

Lawsuit aims to end commercial fur trapping in Calif.

By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times

Conservation groups, aiming to end California's dwindling fur trade, filed a lawsuit Wednesday that would force state wildlife authorities to raise license fees to levels required by law to cover the full costs of regulating the trapping, killing and skinning of wild animals.

That would drive the fees so high it would effectively kill off the trade introduced centuries ago by California's first explorers and settlers, said Camilla Fox, executive director of Project Coyote, one of the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit, filed against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the state Fish and Game Commission, alleges that revenue generated from the 200 commercial trapping licenses purchased in 2016 for about \$117 covered only a fraction of the state trapping program's total costs.

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