

Questions & Answers About Traplines



FALL 2021

Q: What is a trapline?

A: A trapline is an area for which registration is granted to one or more licensed trappers for the trapping of fur-bearing animals. Traplines are geographic areas that may span hundreds of square kilometres.

Traplines exist throughout the proposed Kitselas Treaty Settlement Lands and Kitselas Area and are registered by Kitselas members and non-members alike. Registering a trapline is not the same as ownership of the land. A trapline is a permitted use on a section of land, not ownership of that land.

A trapline can be registered to multiple individuals.

Q: I was left a trapline in a will, does registration transfer to me automatically?

A: No, if you were left a trapline in a will, you need to register for the trapline through the Province of British Columbia and provide necessary proof that the trapline is to be transferred to you (i.e. a copy of the will, a death certificate).

Q: I didn't register for a trapline and now it is registered to someone else. Can I still register for this trapline?

A: Yes, multiple individuals can be registered to a single trapline. You will still need to apply for registration through the Province of British Columbia and your application will need the signatures of all existing registered holders on the trapline.

Q: How does the Treaty affect traplines?

A: The main change to traplines after Treaty is that if a trapline owner gives up or loses their trapline, the Province of British Columbia will not grant it to someone else again without the consent of Kitselas. Kitselas will have the opportunity to register for the trapline first.

Q: Will I lose my registration to a trapline within the proposed Kitselas Treaty Settlement Lands after Treaty?

A: No, after Treaty, all traplines that exist within the proposed Kitselas Treaty Settlement Lands continue to be registered to the same people.

Q: Who manages trapline registration?

A: The Province of British Columbia manages trapline registration and transfers.

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Q: How can I get help with registering for a trapline or finding out historical information about a trapline within the proposed Kitselas Treaty Settlement Lands?

A: The Treaty Office can help direct you to the proper Province of British Columbia contacts and processes regarding traplines. Please contact Erica Louie by email e.louie@kitselasdlp.ca for assistance.

The Treaty Office can also share with you information on how the traplines within the proposed Treaty Settlement Lands were historically used.

Q: Why do I need to register for a trapline when the trapline has been historically used by my family?

A: The Province of British Columbia introduced mandatory universal trapline registration in 1925. It is important to register for traplines using this registration system.

If an Indigenous person wishes to sell furs commercially (even within their traditional territory), they need to be registered to a commercial trapline.

Q: Do I need to register for a trapline to trap?

A: No, trapping is an Aboriginal Right and a trapping license and registered trapline are not required for First Nations trapping on their traditional territory for food, social and ceremonial purposes. For trapping outside of the traditional territory, First Nations are to abide by the Province of British Columbia's Hunting and Trapping Regulations. If an Indigenous person wishes to sell furs commercially (even within their traditional territory), they need to be registered to a commercial trapline.

Q: How can I add individuals to the trapline I have registered?

A: To add individuals to a registered trapline, a [BC Trapline Registration Form](#) must be completed with all new and remaining trapline holder(s) signing the form. This form needs to be completed by all people that will be registered on the trapline moving forward.