



# Trapping Matters

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PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOPS

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PHOTO BY SAMARA TRUSSO, PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Adam Vashon, a Wildlife Biologist with USDA Wildlife Services, discusses Best Management Practices in the use of foothold traps.

# 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 **5,000 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, 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 the following:

- 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

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



**THESE PROJECTS WERE SUPPORTED BY** Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration funds, through grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Trapping Matters Exit Survey

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

Value of Information



Objectives Clearly Stated



Knowledge of Instructors



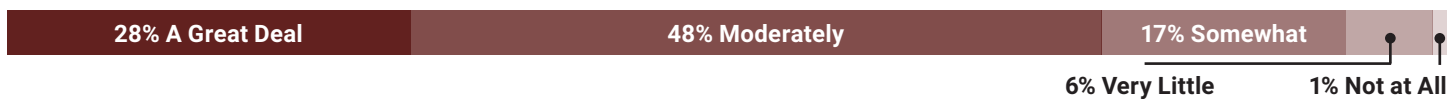
Delivery Style of Instructors



**HOW MUCH INFORMATION COVERED IN THE WORKSHOP DID YOU ALREADY KNOW?**



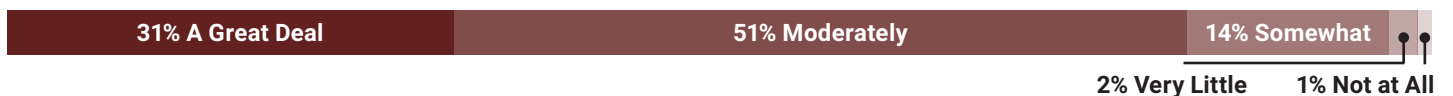
**DID ATTENDING MAKE YOU MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TRAPPING?**



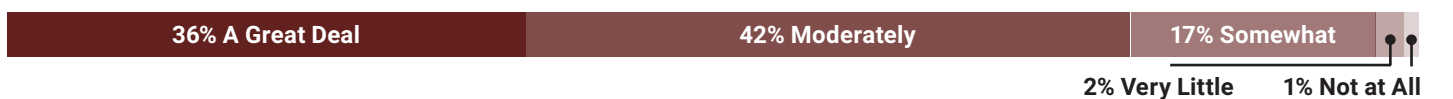
**ARE YOU MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE BMP PROCESS TO IMPROVE TRAPPING?**



**ARE YOU MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HOW TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT TRAPPING TO OTHERS?**



**ARE YOU BETTER PREPARED TO DISCUSS TRAPPING WITH THE PUBLIC?**

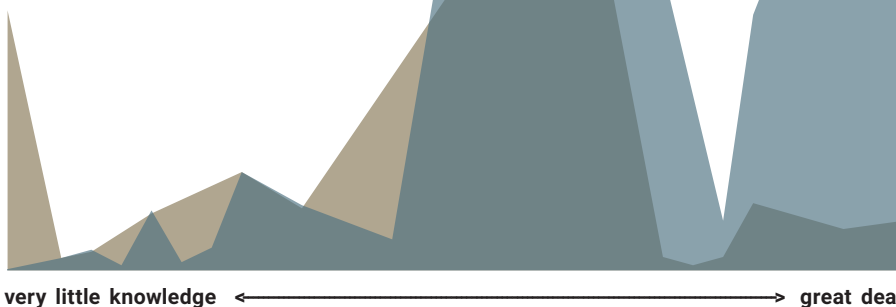


**PLEASE INDICATE THE CHANGE IN YOUR PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE BEFORE AND AFTER THE WORKSHOP.**

PRE  
POST

**35.7%**

Average knowledge gained



*Public Understanding/  
Opinions of Trapping*

PRE  
POST

very little knowledge ← → great deal

*The Key Messages and Techniques in  
Communicating Trapping Information*

PRE  
POST

very little knowledge ← → great deal