

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011- 25

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT BANNING INHUMANE ANIMAL TRAPPING ON
NEW MEXICO PUBLIC LANDS THROUGH THE USE OF STRANGULATION
SNARES, STEEL-JAW TRAPS AND OTHER BODY-GRIPPING ANIMAL TRAPS**

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational trapping of furbearing animals using hidden and unmarked strangulation snares, steel-jaw traps and other body-gripping animal traps is permitted on many of New Mexico's public lands, including in the nearby Santa Fe National Forest;

WHEREAS, strangulation snares, steel-jaw traps and other body-gripping animal traps are not discriminatory regarding the age, sex or species captured and their use on public lands results in the unnecessary pain, suffering, maiming and killing of untold numbers of "non-target" animals, including domestic dogs and cats, rabbits, deer, songbirds, eagles, owls, hawks, and all manner of threatened and endangered species;

WHEREAS, trappers using strangulation snares, steel-jaw traps and other body-gripping animal traps are not required to mark the location of their set traps hidden on New Mexico public lands, including near hiking trails, water sources, campgrounds and recreation areas;

WHEREAS, humans have suffered injuries and companion animals have been injured, maimed and killed by hidden and unmarked steel-jaw traps on New Mexico's public lands;

WHEREAS, tourism to northern New Mexico is of major economic benefit and concern to Santa Fe County and its merchants and residents;

WHEREAS, millions of people and numerous organizations, including the American Veterinarian Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, the World Veterinary Association, and the National Animal Control Association, have declared strangulation snares, steel-jaw traps and other body-gripping animal traps to be inhumane;

WHEREAS, eliminating a practice that inhibits the tourist-friendly environment of our County and region will benefit the County and foster an even greater appreciation of the outstanding natural environment that includes and surrounds our County;

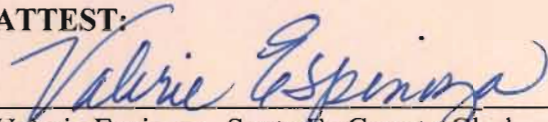
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS: The Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports banning the use of strangulation snares, steel-jaw traps and other body-gripping animal traps on New Mexico public lands.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 22nd day of FEBRUARY 2011.

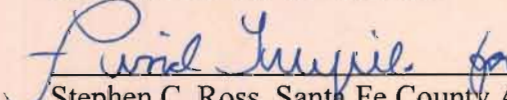
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY


Virginia Vigil, Chair

ATTEST:


Valerie Espinoza, Santa Fe County Clerk

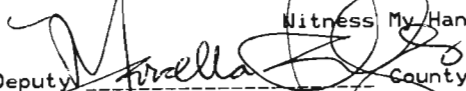
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Stephen C. Ross, Santa Fe County Attorney

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 16

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 29TH Day Of April, 2011 at 01:29:47 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1633686
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County


Deputy _____ Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 2

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 23RD Day Of February, 2011 at 09:52:50
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1627580
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County


Deputy _____ Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



Marcella Salazar

From: Mira Fong [rainclouds@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 10:42 AM
To: Daniel Mayfield
Subject: Santa Fe County Contact Form Submission

Web form results:

Name: Mira Fong
Email: rainclouds@comcast.net

Message:

Please support the Resolution 2011 to BAN leg hold traps on public land in NM. Thanks

SFO CLERK RECORDED 04/29/2011

Marcella Salazar

From: Teresa Seamster [tcseam@qwest.net]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 11:34 PM
To: Virginia Vigil; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; Daniel Mayfield; Robert A. Anaya
Subject: Support for Resolution B
Attachments: Comments Anti-Trap BCC.pdf

Dear County Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration of my attached letter in support of the Anti-Steel Jaw Trap Resolution.

This Resolution is the result of many concerned residents writing from many NM counties that see a largely unregulated and unaccountable trapping group creating a destructive situation on our public lands. New Mexico counties need to move away from poor wildlife practices and protect public resources and public safety. There are much safer and more humane alternatives than these types of traps. There is no financial benefit to allowing indiscriminate traps that have been proven as a leading cause for the decline of all fur species. And, there is every ethical and moral reason to ban them.

Teresa Seamster
104 Vaquero Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87508

SFC CLENN RECORDED 04/29/2011

**I would like to say thank you to all the Commissioners for examining this issue
SUPPORTING THE BANNING OF INHUMANE ANIMAL TRAPPING ON NM PUBLIC
LANDS THROUGH THE USE OF STEEL-JAW TRAPS, KILL-TYPE TRAPS, SNARE
TRAPS AND ANY MODIFIED VERSION OF SUCH TRAPS**

Trapping on public lands is just becoming an issue for residents of New Mexico because most don't know that unlimited trapping is still legal on most public lands in our state or that steel-jaw traps, snares and lethal traps are still allowed. I'll try and summarize why citizens' resolutions like this have been passed by councilors and commissioners in Dona Ana County, Silver City, Las Cruces, Mesilla, Reserve and elsewhere in NM in the past several months.

1. First, steel jaw leg-hold traps, body gripping traps and strangulation snares are antiquated, indiscriminate and are considered inhumane in many states and have been banned in Arizona, Colorado, Washington, California as well as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Florida. They are also banned in 89 countries.

2. The first rule in hunting is "be sure of your target." Traps are hidden and don't discriminate between target or non-target species, males, females, juveniles, wild or domestic animals. Trapping is responsible for thousands of injuries and deaths of non-target wildlife, dogs, cats and other domestic pets, along with injuries to the owners who try to free them. Trapping with non-selective traps, is a leading cause for the decline of all species of furbearing animals in the US.

3. New Mexico allows trapping every day of the year on national forests, BLM land and other public lands. There are no seasons and no bag limits. There is no supervision of traps to see if they are properly placed or if the trapped animals have been released.



Photo taken February 18, 2011 by group of local hikers outside Winston, NM

Backpackers have reported being told to "Get Off" public land by trappers because they are trapping there. Groups on outings have been told that there are dozens of hidden traps where they are headed and that it's "their fault" if they get hurt. Hikers have come across trapped wildlife that have been left so long in a trap that they have chewed off the trapped limb in order to get free. These antiquated traps are unnecessarily cruel, dangerous to anyone in their vicinity and still widely used in our state.

Finally, traps are frequently placed near trails, campgrounds and water sources. Legally, traps may be hidden 25 yards from a trail, 50 yards from a water source, and ¼ mile from rest stops, picnic areas, public campgrounds, boat launch areas and dwellings. It takes a child or a pet a few minutes to wander that far to explore something. Trappers are not required to post any sign that traps are there.

I've been a kindergarten teacher in Santa Fe for 16 years and with teachers and parents have taken groups of up to 60 children at a time into the SF National Forest on hikes and field trips. All of us were completely unaware that traps capable of crushing a foot or leg could be hidden so close to public campgrounds, trails and water. My family and friends have hiked, photographed wildlife and camped in the Ojito Wilderness, Carson NF and in the Black Range and not known these types of traps were permitted there. Estimates from interviews with trappers in Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly are that each trapper can routinely catch over 50 cats and dogs in their traps each year along with many prohibited species like ducks, herons, owls, quail, javelina, bear, deer and coatis. The disappearance of these animals is usually blamed on coyotes. Accurate yearly statistics on trapping are hard to come by.

NM Game & Fish reports that only 28% of trappers have filed their mandatory harvest reports for this past year. However, in 2004 they reported that there were 767 trappers in NM that trapped 7,344 target animals and killed an unknown number of non-target animals. At the same time, there were 449,000 New Mexicans that were identified as "wildlife watchers" and 387,000 tourists that visited New Mexico with wildlife viewing listed as a primary reason for coming. Each trapper paid the state \$20 for the unlimited license to trap and an estimated \$670,000 (or less than \$875 per trapper) was generated through the purchase of equipment and the sale of pelts. By comparison, almost a BILLION dollars was generated in New Mexico by wildlife watching. A 2005 Research & Polling Survey commissioned by the local Sierra Club chapter, reported 63% of New Mexicans supported the banning of "leg-hold, snare or lethal traps on public lands in NM."

If trapping is going to be allowed in our state that strongly supports and benefits from the viewing and enjoyment of wild animals alive in the wild, then at the very least inhumane traps should be banned, animal suffering prevented and public safety on our public lands improved.

Teresa Seamster
104 Vaquero Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Marcella Salazar

From: Carol Norton [carolnortonnm@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 5:49 PM
To: Daniel Mayfield
Subject: Santa Fe County Contact Form Submission

Web form results:

Name: Carol Norton
Email: carolnortonnm@yahoo.com

Message:

Please support of Resolution 2011 to ban leghold traps on public lands, to be heard tomorrow at the Commission meeting. Kathleen Holian of District 4 is the sponsor of this resolution.

Marcella Salazar

From: goldcactus [gcestate@cybermesa.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 7:27 AM
To: Daniel Mayfield
Subject: Please BAN the use of steel-jaw,,strangulation snare, and other body-gripping animal traps.....

Commissioner, Mayfield, .⁹

Please BAN the use of steel-jaw,,strangulation snare, and other body-gripping animal traps.

These type of traps are needlessly cruel to wildlife. They often ensnare wildlife that is not the main target of the traps. Another major problem with these traps is that the regulations on their use are not well-enforced.

This means that the traps are often placed too close to trails and other access points into the National Forest and wilderness areas. Unsuspecting pets have been injured. There have even been cases of human injury. I heard about one incident in which a horseback rider was thrown when the horse's leg was caught in one.

I strongly believe that snare and steel-jaw traps should be banned in New Mexico.
Thank you for your time with this.

Gwendolyn Zaxus
76 Ocean View Dr.
Cerrillos, NM 87010

STC CLERK RECORDED 04/29/2011

Marcella Salazar

From: Judy Williams [jkwilliams24@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 7:56 PM
To: Virginia Vigil; Liz Stefanics; Robert A. Anaya; Daniel Mayfield; Kathy Holian
Subject: Tuesday meeting - leg traps

Dear Commissioners:

The Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners will hear, on Tuesday, a resolution to ban the use of steel-jaw, strangulation snare, and other body-gripping animal traps. While presumably intended for wolves and coyotes, they have also trapped pets and other animals, including horses near riding trails.

The traps are a medieval, cruel practice. Wildlife should not be treated this way, nor should our pets. National forests, state lands and open spaces, as well as private lands, should not have these instruments of torture. I hope you will vote yes on the resolution on Tuesday and include it in your land use plans and codes.

The state of New Mexico has placed a moratorium on the cruel practice of placing leg traps to catch animals. We hope this ban will be made permanent.

I am unable to attend on Tuesday, so please accept this as my testimony. Thank you for all your hard work.

Judy Williams
Santa Fe

Marcella Salazar

From: Evalyn Bemis [evalyn@newmexico.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 5:20 PM
To: Virginia Vigil; Kathy S. Holian; Liz Stefanics; Daniel Mayfield; Robert A. Anaya
Subject: coyote
Attachments: coyotegirl with evil trap.JPG; coyotegirl with kerry.JPG; coyotegirl without trap.JPG; coyotegirl.JPG; coyotegirl-doped.JPG; coyotegirl's paw.JPG

I am writing in support of Commissioner Holian's Resolution to ban the use of steel-jawed traps in Santa Fe County. The images show a coyote that was caught in such a trap in February 2004. The trap was legally set in Rancho Viejo near Eldorado but the ground stake came loose and the young female coyote spent nearly four weeks dragging the trap around as she tried to survive.

Game and Fish were called to find her with the intention to shoot her and end her misery. Instead, she made it all the way to Arroyo Hondo where she followed a dog-walker home and laid down under a juniper, clearly exhausted. Kerry Mower of Game and Fish came and darted her, and then made the decision to take her to the Wildlife Center to see if her life could be saved. He said he admired her tenacity and wanted to give her a chance to live.

Dr Ramsay of the Wildlife Center first removed the paw (which was barely attached) and eventually amputated the leg. My understanding is that after the coyote had regained her health and strength she was released with the hope she could make it in the wild.

Steel traps are unnecessarily cruel, and often catch dogs, cats, and other creatures that aren't the intended target. There really isn't a place or need for their continued use here.

Sincerely,

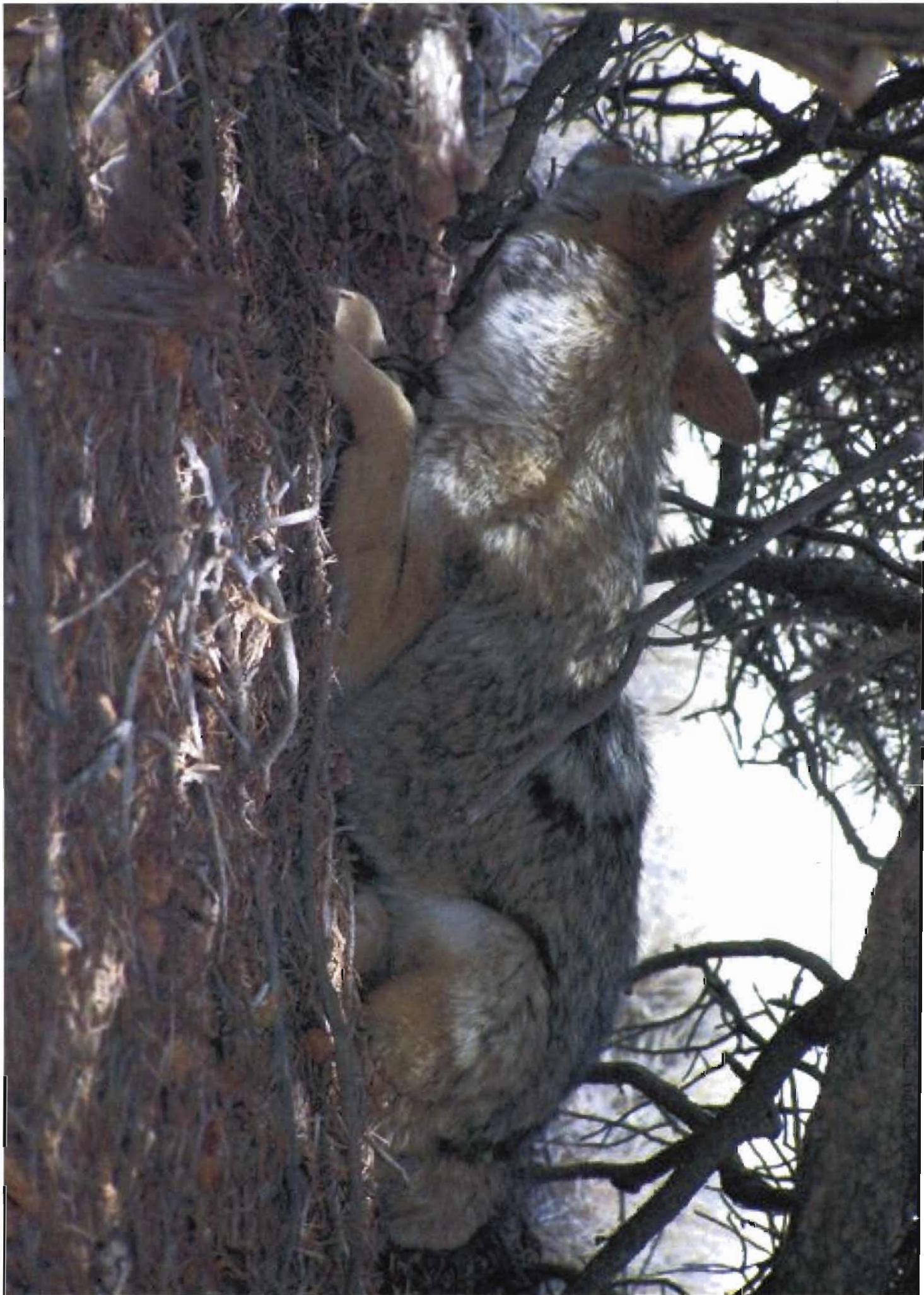
Evalyn Bemis

SFC CLERK RECORDED 04/29/2011











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