

Ravalli Republic

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Trapping

Witnessing my dogs' indiscriminate and inhumane choking to death in a snare trap and experiencing the current financial downturn have together, for me, pointed to an economic stimulus for Montana.

The virtually unregulated trapping on our public lands is a real opportunity for all of us to kill our most rare and beautiful species for profit. I feel such a fool for having hiked all my life in wilderness without having capitalized on the killing of animals. To think of all the pleasure missed in the maiming, torturing, and slaughtering of the trapping is saddening.

Decades of working to improve and learn new skills, and make career changes, could have been at least partially replaced with killing animals for profit. Toiling to help family members get college educations was maybe foolish? They could have learned to slaughter wilderness species instead?

Our family would now have more opportunity to do things together. We could attend Fish, Wildlife and Parks trapping hearings. Older family members could ask the commissioners what their fate would be if animals could not be killed for profit. The young grandchildren could ask how their mothers and fathers will be able to provide for them without the killing of animals.

How terrible it is I have lived all these years in Montana and not enjoyed the company of trappers and the people they sell dead animal parts to. How terrible.

John Ruther

Hamilton

<http://www.ravallirepublic.com/articles/2009/03/05/letters/90letters.txt>

