effects of coyote population

2012 NCWRC Report

- Fox Hunters
- NC Trappers Association
- Fox Hunting Preserve Operators
- Non-governmental Wildlife Organizations
- Non-governmental Agricultural Stakeholders
- NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- Public Health Agencies
- Orange County & Wilkes County Animal Control Agencies

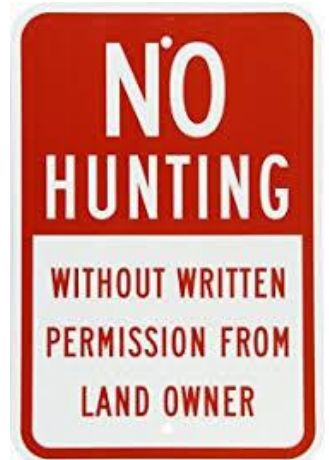
Fox Hunters

- Don't believe foxes are widely abundant
 - See trapping as greatest threat to fox populations
- ** Will Likely Oppose Fox Trapping Season ****



Other NCWRC items to consider

- #1 wildlife complaint in Wake County is fox conflicts
- Encourages use of fox trapping season
- Regulated trapping overseen by NCWRC
- Need written permission from landowner to trap



Why Fox Trapping Season per NC Trappers Association

- Young foxes are independent by then
 - Won't be orphaning nursing baby foxes
- Pelt is at its prime
 - Not wasting the resource
- Avoid potential heat stress
 - Concern for summer



Wake County Staff

- Supports NCWRC's recommendation of fox trapping season*
- Does not recommend allowing trappers to sell live foxes due to public health risk
 - Recommendation based on current information received

Next Steps

- Do Nothing – Unless Recommended
- If Recommended –
 - Staff to coordinate with County Attorney's Office to draft the appropriate support document
 - Nov/Dec – Action required by the Wake County Board of Commissioners
 - Jan 2019 – NC Trappers Association, introduce local fox trapping/hunting bill

Questions?

