




Getting Started Trapping!

**AFI Lunch and Learn
event**

A photograph of two beavers on a log, with a text overlay. The beaver on the left is facing right, and the beaver on the right is facing left. They are both gnawing on the log. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest. The text is white and centered over the beavers.

Special Thank you to the Wisconsin
Trappers Education Committee and
the Wisconsin Conservation
Congress Committee on Education

Legal Disclaimer



Always follow your local wildlife agency's regulations or ask the local warden or wildlife officer if you are not sure



This is a general overview and does not certify you as a trapper in any state

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Trapping History Pre L&C

- Fashion in Europe Driving North American Exploration
- Hudson's Bay Company – (HBC or Here Before Christ)
 - Monopoly by the King
 - Great lakes Trapping
 - Western Expansion
- Voyageurs
 - Canoes
 - Boundary waters
 - BEAVER BEAVER BEAVER
- Lower Americas
 - Beaver
 - Bear
 - Deer hides



Trapping History

Post L&C

- Lewis and Clark
 - Beat the mountain man by a few months
 - John Coulter
- Mountain man Era
 - Missouri Fur Company
 - John Jay Astor Fur Company
 - HBC
- Modern-day
 - Conibear Traps
 - Fur Boom 1970-1980
 - Today fur prices



Sources for Further reading

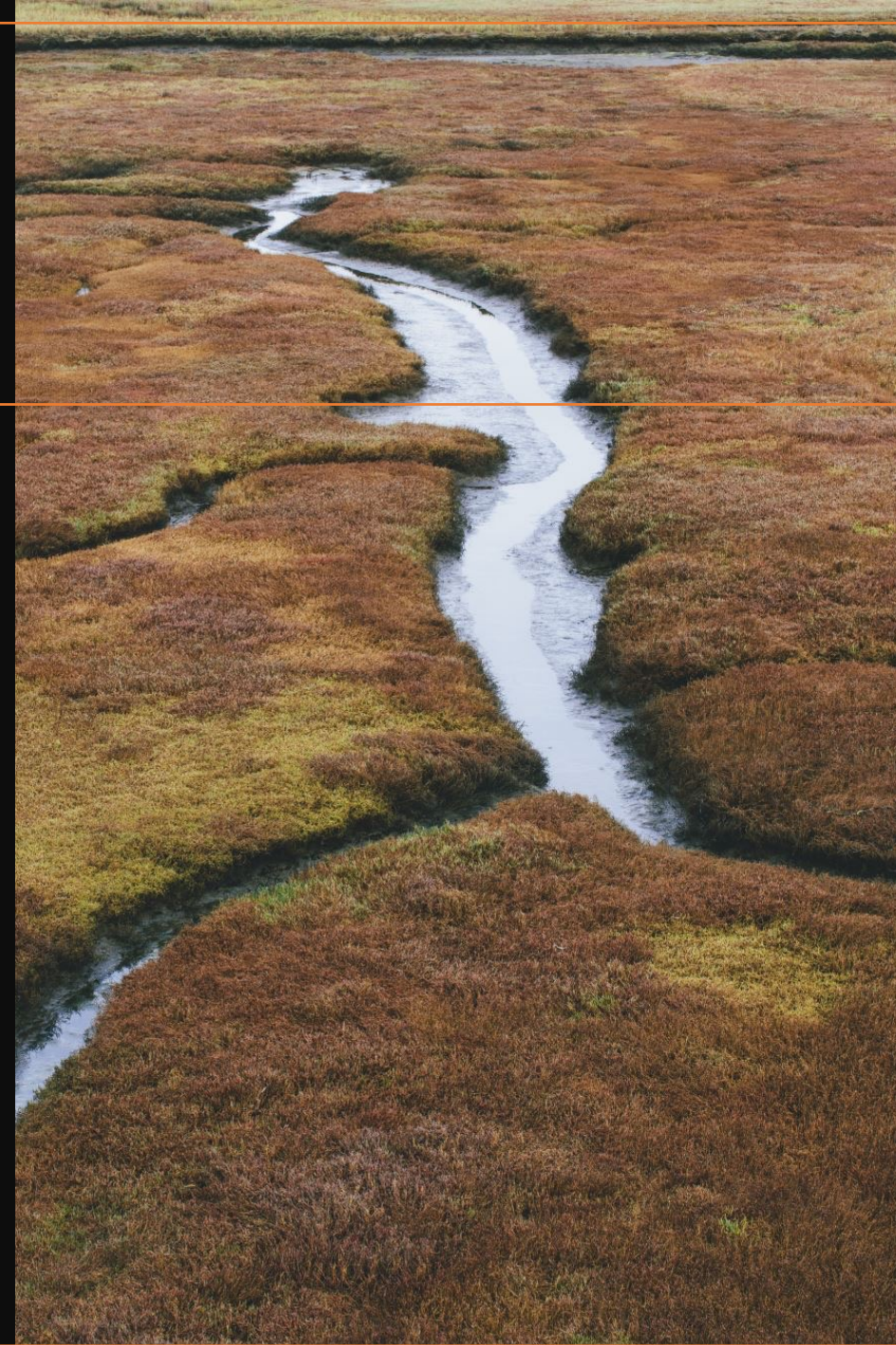
- “The Company” by Deckle Edge
<https://www.amazon.com/Company-Rise-Fall-Hudsons-Empire/dp/0385694075>
- “Fur, Fortune, and Empire” by Eric J Dolin -
<https://www.amazon.com/Fur-Fortune-Empire-History-America/dp/0393340023>
- Mountain Man: John Colter, the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and the Call of the American West (American Grit) by David Weston Marshall -
<https://www.amazon.com/Mountain-Man-Colter-Expedition-American/dp/1682684423>



The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

In the United States and Canada, the Model operates on seven interdependent principles:

1. Wildlife resources are conserved and held in trust for all citizens.
2. Commerce in dead wildlife is eliminated.
3. Wildlife is allocated according to democratic rule of law.
4. Wildlife may only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose.
5. Wildlife is an international resource.
6. Every person has an equal opportunity under the law to participate in hunting and fishing.
7. Scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation.



How does trapping fit in?

- https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/1416/4133/5436/Final_NAModel_Conservation-Brief.pdf#:~:text=Wildlife%20resources%20are%20a%20public%20trust.&text=Since%20regulated%20management%20of%20trapping,have%20been%20in%20recorded%20history.
- The key is regulation; unregulated harvests have been brought to an end and current markets are highly regulated and serve a conservation purpose. Regulations ensure that harvests are consistent with sustainable-use principles, help manage conflicts between furbearers and humans, and foster support for habitat conservation.
- Wildlife can be killed for legitimate purposes under strict guidelines for food and fur, in self-defense, or property protection. Laws are in place to restrict casual killing, wasting of harvested animals, and mistreating wildlife. Furbearers are trapped and killed for numerous legitimate purposes (Boggess et al., 1990; White et al., 2015) including maintaining populations within the social carrying capacity, to protect property, human health and safety, and to protect many endangered species and habitats like sea turtles, Atlantic Puffins and Whooping Cranes (Organ et al., 2016). The point is trapping will always occur even without utilizing the fur. Without the fur trade, harvested furbearing animals will be disposed of and wasted, rather than producing a durable, beautiful, environmentally friendly product that can be used by people.

Trapping Ethics

- Consideration for others who may be unaware of trapping benefits to the ecosystem
- ALWAYS follow State regulations when pursuing furbearers (when possible exceed published regulations BMPs)
- Always dispatch an animal quickly and humanely
- Do not set a trap that may offend non-trappers
- Use proper size trap and set for targeted species
- Avoiding non-targeted catch
- Think through “what if” scenarios
 - How to release untargeted animals
 - How to dispatch an animal injured in your trap
- **Take the time to do it right!**



Social Media and Trapping

- <https://widnr.widen.net/s/q6zqptlwbw>
- Trapping has the lowest public opinion approval rating of all legal harvest methods
 - Trapping is a valuable tool for furbearer and habitat ecosystem management
- Views of the uneducated public influenced by false narratives and misinformation
 - Always practice legal and ethical trapping and highlight those facts in all social posts
 - DO NOT post pictures of animals in a trap
 - DO NOT post pictures of dispatching animals in a trap
 - Always show respect to harvested animals in photos or videos
 - Do not show blood or evidence of kill
 - Always stay aware of your messaging around harvested animals, focus on your outdoor experience and how the fur and meat will be used.
 - Promote REGULATED Trapping in all posts



Trapping BMPs.

<https://www.nationaltrappers.com/bmp.html>

- BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- In 1996, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies began one of the most ambitious research projects in the history of the conservation movement: a program to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for regulated trapping.

The BMP program aims to evaluate animal welfare, identify efficient tools and techniques, and develop recommendations for state fish and wildlife agencies to consider as an element of their wildlife management programs.

Regulated trapping is a necessary and effective wildlife management tool, and wildlife professionals across the country believe that trapping BMPs will ensure the continued improvement of this management technique.

Experts from all 50 state fish and wildlife agencies and other conservation groups that care about the environment, natural resources and animal welfare are working together to improve and modernize the technology of trapping through scientific research.





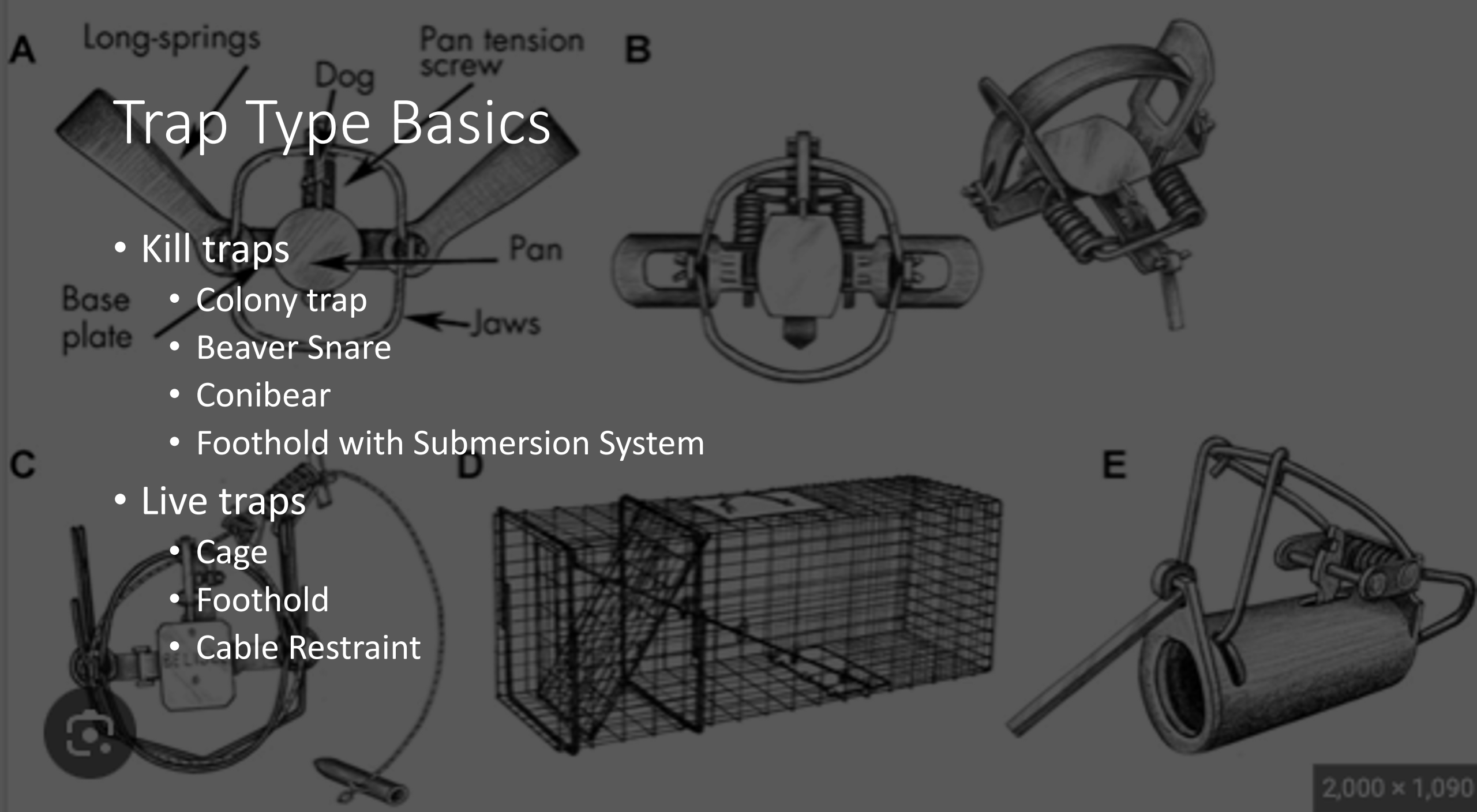
Trapping Gear needed for the new trapper

- Traps
- Backpack
- Gauntlet Gloves
- Lure/bait
- Waders
- Pliers
- Trap tags
- Trap Safety
- Dry Clothes

Trap Type Basics

- Kill traps
 - Colony trap
 - Beaver Snare
 - Conibear
 - Foothold with Submersion System

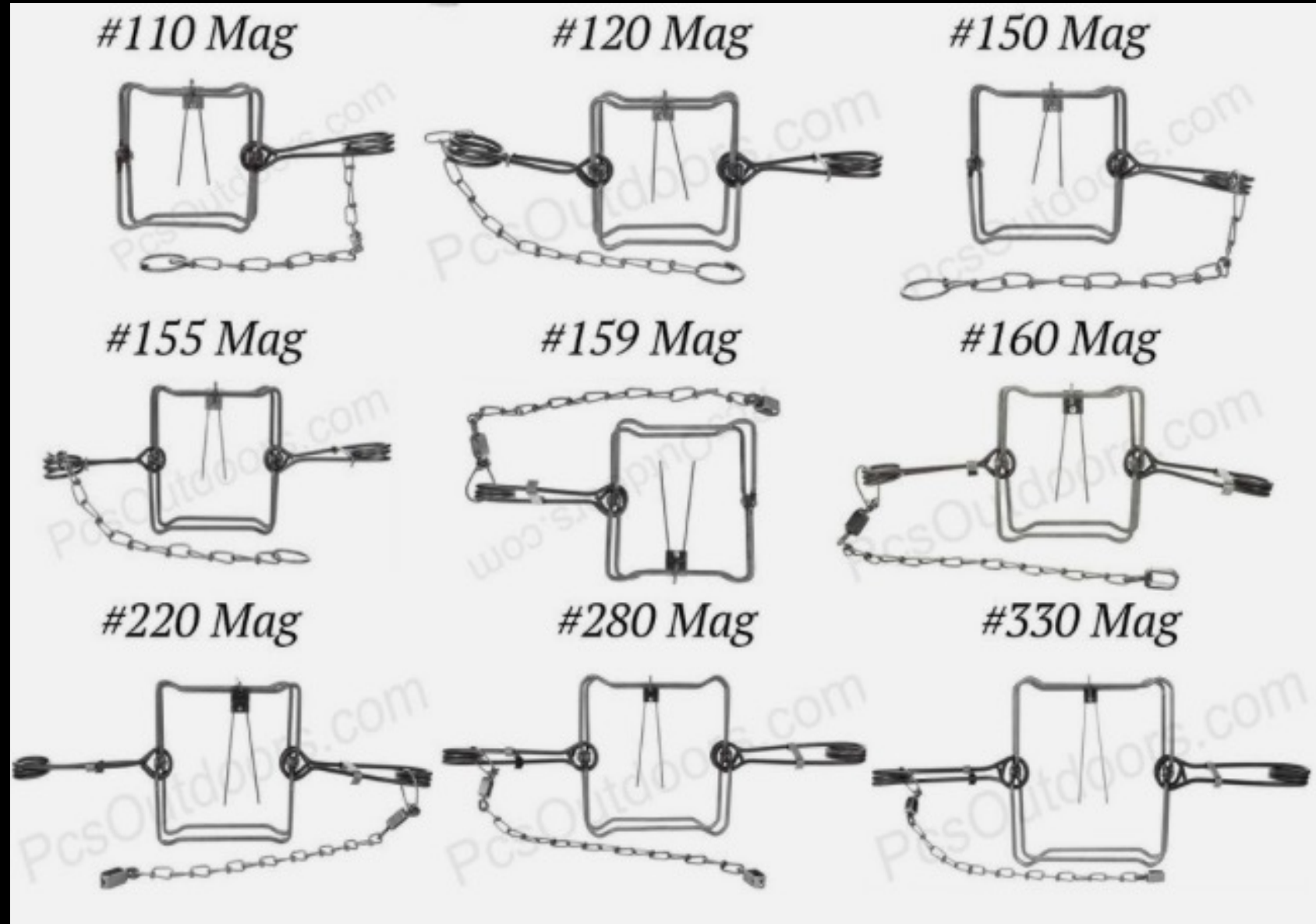
- Live traps
 - Cage
 - Foothold
 - Cable Restraint



Trap sizes: Conibear

- Conibear

- 110
- 120
- 150
- 155
- 160
- 220
- 280
- 330



Trap Size Long Spring

- Footholds
 - #0
 - #1
 - #11
 - #2
 - #4
 - #5



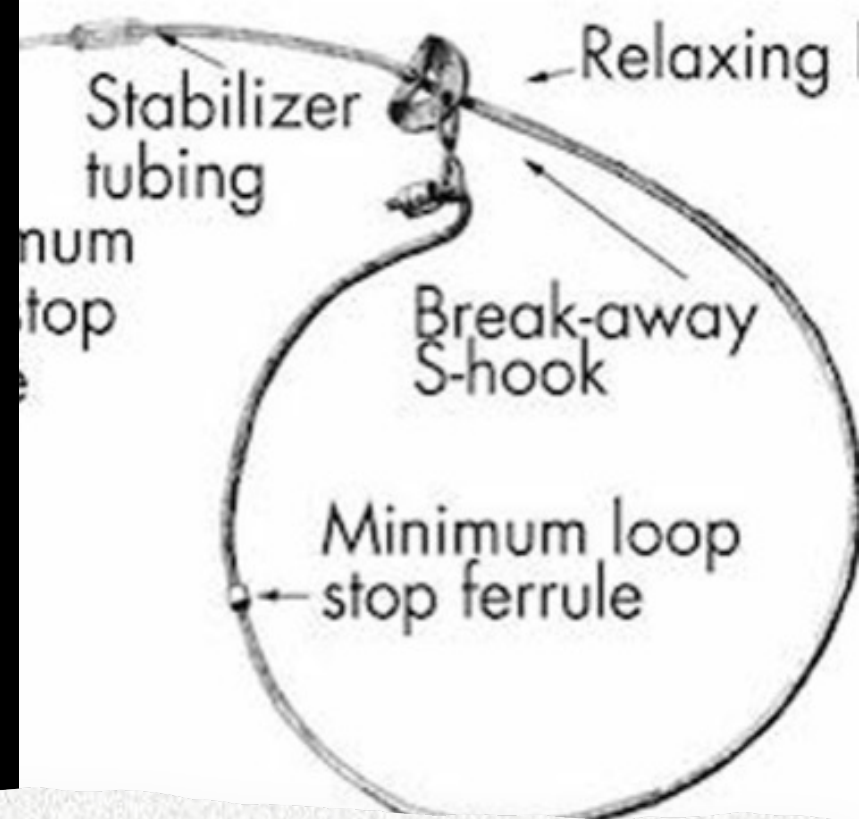
Trap size Coil Spring



My Trapping bag

- Backpack
- Tools
 - Setter
 - Axe
 - Gloves
- Traps
 - Seasonality
 - Coon/Mink/Muskra
t
 - Coyote Fox
 - Beaver Otter

- Chest Pack
 - Scents/Lures
 - Gauntlets
 - 550 cord
 - Trap Safety
 - Wire spool
 - Hand warmer



Trap accessories

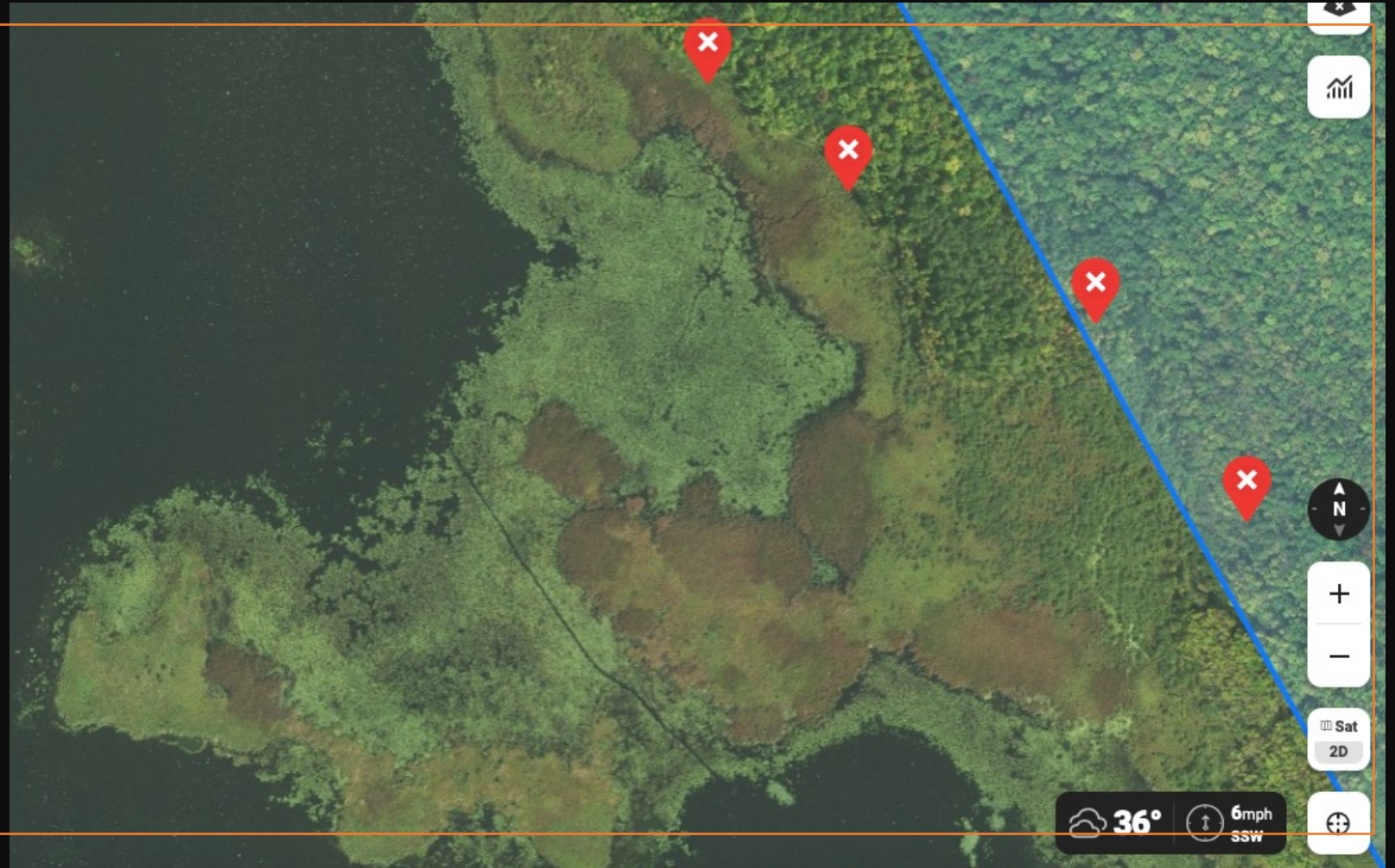
- Stakes
- Drags
- Swivels
- Cable
- Stops
- Breakaway device
- Relaxing Lock
- One way Slides



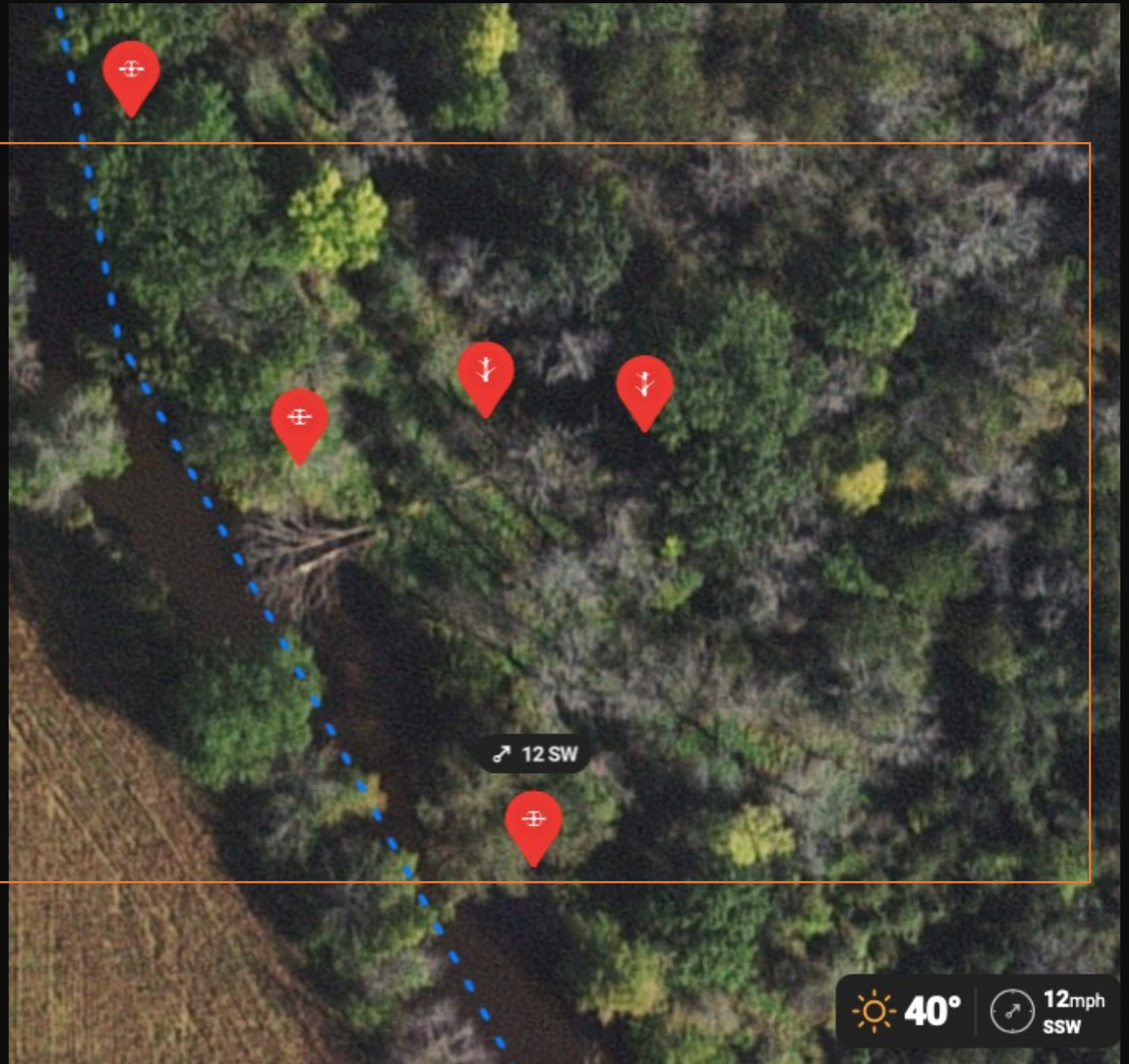
Identifying Area to trap

- OnX
- Scouting
 - Get out there and walk the creeks
 - Footprints

Beaver habitat Identification



Raccoon Habitat Identification



Coyote Habitat Identification



Pawprints

OPPOSUM



anything available to them

Opossum are slow moving marsupials that fake death when threatened by predators. They may have as many as 16 young per litter and are opportunistic feeders. Opossum will eat most



STRIPED SKUNK



amphibians and are efficient nest predators.

Skunks are famous for their bad smell. While skunks are very abundant, people don't notice them until they have sprayed. While their main diet consists of insects, they will eat rodents, birds, small



RACCOON



the day. Raccoons are not true hibernators, but will slumber in dens for several weeks during extreme winter weather.

Raccoons are very adaptable to their environment, whether it's an urban neighborhood or rural farmland. Raccoons are considered nocturnal, but can be active during

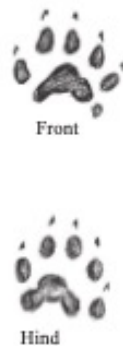


FISHER



solitary animals throughout most of the year. The diet includes small mammals, birds, insects, and berries. Fisher are one of the few predators that readily prey on porcupines.

Fisher are woodland animals, and among the most effective predators on land. They are also the fastest American animal in trees. Fisher are

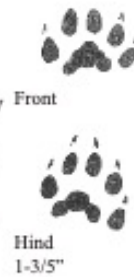


MARTEN



of their small size, marten also preyed upon by foxes, coyotes, and various raptor species.

Marten inhabit the northern forests, where heavily timbered areas provide excellent habitat. Marten prey upon rodents, insects, small birds, and squirrels. Because



SHORT-TAILED WEASEL



search for prey and water. Despite their tiny size, they eat mice, other small mammals, and a few birds. Animals that prey on them include the long-tailed weasel.

The metabolism of the short-tailed weasel is extreme, they must constantly



LONG-TAILED WEASEL



than themselves, such as rabbits. Weasels will cache food to eat later. The male short-tailed weasel is similar in size to the female long-tailed weasel.

By weight, the weasels may be the most aggressive predators. They will prey upon animals bigger



BADGER



as gophers, ground squirrels, prairie dogs and moles. The badger is the state mammal of WI and a protected species.

Badgers are powerful diggers. They have strong front legs and long, heavy claws. They eat rodents, such

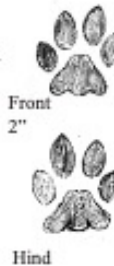


BOBCAT



mammals, and white-tailed deer. Bobcats are shy and rarely seen. Even so, bobcats are abundant and expand their range in Wisconsin annually.

Bobcat are easily recognized by their brown fur, spotted underbelly and a black tipped tail. Their diet in WI consists of rabbits, other small

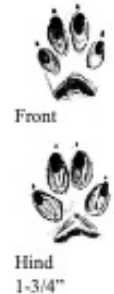


RED AND GRAY FOX



agricultural areas, but can be found in other habitat types. Gray fox are found throughout WI, and prefer brush land woody habitats. Gray fox are also tree climbers. Their diet includes rodents, birds, insects, and wild fruits.

Red fox come in several color phases, but most are red, with a white tipped tail. Red fox prefer open

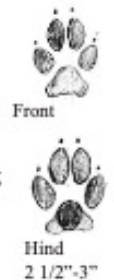


COYOTE



environment. While rodents and carrion make up most of their diet, coyotes will kill and eat a domestic pet.

Coyotes are one of the most studied and talked about animals in the country. Coyote are abundant and very adaptable to a changing



GRAY WOLF



smell, and sharp eyesight. The white-tailed deer is the primary prey in WI, but wolves also eat beaver, elk, rabbits and other small mammals. Wolves hunt as a pack. Average pack size in WI is 5-7 animals. Wolves will use dens between March and June while raising pups.

Wolves are efficient predators. They have good hearing, a well developed sense of



- Muskrats

- #110
- Stakes/Stand
- Bag of carrots
- Colony trap
- or
- #1 Coil Spring
- HAGz Stand
- Fencing rebar

Where to start?



- Weasels
 - Wood Plank 1x6
 - Trim Nails
 - 2-inch hole saw
 - Rat Trap
 - Dead mice





Questions on Part One?