

# Trapping Matters

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REPORT ON 2023-2024 WORKSHOPS

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Bob Byrne, of Bob Byrne Consulting, demonstrates the use of foothold traps at a Trapping Matters Workshop in Edmond, Oklahoma.  
PHOTO BY JOLI VOLLERS, CONSERVATION LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

# Welcome to Trapping Matters

**REGULATED TRAPPING CAN BE AMONG THE MOST CONTENTIOUS** and least understood of all programs within an agency's wildlife responsibilities. Many agencies have some staff unfamiliar with trapping, and as a result, avoid discussions about it.

**TRAPPING MATTERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS** were initiated in 2003 to help improve agency professionals' ability to communicate about the role and benefits of regulated trapping in wildlife management. Since their inception, more than **6,500 wildlife professionals** have attended workshops throughout the United States. The Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, and state fish and wildlife agencies partner to deliver workshops related to effective communication and regulated trapping. The fundamental purpose of these professional development workshops is to advance awareness and communication skills related to regulated trapping among agency professionals and to increase understanding of Best Management Practices for regulated trapping in the United States.

## WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Workshops cover:

- Introduction to Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping
- A cursory demonstration and overview for familiarity with basic trapping techniques
- Human dimensions studies overview and public understanding of regulated trapping
- How the media works and how to use key messages
- Tips on effective communication
- Social media tips
- Key messages for communication about trapping and wildlife management

## DURING 2023-2024 WE ENGAGED ...

**350**

Attendees

**20**

State  
Agencies

**16**

Universities

**6**

Federal  
Agencies

**3**

Indian Tribal  
Organizations

**9**

NGOs

*Partnering to fund conservation  
and connect people with nature.*



THESE PROJECTS WERE SUPPORTED BY  
Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration funds, through grants  
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THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY  
Multistate Conservation grant  
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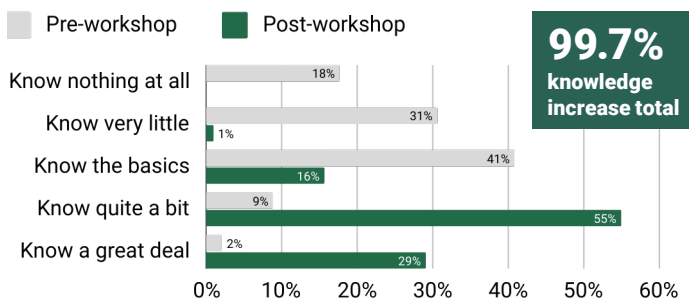
## The Trapping Matters Exit Survey

# READY, SET, GROW

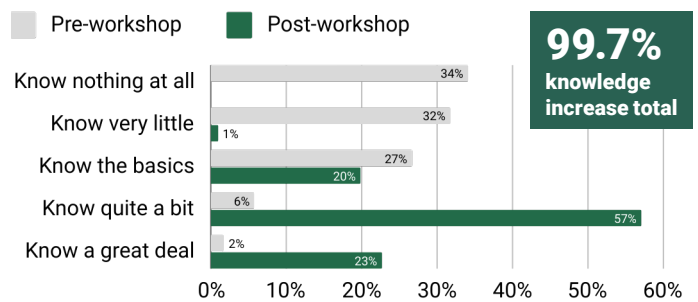
Trapping Matters Workshops consistently receive positive feedback for their educational content. Post-workshop, 95-99% of participants knew “the basics,” “quite a bit,” or a “great deal” about topics covered. Here are some of the ways respondents said they expanded their knowledge during the course.

### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ...

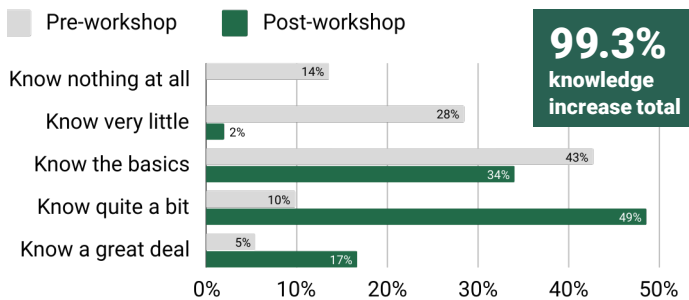
#### How to effectively communicate about trapping



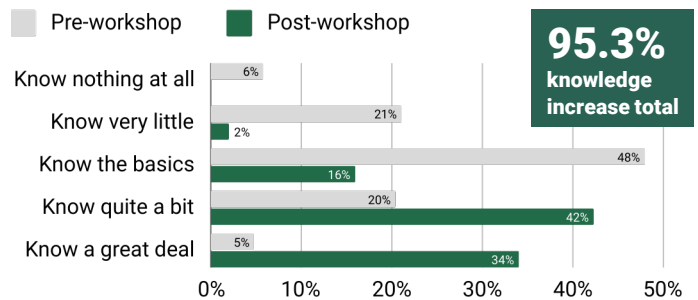
#### The AFWA program to develop BMPs



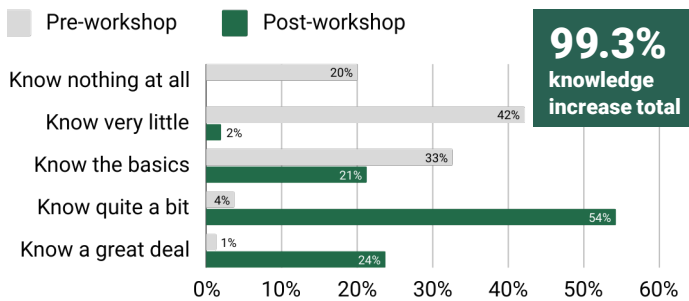
#### The technical aspects of trapping



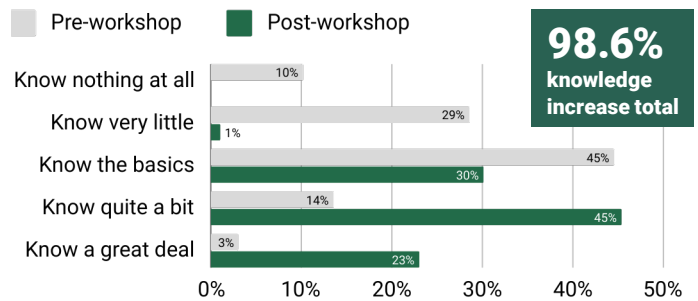
#### The relationship between trapping and conservation



#### Public attitudes about trapping



#### Skills & techniques to capture furbearers humanely



### OVERALL WORKSHOP *Ranked on a scale from 1 to 5.*

Value of the Information



Objectives Clearly Stated



Knowledge of Instructors



Delivery Style of Instructors

