Invasive Species Council of BC

A Guide to Invasive Pig Trapping in British Columbia

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Cover photos: D. Mohrabyan, Getty Images; J. Whyte, Getty Images; N. Burton, Getty Images

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A disclaimer to farmers and those with pigs

Please note that this toolkit is not for farmers/owners trying to recapture pigs that have recently escaped their property. Under the Province of British Columbia, an invasive pig is deemed as those not in captivity or are not otherwise under a person's control. This means that once a domestic pig is no longer in confinement and is outside of the owner's property, it is considered an invasive pig and will be treated in the same manner as other invasive pigs on the land in regard to capture and euthanasia. It is illegal to let pigs roam free, and pigs must be confined to private property. Listed under Schedule A of the Designation and Exemption Regulation of the *B.C. Wildlife Act*, (y) feral pigs means pigs of the genus *Sus* that are not in captivity or are not otherwise under a person's control.

A note on terminology: Feral versus Invasive

While the terms ***feral*** and ***invasive*** are used interchangeably amongst the public, and the *B.C. Wildlife Act* refers to pigs outside of confinement as "Feral pigs", they will be referred to as "invasive pigs" within this document.

1.0 Overview of Invasive Pigs

1.1 What is an Invasive Pig?

The Government of British Columbia defines **an invasive pig as any pig that is not in captivity or under a person's control. This includes domestic breeds, Eurasian wild boar, and hybrid species**.

1.2 Why is This a Concern

Invasive pigs are a major concern to British Columbia, due to the damage they can cause once introduced to a new region. They can outcompete native species for resources and introduce diseases to the ecosystems they find themselves in. Any pigs found off private property are considered an invasive species as they disrupt ecosystems by preying on native species, competing for resources, and damaging habitats. They forage indiscriminately, disturbing soil and vegetation, which leads to erosion, reducing water quality and biodiversity. Agricultural lands suffer from crop damage and increased disease risks. Their rapid reproduction further exacerbates these impacts, complicating control efforts (Invasive Species Council of B.C., 2019)[1].

1.3 Overview in Canada

Invasive pigs can be found in the prairie provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba with occasional sightings in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. However, their range and population are expanding in western Canada (Shewaga, 2021)[2].

Figure 1: Invasive pigs are opportunistic feeders and may consume a range of crops, causing extensive agricultural damage. Credit: J. Whyte, Getty Images

1.4 Biology of a Pig

Pigs are a large omnivorous mammal of the family *Suidae*. They form large groups called sounders consisting of adult female pigs as well as juveniles. Once reaching maturity, male pigs leave the sounder and live a predominantly solitary lifestyle. Once introduced to a new region invasive pigs can outcompete native species for food, destroy the nests of ground nesting species, and can even kill livestock (Invasive Species Council of B.C., 2019)[1].

1.5 How Do You Know You've Seen an Invasive Pig?

Invasive pigs leave clear signs on the landscape. Easy ways to identify signs of invasive pigs are tracks, tufts of fur, and wallows where they frequently bathe. Damage examples include uprooted vegetation in agricultural fields or disturbed forest floors where pigs forage (Squeal on Pigs Manitoba, n.d.)[3].

For detailed visuals, refer to the ISCBC's Squeal on Pigs landing page.[i]

I've seen an invasive pig or signs of one. What should I do?

Be sure to save the following information to help you submit a report later on including:

- Precise location (GPS coordinates are recommended)
- Date and time
- Multiple photos of the pig (only if this can be done from a safe distance)
- Multiple photos of pig evidence (tracks, fur tufts, wallows.)
- Video can also be helpful
- Any other helpful details — such as number of pigs in the sounder and if piglets are present

2.0 Reporting Pigs and Signs of Disease

2.1 How Do You Report?

If there is an invasive pig sighting , you can use the Report Invasives app or the Squeal on Pigs app.

You can also report your sighting on ISCBC's website or use the Report an Invasive Species form the Province of British Columbia's website.

Instructions on how to use the Report Invasives app can be viewed on ISCBC's reporting webpage.[ii]

If you are unable to use an app, you can call ISCBC or check our website for a link to the reporting form. Visit our Report page[ii] to access our invasive species reporting form at the bottom of the page.

2.2 Reporting for Diseases and Signs of Disease

Invasive pigs pose significant risks to both wildlife and livestock due to their ability to carry and spread infectious diseases (Invasive Species Council of B.C., 2019)[1]. Monitoring for disease signs in trapped pigs is a critical step in invasive pig management, as early detection can help prevent outbreaks that threaten local ecosystems, agricultural operations, and human health. Certain diseases are federally reportable under the Health of Animals Act while others may be reported to a provincial authority, or not reported at all.

2.2.1 COMMON DISEASES OF CONCERN

Invasive pigs are known carriers of numerous diseases that pose significant risks to livestock, wildlife, and human health. Monitoring for signs of disease in trapped pigs is crucial for early detection and prevention of potential outbreaks. Diseases associated with invasive pigs include African swine fever (ASF), pseudorabies, swine brucellosis, leptospirosis, and various parasitic infections (Swine Health Ontario, n.d.)[4].

2.2.2 WHAT IS ASF?

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease that affects domestic and wild pigs. Although it does not pose a direct risk to human health, it causes severe illness with a high mortality rate in domestic and invasive pigs, and poses a food safety risk. ASF spreads through direct contact with infected pigs, contaminated feed, and surfaces like equipment or clothing. There is no cure or vaccine, making early detection and biosecurity measures critical. Outbreaks can have devastating impacts on pig populations and the pork industry (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 2024)[5].

2.2.3 SIGNS OF ASF IN PIGS

When conducting trap checks, observe pigs for symptoms such as:

- high fever
- loss of appetite
- weakness
- inability to stand
- reddening skin
- internal bleeding
- vomiting and diarrhea (sometimes bloody)
- abortions in pregnant sows
- death may occur suddenly or following a period of illness (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 2024)[5]

More details can be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website.[iii]

2.2.4 ASF REPORTING PROCEDURES

If disease is suspected, the next steps are to report the pigs in question. It is important to take pictures, and detailed notes of the pigs' behaviour or signs of disease. In B.C. if you suspect ASF or other diseases the BC Reportable Animal Disease Form[iv] should be used, to alert the provincial authorites of potential high risk dieases like ASF.

2.2.5 WHAT IS CANSPOTASF?

CanSpotASF is a national surveillance initiative designed to enhance early detection and response to ASF in Canada. It focuses on monitoring swine health, engaging veterinarians, producers and those dealing with invasive pigs setting a guide line for reporting, and tissue sampling protocols in the lab and the field. The goal is to protect Canada's pork industry by minimizing the risk of disease spread and ensuring rapid containment if detected. Maintaining biosecurity measures, such as disinfecting equipment and clothing after handling trapped pigs, is vital to reduce the risk of disease spread. By remaining vigilant and promptly reporting signs of disease, we can mitigate the health risks associated with invasive pig populations.

For more informaiton please visit Animal Health Canada website[v] for Tissue Sampling Protocols[vi], and Surveillance for ASF in Invasive Wild Pigs in Canada[vii] for decision matrices and best management practices.

2.3 **Safety**

Figure 2: A Pig Brig® passive trap system being set up. Credit: Pig Brig®

2.3.1 GENERAL SAFETY DURING TRAPPING ACTIVITIES

Before conducting a trap visit, always inform a designated individual within the pigs working group (Refer to section 3.0 for information on building partnerships and working groups). Check in with them both before and after completing your visit to ensure safety and accountability. Whenever possible, visit trap sites with a partner or in a group to minimize risks associated with wildlife encounters.

Carrying bear spray is essential, and if feasible, a shotgun or hunting rifle should also be brought for additional protection. Maintaining awareness of your surroundings is critical. Pay close attention to signs of wildlife such as scat, tracks, or claw marks on trees. If a wildlife carcass is found nearby, exercise caution, as it may indicate the presence of large predators like bears or cougars. In such cases, consider relocating the trapping site a few hundred meters away to avoid interfering with a predator's feeding area.

For safety and efficiency, always set up and dismantle traps with at least two people. Follow proper safety protocols, including wearing closed-toe shoes and heavy-duty gloves to prevent injuries, and follow any trap specific instructions. When handling heavy equipment, ensure that lifting is done with proper technique and with the assistance of a team member. If ladders are required to install or remove wildlife cameras, inspect them beforehand to confirm they are in good working condition. By following these precautions, field teams can reduce risks and enhance safety during trapping activities.

What is a "wildlife camera" or "trail camera"?

A wildlife camera, or "camera trap" is a camera that is automatically triggered by motion in its vicinity. These are used to collect images of wildlife present in the area.

2.3.2 EUTHANASIA AND DISPOSAL OF INVASIVE PIGS IN TRAPS

Please note that residents of B.C. require a federal firearms licence for legal posession of firearms in B.C. (Province of B.C., 2024)[7]. When invasive pigs are in the trap, only individuals with experience using firearms and who are licensed to use firearms should euthanize them. If possible, the shooter should position themselves at an elevated area where the gun can be aimed downward into the trap. Shooting horizontally from ground level poses a safety risk, as charging pigs may compromise aim and endanger the shooter. No one should enter the trap until all pigs have been euthanized (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8]. When transporting pig carcasses from the trapping site, at least two people should assist in moving them into truck beds or transport vehicles. For exceptionally large pigs, additional equipment such as a cow lift or deer hoist (for pigs 600 lbs or under) may be necessary. Alternatively, carcasses can be cut into smaller pieces for easier transport and storage. In such cases, a tarp should be laid down to minimize blood pooling on the ground. Gloves must be worn when handling carcasses to prevent pathogen transmission. Lastly, all pig remains should be properly disposed of from the trapping site.

2.3.3 BUILDING A SAFETY PLAN FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN PIG TRAPPING

Accidents can happen in the field. Ensure a plan is in place for all those involved in trapping. This plan can list procedures on what to do and who to contact in certain emergencies or situations. It is recommended to designate an individual to be the Safety Contact of your invasive pig working group. This may be an individual who isn't involved with physical field activities but is available to assist in-person (or coordinate assistance) in times of emergency.

Table 1: List of potential contacts in a safety plan

Situation/Emergency	Protocol/Actions to Take	Who to Call
Aggressive encounter with an invasive pig or other wildlife where public safety is at risk.	Leave the area as soon as possible Report incident to designated invasive pig working group Safety Contact	BC RAPP (report all poachers & polluters): 1-877-952-7277 Designated invasive pig working group Safety Contact
	If injuries are sustained, proceed with first aid until medical aid arrives/transport to hospital is arranged	911 (if serious injuries sustained) BC RAPP (report all poachers & polluters): 1-877-952-7277 Designated invasive pig working group Safety Contact
General injury while in the field (slips/trips/ falls, gunshot injury, etc.).	If serious injuries are sustained, contact 911 for emergency assistance.	911 Designated invasive pig working group safety contact
	For minor injuries, report to the designated safety contact within your invasive pigs working group.	Designated invasive pigs working group safety contact

3.0 Building Partnerships

3.1 The Importance of Partnerships

Successful invasive pig response requires strong partnerships across multiple sectors and land boundaries including private property, public land, and Indigenous territory. Collaboration from preventing their release, early reporting and partnerships for rapid response are vital.

Once a report is received, the next step is Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) to ensure a quick, effective response. Partnerships enable EDRR, improves trapping efficiency, and ensures coordinated action across jurisdictional boundaries. Engaging key stakeholders such as the Province of B.C., municipal governments, First Nations, industry, farmers, and local community members helps expand monitoring networks, streamline trapping efforts, and build long-term support for invasive pig control.

This section outlines the importance of partnerships in both EDRR and trapping initiatives, provides guidelines for stakeholder engagement through public outreach, and highlights examples of partnerships that can contribute to a more effective and coordinated response.

3.1.1 COORDINATED AND CONSISTENT OUTREACH

Engaging the public not only keeps locals aware of invasive pig presence but is also a method for gaining more partners. Engagement may include hosting a public outreach meeting regarding presence of invasive pigs in the community, or through posting educational signage in areas near pig traps and/or areas with confirmed pig sightings. Including a QR code that links to the Squeal on Pigs website as well as a call to get involved in local trapping initiatives can help with additional partnership recruitment. Other elements to put on signage may include visuals of invasive pig damage, an image of pig tracks compared to other wildlife tracks, information on how to identify invasive pigs, and who to contact if one is spotted.

Whether conducting outreach in-person, online or through signage, keeping consistent messaging for outreach is essential. With an abundance of outreach materials developed by Squeal on Pigs, ISCBC, and regionally focused programs, outreach is made easier with a list found here in Appendix 1. If multiple stakeholders are involved with outreach activities, sharing outreach resources such as printed resources in a predetermined physical central location or virtual resources on a shared online location will help ensure consistent messaging is being shared with the public.

3.1.2 EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Key partnerships to build may include but are not limited to: Indigenous, federal, provincial and municipal governments, local pork producers and farmers, local hunting & fishing clubs or associations, regional biologists, and those in academia. Local members of the community who have extensive knowledge of the land including hikers, mountain bikers, or anyone else involved in recreational activities on the land can play a key role in early detection and rapid response efforts, including reporting any signs of invasive pigs. An extensive list of potential partners and contact information can be found in Appendix 2.

3.1.3 WILDLIFE CAMERA DETECTION NETWORKS

Wildlife camera detection networks are essential for monitoring and managing invasive pig populations. These networks play a critical role in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) by providing real-time visual data on pig presence, movement patterns, group size, and behavior. This timely information allows for more precise and efficient deployment of trapping efforts, ultimately saving time and resources.

In addition to improving operational efficiency, camera networks foster collaboration among stakeholders by enabling consistent data sharing across jurisdictions. This coordination ensures that trapping and management strategies remain aligned and effective across regions. Camera data can also help verify public reports, guide outreach efforts, and support the development of long-term invasive species management plans.

A successful wildlife camera network depends on standardized deployment methods, consistent data collection, thorough metadata practices, and sound analytical protocols. Appendix 3 provides detailed resources to support these needs, including standardized field data sheets, best management practices for camera deployment, step-by-step instructions for analyzing camera data, and recommended metadata standards. Applying these tools effectively will strengthen the reliability and impact of camera detection networks, improving early detection, response times, and sustained management of invasive pigs.

Figure 3: Monitor with trail cameras, as pigs are often nocturnal. Credit: Ryan Brook

4.0 Trapping Resources in B.C.

Effective trapping is a critical component of invasive pig management in British Columbia. However, selecting the right approach depends on multiple factors, including the presence of pigs, site conditions, accessibility, and available resources. The ISCBC, in collaboration with the Province of B.C., provides access to trapping systems designed to support control efforts in a variety of landscapes. This section will help determine whether trapping is the best option for a given situation, outline the available trap types, and highlight additional considerations to ensure effective and humane capture.

4.1 Do I Need a Trap?

Trapping is one of the most effective tools for managing invasive pig populations, but it is not always the best or only option. Before deploying a trap, consider the following factors to determine if trapping is the right approach for your situation:

- Evidence of Pigs: Confirm recent pig activity through tracks, wallows, rooting, scat, or camera trap footage. Trapping is ineffective without a clear understanding of pig movement patterns.
- Population Size and Behavior: Small, scattered groups may be better managed through targeted removal, whereas larger, established populations benefit more from coordinated trapping efforts (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8].
- Site Accessibility: If the area is remote or difficult to access, consider whether you can regularly monitor and maintain the trap. Passive trapping systems like Pig Brig® may be better suited for these conditions.
- Alternative Management Options: If pig numbers are low or sporadic, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) strategies like direct removal may be more effective than trapping.
- If trapping is deemed necessary, selecting the right system and location is crucial for success. The next sections will guide you through proper setup, baiting strategies, and monitoring techniques.

Figure 4: A field damaged by rooting. Credit: Getty images

Figure 5: A double gate Jager Pro M.I.N.E.® trap with invasive pigs feeding inside. Credit: Jager Pro® Hog Control Systems

4.2 Selecting a Trap Type

There are two main traps currently available in B.C.. These traps were chosen based on a wide number of factors including the ability to withstand and operate in B.C. winters with snow, and flexibility for use on varied terrain.

In collaboration, ISCBC and the Province of B.C. have two trapping systems and other resources designed to assist in the capture of invasive pigs. These resources in collaboration with expert knowledge and B.C.'s Invasive Pig Response plan helps to ensure humane capture and effective population control, tailored to varying environmental and logistical conditions. The trapping systems that are available on loan through ISCBC are the Jager Pro®, an active drop metal panel drop gate system and the Pig Brig® trapping system.

Jager Pro M.I.N.E.® Trapping System: This active system features a metal panel drop gate that can be remotely triggered via a mobile app or handheld remote, allowing for precise timing in areas with reliable access. These systems can be set up to capture larger numbers of invasive pigs at a time with a modular panel system. Setup and operation manual available here[viii].

Pig Brig® Trap System: This passive net trap system is lightweight, portable, and doesn't require cell service. It's designed for easy setup by one person and allows for continuous capture without the need for active monitoring, making it ideal for remote or rugged terrains. Setup and operation manual available here[ix].

Table 2: Understanding trap selection scenarios

Trapping Site Conditions	Recommended Trap	Reasoning
• **Close to road** • **Large flat area** • **Cellular service available** • **Large number of invasive pigs seen**	Jager Pro®	Its metal panel design is well-suited for large, flat areas, providing a sturdy and controlled trapping environment. With close road access, transporting and setting up the system is efficient. The availability of cellular service allows for remote monitoring and activation, ensuring the entire sounder is captured at once. This minimizes trap avoidance and maximizes efficiency in managing many invasive pigs.
• **Remote area accessible by snowmobile** • **Large open flat area** • **Cellular service available** • **Large number of invasive pigs seen**	Pig Brig® or Jager Pro®	The Jager Pro could be a viable option if transporting the system to the site is feasible, even if it requires multiple trips or sleds. Once in place on stable ground with cellular service, setup would be straightforward, and the rigid panel design would help prevent pig escapes, making it effective for a larger population. However, if transportation is a limiting factor due to time, cost, or personnel, PigBrig® would be the better choice. Its lightweight, flexible design makes it easier to move and deploy in remote locations while still effectively containing invasive pigs.
• **Remote area accessible by quad** • **Variable ground conditions** • **No cellular service** • **Small number of invasive pigs seen**	Pig Brig®	Flexible netting design can adapt to uneven terrain, making it well-suited for areas with variable ground conditions. Since the site is only accessible by quad and lacks cellular service, a passive system like Pig Brig ® is preferable, as it does not require remote activation. This trap can be pre-baited and left operational for extended periods, allowing for efficient capture of a small number of pigs without the need for frequent on-site monitoring. *Depending on the area where trapping will occur, leaving out bait for extended periods of time may be a safety concern in terms of attracting larger, potentially dangerous wildlife, such as bears (see section 5.3).*
• **Close to road** • **Variable ground conditions** • **Cellular service available** • **Large number of invasive pigs seen**	Jager Pro® or Pig Brig®	The Jager Pro is a strong choice for this scenario due to its rigid metal panels, which provide stability on variable ground conditions. With close road access, transporting and setting up the system is manageable, and the availability of cellular service allows for remote activation, making it effective for capturing large groups of pigs at once. However, if the terrain proves too uneven for stable panel placement, or if quick deployment is needed, the PigBrig® may be a better fit. Its flexible netting can adapt to uneven ground and requires fewer setup adjustments, making it a more practical choice in challenging conditions while still effectively capturing large numbers of pigs.

4.3 Trapping Regulations and Other Considerations

4.3.1 TRAPPING REGULATIONS

- Always follow the trapping regulations[x] of the *B.C. Wildlife Act*
- It is an offence to trap on private property without a trapping license and without written permission from the property owner
- Confining, non-kill traps must be checked at least every seventy-two hours
- Wireless cameras are not permitted for hunting purposes between August 1st and December 10th, except for Vancouver Island where wireless cameras are not at all permitted for hunting purposes throughout the year (Province of B.C., 2024)[7]
- While a hunting licence is required for invasive pig hunting, a trapping licence or permit are not required as pigs are listed as a Schedule C species under the *Wildlife Act*
- Those registered under the Indian Act are not required to obtain a hunting licence (BC Firearms Academy, 2025)[9]
- As a Schedule C species, invasive pigs may be hunted anywhere at anytime in the province, although hunters still must obey the following hunting regulations:
  - Refrain from hunting in no hunting and no shooting areas before obtaining permission
  - Obey motor vehicle prohibitions
- Prohibited hours for hunting are from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise
- All captured and euthanized pigs must be reported to the Province's Compulsory Reporting program[xi]. (Province of B.C., 2024)[10]

Obtaining permission for trapping

Before conducting any trapping activities, it is important to determine whose land the invasive pigs are on. If on private land, contact the land owner for permission. If on public land within a municipality, permission must be gained through contacting the municipality. While trapping of invasive pigs on public land is permitted under Schedule C of the *Wildlife Act*, it is always strongly recommended to contact the appropriate body (the province or appropriate municipality where the land is located) for permission.

4.3.2 USING DIFFERENT TRAPPING SYSTEMS

Prospective invasive pig trappers may opt to use a different type of trap not supplied by ISCBC. Selecting the type of trap to use varies on a variety of factors including the affordability of a certain trap, trap weight and portability, the pig sounder size, and presence of nontarget species such as deer and bears that may wander into the traps (Mississippi State University Extension, n.d.)[11]. For a list of trap types with their associated pros and cons, visit Mississippi State University Extension's Wild Pigs Info page[xii].

5.0 Best Management Strategies for Trapping

Effective invasive pig trapping requires careful planning and adherence to best management strategies. Proper site selection, secure trap installation, strategic baiting and behavioural conditioning all contribute to successful trapping efforts. Ensuring that pigs become comfortable with the trap site before activation through behavioral conditioning can significantly improve capture rates and reduce trap avoidance. Additionally, selecting appropriate bait and feeding methods helps to attract pigs while minimizing interference from non-target species (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8].

This section outlines key considerations for selecting an optimal trap site, setting up traps securely, and using bait effectively to condition pigs to enter traps. By following these best practices, trappers can improve their success in capturing entire sounders while minimizing escape risks and unnecessary disturbances to the surrounding environment.

5.1 Site Selection

Select a site where confirmed evidence of wild pigs has been reported (video or camera footage, wallows, tracks, bedding spots). Consider spots that are accessible by vehicle to ensure easy and efficient trap set up, take down, and trap visits. Choose a site with relatively level ground for the trap (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8], although a Pig Brig® trap can be set on uneven terrain. Be aware of the pigs movements, as choosing locations where multiple game trails converge may have a higher likelihood of whole sounder capture.

5.2 Setting Traps

Please refer to the instructions that come with your selected trap and follow all instructions to ensure the highest success rate. Ensure that the trap is securely installed so there is less chance of damage to the traps causing captured pigs to escape. When captured, pigs may charge at and hurl their bodies at the sides of the traps, possibly resulting in damaged traps when not installed correctly. While pigs cannot jump very high, they have been known to occasionally escape from traps by climbing on one another's backs. This is more common in traps that have corners where pigs congregate, whereas corral-style traps with no corners tend to result in less congregation that may allow pigs to escape (West *et al.*, 2009)[12].

Figure 6: A Pig Brig® passive net trap system after setup. Credit: Pig Brig®

5.3 Bait-Use and Behaviour Conditioning

One of the most important steps in invasive pig trapping is behaviour conditioning: the process of getting pigs used to visiting the trap site and getting comfortable with the trap. This is achieved through baiting (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8]. Baiting is generally conducted after the presence of pigs has been confirmed with camera or video footage, or to determine if unconfirmed sightings of invasive pigs are true. Bait is placed on site before the trap is set up, and used to condition the pigs to use this as a food source. Depending on the trap type selected, instructions may vary on how long to place the bait before setting up the trap. Instructions on specific bait placement in order to reduce nontarget wildlife will also vary according to the selected traps' guide.

Please note that while baiting is an important step to condition and attract pigs in a trapping program, there can be unintended consiquences. Often times baiting can attract non-target species like deer, bears, or small mammals. Intentionally baiting bears is illegal in B.C., and any bait that is used for invasive pigs may be an attractant to bears. Work closely with your nearest regional provincial biologist to best work with this potential trapping program barrier.

For Jager Pro® traps, set up only the gate panels of the trap during the baiting process, and set up the remainder of the trap the same day you plan to capture the pigs.

Baiting restrictions and non-target wildlife

- Under the Province of B.C.'s hunting regulations, species where baiting for hunting is prohibited include bears and migratory game birds across B.C., and ungulates or turkey in the Kootenay region.
- Pig bait may be attractive to species that are forbidden against baiting, in particular bears.
- Baiting of any kind is forbidden between April 1st and November 30th.
- Inquiries regarding exemptions to the above are best communicated with a regional Conservation Officer.

When baiting an automatic spin-cast feeder may be used to dispense feed at timed intervals. While this may have a higher startup cost if multiple units are purchased, it does require fewer site visits (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8]. A Quick-Set™ 225 feeder by Wildgame Innovations[xiii] includes a timer that can be preset to dispense feed up to four times a day, and costs about CAD $230 per unit.

6.0 Building Out a Trapping Plan

6.1 Key Considerations for Trapping Plan

It is essential that partners and stakeholders contribute to the planning stage. Building out a contact list regarding updates (e.g. trap set-up dates, the behavioural conditioning process, updates on sightings) will ensure everyone stays informed.

Table 3: Considerations for the development of a trapping plan

Objective /Steps	Key Actions
Outreach and building a local invasive pigs working/trapping group	Work with the municipality/regional district to host an information session upon invasive pig detection.
	Invite parties of interest to the information session (local hunting groups, pork producers, First Nations, recreational trail users, etc.)
	Host an outreach session to inform the community and recruit potential partners and stakeholders for the invasive pig working group.
	Build out a contact list for stakeholders and partners (can be done at the outreach event, can work with municipality/regional district to put a callout on their website)
	Design and locate spots for installing informational signage.
Trap placement planning and securing trap	Based on pig detections, work with regional biologist from the Province of B.C., first nations, and landowners where applicable, to determine where and how many traps should be placed.
	Receive permission from appropriate contacts if setting up traps on public land, Indigenous territory, or private property.
	If traps will be on public land, set up informational signage near trail entrances with contact information.
	Locate and transport traps from storage to proposed region in B.C. where trapping will occur.
Baiting and trapping	Begin free feeding to encourage pigs to visit trapping area frequently. Number of baiting days will be determined by the number and willingness of the pigs, it is suggested you check baited sites as frequently as possible, whether it is through a remote camera or in-person.
	Once animals are conditioned to the food, slowly introduce the trap to the site (depending on the trap system selected), decide where trap door should face (using BMPs), and start placing bait around and inside trap with doors left open. The number of days you should bait like this will depend on the trapping system you choose to use.
	Monitor cameras daily for feeding activity near/inside traps. If using a trap where doors are triggered remotely, drop the trap door(s) when all invasive pigs are feeding comfortably within the trap.

Objective /Steps	Key Actions
Post-trapping follow-up and monitoring	Contact all stakeholders in the invasive pig working group on the number of pigs trapped.
	It is important to capture the entire sounder to reduce the chance of pigs becoming trap shy. Continue monitoring the area with wildlife cameras to confirm that all pigs from the sounder have been captured and prepare to work with trap-shy pigs, if detected.
	Report back to the working group, evaluate the management efforts with stakeholders to inform adaptive management.
Euthanasia/Disposal and/or return to owners	Ensure the owner secures the pigs on their premises, and takes preventative measures to prevent future escapes from private property.
	Humanely euthanize all pigs in trap as soon as possible, to prevent any unnessacary harm or stress to the pigs, and helping to increase the chance of future captures on site.
	Properly dispose of pig carcasses as per requirements by the Federal, Provincial or municipal authorities (e.g., may require disease testing and reporting). All captured and euthanized pigs must be reported to the Province's Compulsory Reporting program[xi].

7.0 Ongoing Monitoring

Regular trap checks are essential for both operational success and animal welfare. Monitoring traps ensures that captured invasive pigs are handled efficiently while minimizing stress and exposure to the elements. There are two primary methods for trap monitoring: in-person visits or live-feed cameras. While in-person checks provide direct oversight, live-feed cameras offer a more efficient way to monitor traps remotely, reducing the need for frequent site visits, especially in remote locations.

This section outlines best practices for determining trap check frequency, ensuring humane treatment of captured pigs, and addressing non-target species that may enter the trap. It also highlights the importance of assigning responsibility for trap checks, particularly when the trap is located on shared or public land. Proper planning and coordination help maintain ethical trapping practices and improve overall effectiveness.

7.1 Method: In-Person or Live-Feed Camera?

Two options for trap checks include visiting the trap in-person or monitoring through a live-feed camera. Live-feed cameras allow for quicker and easier trap check compared to visiting the trap in-person multiple times. As invasive pigs tend to be nocturnal, check the cameras at night or first thing in the morning for trap visits and/or capture (Koichi *et al.,* 2020)[13].

7.2 Who Will Check

If the trap is not on your property, decide who will be in charge of trap checks with the local invasive pig working group. If checking traps in-person, for safety concerns consider having two or more people check the traps together.

7.3 Trap Check Frequency and Animal Welfare

Consider conducting trap checks every day so that any animals caught are not left in the traps for too long. Welfare of trapped pigs should be considered so that they aren't left for multiple days exposed to the elements, namely extreme cold, and subject to dehydration (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2014)[14]. Welfare of nontarget species should also be considered in case they get caught in the traps and need assistance in being released. Using an open-topped trap that non-target species such as bears, deer, and raccoons can easily escape from will reduce the risk of nontarget wildlife remaining trapped until the next in-person trap visit (Hamrick *et al.*, n.d.)[8]. Before trapping activities begin, ensure a contact is set up in cases where non-target species end up in traps. This contact may be the closest Fish and Wildlife office or the RAPP line at **1-877-952-7277**.

8.0 References

[1] Invasive Species Council of B.C. (2019, June). Feral pig factsheet. https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Feral_Pig_Factsheet_19_06_2019.pdf

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[7] Province of British Columbia (2024). 2024-2026 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/regulations/hunting-trapping-synopsis.pdf

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[9] BC Firearms Academy (2025). Frequently Asked Questions. https://bcfirearmsacademy.ca/hunting-regulations-faq/

[10] Province of British Columbia (2024, Aug 15). Frequently Asked Questions. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/frequently-asked-questions

[11] Mississippi State University Extension Service (n.d.). Types of Traps - Wild Pig Info. https://www.wildpiginfo.msstate.edu/traps/types.php

[12] West, B., Cooper, A. & Armstrong, J. (2009). Managing wild pigs: A technical guide. Human-Wildlife Interactions Monograph 1:1–55 Managing Wild Pigs

[13] Koichi, K. & Halliday D, Harris C (ed) (2020). Glovebox Guide for Managing Invasive Pigs v2.0. https://cwba.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Glovebox-Guide-for-Managing-Feral-Pigs.pdf

[14] Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (2014) NATSOP-PIG001 National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of invasive pigs. Factsheet. Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. PestSmart website. https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2025/02/NATSOP-PIG001.pdf

LINKS

[i] https://bcinvasives.ca/squealonpigs/

[ii] https://bcinvasives.ca/take-action/report/

[iii] https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/african-swine-fever/fact-sheet

[iv] https://submit.digital.gov.bc.ca/app/form/submit?f=81f9d696-4c49-4d38-816d-051863350c64

[v] https://animalhealthcanada.ca/canspotasf

[vi] https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pdfs/Wild Pig Sampling Protocol revised 2023.pdf

[vii] https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pdfs/CanSpotASF_Invasive-Wild-Pigs-Canada_July-2024-FINAL-EN.pdf

[viii] https://jagerpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MINE-Trap-System-V5.pdf

[ix] https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0506/3881/5390/files/PigBrig-UserGuide_revMay2023_FINAL-digital.pdf?v=1705958277

[x] https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/regulations/trapping-section.pdf

[xi] https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/compulsory-inspection

[xii] https://www.wildpiginfo.msstate.edu/traps/types.php

[xiii] https://www.wildgameinnovations.com/products/quick-set-225/

9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: LINKS TO OUTREACH MATERIALS

General Information	
General info, brochures, factsheets, wallet cards, stickers	https://bcinvasives.ca/squealonpigs/
General info, landing page for other provincial invasive pig programs	https://canadainvasives.ca/programs/squeal-on-pigs/
Factsheets	https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Feral-Pig-0923-WEB.pdf https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/alerts/feral_pig_alert.pdf
Canada's Invasive Pig Strategy	https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pdfs/Canada%20Invasive%20Wild%20Pig%20Strategy%20230316.pdf
African Swine Fever	
African Swine Fever Industry Preparedness Program guide	https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2022/aac-aafc/A118-66-1-2022-eng.pdf
Information and factsheets	https://www.cpc-ccp.com/ASF-resources-printables
Moving the Pan-Canadian Framework for the Prevention and Control of African Swine Fever Forward: Progress Report	https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pdfs/asf/AHC%20ASF%20Progress%20Report%20230629_2.pdf
CanSpotASF Infosheet	https://www.cpc-ccp.com/file.aspx?id=9da2f6f0-5826-4187-9d80-b71374ab692f
CanSpotASF: Protocols for Sampling & Banking Tissues from Wild Pigs	https://animalhealthcanada.ca/pdfs/Wild%20Pig%20Sampling%20Protocol%20revised%202023.pdf
Animal Health Centre Services & Fee guide	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-health/animalhealthcentrefeeguide.pdf
Hunting and Trapping	
2024-2026 B.C. Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/regulations/hunting-trapping-synopsis.pdf
Information on applying for a Hunting Licence	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/hunting-licences
Information on obtaining firearm license/license application forms	https://rcmp.ca/en/firearms/licensing
Pig Traps	
Jager Pro® Hog Control Systems	https://jagerpro.com/
Pig Brig® Trap Systems	https://pigbrig.com/?srsltid=AfmBOortN3JwNjCO4nl2GJllG3xLn-WQqGH3npLBbGf6Ylx65LBDlimVD

Appendix 2:
LIST OF RELEVANT CONTACTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Province of B.C.	
Emily Lomas, Terrestrial Invasive Fauna Specialist Emily.Lomas@gov.bc.ca	Trapping program support and stakeholder
Inge-Jean Hansen, Wildlife Specialist IngeJean.Hansen@gov.bc.ca	Contact for obtaining traps, partnership for trapping program assistance.
Regional Conservation Officers Directory https://dir.gov.bc.ca/gtds.cgi?searchString=Conservation+Officer	Contact for information and gaining permission for instances such as baiting, shooting trapped pigs before permitted daylight hours
Regional Biologists Directory https://dir.gov.bc.ca/gtds.cgi?searchString=Ecosystem+Biologist	Potential partnership for trapping program assistance
Regional Agrologists Directory https://dir.gov.bc.ca/gtds.cgi?searchString=agrologist	Potential partnership for trapping program assistance
Animal Health Centre 604-556-3003; PAHB@gov.bc.ca	Provides low-cost necropsies of pigs (domestic and invasive) for disease detection
Compulsory Inspection Stations Regional Directory https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/compulsory-inspection	Contacts for information regarding compulsory inspection of trapped pigs
Fish and Wildlife FishandWildlife@gov.bc.ca; 1-877-855-3222	Contact in instances of non-target wildlife caught in traps and assistance is needed for removal
RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) 1-877-952-7277	Contact in instances of invasive pigs posing a threat to public safety
Organizations	
BCWF (Regional Directory) https://bcwf.bc.ca/our-clubs/	Potential stakeholders, invasive pig monitoring & reporting
Small-Scale Meat Producers Association https://www.smallscalemeat.ca/	Source of contact for pork producers to inquire about recommended fencing to prevent escape of pigs; Guidance on submitting pig tissues for necropsy

Regional Invasive Species Organizations	
Boundary Invasive Species Society *(Kootenay-Boundary Region)* info@boundaryinvasives.com	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee info@cccipc.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Central and West Kootenay Invasive Species Society info@ckiss.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Coastal Invasive Species Council *(Vancouver Island & Sunshine Coast)* info@coastalisc.com	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
East Kootenay Invasive Species Society info@ekisc.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society info@fviss.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Invasive Species Council of BC *(Province-wide)* info@bcinvasives.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver info@iscmv.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society lrinvasives@gmail.com	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Northwest Invasive Plant Council *(Northwest B.C. from Haida Gwaii and Prince George)* manager@nwipc.org	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society OASISS@shaw.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs
Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council *(Lions Bay to Pemberton)* info@ssisc.ca	Reporting and information on invasive pigs

Peace Region	
Saulteau First Nations **Tom Aird-Elder** tom.aird@saulteau.com **Jessica Eastman, Guardian Program Supervisor** jeastman@saulteau.com	Trapping program stakeholder
Doig River First Nation (250) 827-3776 (general inquiries)	Trapping program stakeholder
Halfway River First Nation https://hrfn.ca/contact/	Trapping program stakeholder
Blueberry River First Nation reception@blueberryfn.ca	Trapping program stakeholder
West Moberly First Nations https://westmo.org/contact/	Trapping program stakeholder
Fort Nelson First Nation https://fortnelsonfirstnation.org/contact/	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Dene Tsaa Tse K'Nai/Prophet River First Nation https://prophetriverfirstnation.com/contact/	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Northeast Métis Association northeastcc@mnbc.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Compulsory Inspection Station **Fort St John:** (250) 787-3411 **Fort Nelson:** (250) 774-5511	General info on compulsory reporting of trapped invasive pigs
Gerry Paille, Regional President **BCWF, Peace-Liard region**	Trapping program stakeholder
Anthony Eagles, Seargent for Conservation Officers *(North Peace Region)* Anthony.Eagles@gov.bc.ca	Contact for information and gaining permission for instances such as baiting, shooting trapped pigs before permitted daylight hours

Cariboo-Chilcotin Region	
Luke Doxtator, Stewardship Manager **Tsilqhot'in National Government (TNG)** luke@tsilhqotin.ca	Camera monitoring in Chilcotin
?Esdilagh First Nation (250) 991-6000	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Esk'etemc adminassistant@esketemc.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
High Bar First Nation Office@hbfn.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Lheidli T'enneh First Nation reception2@lheidli.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation Admin@lhooskuz.com	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Lhtako Dene Nation reception@lhtako.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
McLeod Lake Indian Band (250) 750-4415	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Nazko First Nation reception@nazkoband.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation general@sxfn.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Tl'esqox/Toosey reception@toosey.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Tl'etinqox Government https://www.tletinqox.ca/contact-us	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Tsideldel First Nation reception@tsideldel.org	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Tsq̓éscen̓ First Nation reception@canimlakeband.com	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Ulkatcho Indian Band naturalresources@ulktcho.ca	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Xat'sull *(Soda Creek Indian Band)* reception@xatsull.com	Potential trapping program stakeholder
Compulsory Inspection Station **Williams Lake/Cariboo:** (250) 398-4530	General info on compulsory reporting of trapped invasive pigs
Connor Dolighan, Terrestrial Invasive Fauna Biologist **Province of B.C.** Connor.Dolighan@gov.bc.ca	Trapping program stakeholder; knowledge on invasive pig monitoring and trapping
Cariboo Regional District https://www.cariboord.ca/en/regional-government/contact-us.aspx	Trapping program stakeholder

Appendix 3:
WILDLIFE CAMERA MONITORING PLAN TEMPLATES

General Information	
WildCAM	
Guide to camera trap set up	https://wildcams.ca/site/assets/files/1148/wildcam_guide_to_camera_trap_set_up_feb2021.pdf
Field Deployment guide	https://wildcams.ca/site/assets/files/1148/wildcam_condensed_deploy_protocol.pdf
Field Deployment data sheets	https://wildcams.ca/site/assets/files/1148/wildcam_cam_set_up_data_sheet_feb2021.pdf
Field Visit / Retrieval data sheets	https://wildcams.ca/site/assets/files/1148/wildcam_cam_take_down_sheet_may2020.pdf
Wildlife Camera Survey Guidelines for Western Canada	https://ab-rcsc.github.io/RCSC-WildCAM_Remote-Camera-Survey-Guidelines-and-Metadata-Standards/_downloads/23834a6749b732affbfe38aef5a0e5c0/RCSC-WildCAM_RC-Survey-Guidelines-v2_2024-04-01.pdf
B.C. Ministry of Environment Wildlife Camera Metadata Protocols	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/nr-laws-policy/risc/wcmp_v1.pdf
Wildlife Coexistence Lab, UBC An Introduction to Camera Trap Data Management and Analysis in R	https://wildcolab.github.io/Introduction-to-Camera-Trap-Data-Management-and-Analysis-in-R/index.html

Invasive Species Council of BC

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