

130310

RESOLUTION:

THE PROBLEM:

Trapping has been banned in 88 countries because of its indiscriminate cruelty. In WI, trapping is promoted by the DNR to serve over 8,000 trappers over a million trophies and skins. This number does not reflect the estimated million or more "trash" animals maimed or killed which are not the desired target species. Animals trapped in the Wisconsin "fur-bearer" kill include bobcats, coyotes, red and gray foxes, minks, muskrats, otters, raccoons, skunks, possums, weasels, and fishers. Each died a miserable and violent death either slowly from exposure, suffocation, or trauma and blood loss, or was bludgeoned to death by a trapper. Trapping is being used to imbalance nature and further destroy biodiversity and the balance of life. In Wisconsin, there are over 8,000 trappers who torture and bludgeon to death millions of animals, both target and non—target. Some of the atrocities in Wisconsin facilitated with trapping are:

1. Mid-range predators are targeted both on and off former wildlife refuges to reduce random natural predation of ground-nesting bird eggs, in order to overproduce the waterfowl hunters prefer as targets.
2. The most intensively trapped animal in Horicon Marsh the past 20 years was the OTTER. The otter is a natural predator of carp. When the carp population exploded – the DNR's solution? To poison the marsh!
3. Trout Unlimited lobbies to destroy beavers (trapped out in drowning traps), and dynamite beaver dams on over a thousand miles of Wisconsin river systems (termed "Class A Trout streams"), in order to stock trout. Rivers are complex eco-systems, and should not be mono-cultured to create an overabundance of certain species.

The influence of man on the environment is always to simplify and lessen diversity. Trapping was invented by a 17-yr. Old trapper in 1823, and has only been modified to be more cruel in designing it to catch the limbs farther up (to prevent "wring-off", the animal's chewing off its own limb to escape, or in pole-sets, which literally hang the animal to death by a paw.

Whereas, trapping is cruel and indiscriminate, mutilating and killing birds of prey, and over a million non-target animals, and whereas these activities are designed to throw off the natural balance of nature to overproduce an excess of certain game animals,

Be it resolved, the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in every county in Wisconsin on April 12, 2010, recommends that the Dept. of Natural Resources take actions to correct this obscene cruelty by banning trapping in our state and dealing with any animal/human conflicts humanely with live-trapping.

Submitted by: Rick Boyle
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County Vote: YES _____ NO: _____