

I am responding to letters and online posts regarding the picture of my dog Otis who was caught in two leg hold traps up Lost Horse Canyon a couple months ago.

The picture was not staged or posed like some have attested. These accusations have occurred on the web and in local newspapers. On Youtube for instance where the video I did resides (there have been 3900 views so far) 80 comments have been made, some quite vicious.

It has been stated that the picture was faked due to the newness of the trap. Well it did in reality look to be brand new; the one on his back side however was quite old but not photographed.

I kept my camera in my pack as I was pretty freaked out and since the dog didn't seem in imminent danger I paused for a second as my ski companion yelled "let me get a shot".

As I have said before, the dog wasn't seriously hurt and after figuring out how to release the traps everything worked out ok. The upsetting things were if we hadn't found him before the storm moved in that night and he had frozen to death, or that he got gangrene which my veterinarian said is likely if they are in a trap too long. Plus, animals caught in traps have done things in desperation that I don't want to talk about.

You know, after spending quite a bit of time out in the woods here for over 25 years, I have yet to see a bobcat, fisher, wolverine, or pine martin; I wonder why? Are they predators whose populations need "controlling"?

I appreciate everyone keeping this issue alive in the newspapers as it is a real wake up call for many people.

Steve Slocomb  
Looking Glass Films  
406-360-1226  
web: [www.360bigsky.com](http://www.360bigsky.com)  
email: [video@montana.com](mailto:video@montana.com)  
Flickr photos: [tinyurl.com/6hl695](http://tinyurl.com/6hl695)