

Missoulian, March 5, 2009

Letters to the Editor

Don't set snares on public lands

Re: Dennis Schutz's Feb. 19 guest column:

If you trappers want to set traps, do it on private land, not on public land. Public land is for the use of the public and we shouldn't have to worry that our dog, horse, child or ourselves may step into a trap. Nor should we have to go to a class and take lessons on how to release a hurt or dying pet or person.

You are not using your traps to snare a pesky or dangerous animal in the neighborhood. You are using them to kill indiscriminately. Just out of curiosity, what is being done with all of these murdered fur-bearing animals?

You refer to trappers as "the most proficient harvester out there." The word "harvest" is being misused. "Harvest" is "to gather in an agricultural crop." You are using your "proficiency" on the use of a torturing and killing piece of equipment to kill everything that encounters it. And it does not take much knowledge to set a trap.

Trapping is about as modern as the "Shootout at the OK Corral."

Virginia R. Smith, Missoula