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Chippewa County

09-06-14

Trapping Resolution

Weasels are trapped in the winter when their fur turns white. Most trappers use a box with a hole in one end for the weasel to enter and a trap that kills the weasel inside the box. The weasel is out of sight. In the winter weasels do not travel everyday and will most often hole up for days on a fresh kill. Trappers are required by law to check these traps everyday. This is a waste of time for a trapper as the weasel does not move that often. This issue was brought before the Conservation Congress in the form of a resolution a few years back requesting a 4 day check period for weasel boxes. It was passed through until fur bearer specialist John Olson attached a hole size requirement on the box. He claimed that a pine martin might get caught in a weasel box. Because of the very small size hole that Olson wanted in order to have the 4 day check, the resolution died. Upon investigating this issue the following facts have come out. Pine Martin have been in Wisconsin since at least 1958. It was in this time period Wisconsin reintroduced Pine Martin in a special zone that was closed to trapping on dry land. Trappers have been trapping weasel in weasel boxes without any hole size restriction during this time period until present. Upon checking with John Olson and other wildlife managers, they were not able to produce a single incident where a Pine Martin has ever been caught in a weasel box. This is from 1958 to 2014. At a Wisconsin Trappers Association Meeting in Wausau Wisconsin a young man and others came forward and gave testimony that they have trapped weasel in weasel boxes across the highway from the Pine Martin study zone and have never caught a Pine Martin in a weasel box. In fact the young man had a frozen weasel and showed that it would not fit in a weasel box with the hole size Olson wanted. Therefore the excuse requesting a smaller size hole for weasel boxes in order to have a four day checking period because of the chance it might catch a Pine Martin is without foundation.

Therefore I request the original resolution submitted by Art Simmerman for a 4 day checking period for weasel boxes be resubmitted in it's original form for voting.

Question: do you support a four day checking period for weasel boxes as submitted by Art simmerman to the Conservation Congress in prior years.

Dear Bulletin
4/14/14

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