

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Surveys and Inventories

FY2019 Statewide Report



FURBEARER

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

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STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Furbearer Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Furbearer Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

STATEWIDE FURBEARER

Abstract

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) sold 1,793 trapping licenses for the 2018-2019 season, down 2% from the previous year (1,830). Based off of mandatory furtaker report forms, approximately 56% of those purchasing a license actually set traps, resulting in a bit over 1,004 individuals actively trapping during the season. This is slightly lower than the previous 10 year average of 1,228 trappers.

Catch per unit effort data calculated from the furtaker report forms identify badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, marten, muskrat, raccoon, river otter, spotted skunk, and striped skunk having stable population trends. The trend for weasels suggest an increasing trend, but this should be viewed with some caution as the participation for weasels are limited. The trend lines for mink and red fox suggest a declining population trends with a 31% and 41% change in CPUE over the past ten years. Overall harvest during the 2018 season, when compared to the previous ten year average identified a decline in take for all except coyote, spotted skunk, and striped skunk. In terms of the most commonly pursued furbearers by trappers, coyote, beaver, bobcat, muskrat, and raccoon are and have been for several years the most popularly pursued species. In the wild fur market, coyote and bobcat continue to be in demand, and these two species accounted for 80% of the total estimated value of the wild fur harvest in Idaho in the 2018 season.

From CITES tagging data, the Panhandle region contributed approximately a third of the total bobcat harvest. Trapping continues to be the most common method of take statewide, with hound hunting playing a regionally part, especially in the Panhandle and Clearwater Regions. With river otters, the statewide harvest was 137 animals, with three of the seven regions reaching their quota before the end of the season.

Non-target captures is down to 36 captures per 100,000 trap nights, a 20% reduction over the previous ten year average. With the implantation of trapper education course being mandatory starting July 1, 2018 for anyone who purchased their first Idaho trapping license on or after July 1, 2011, this non-target capture rate is expected to continue to be low. River otter and fisher turned in for a reward as non-targets are also down 53, and 66% respectively.

New efforts to collect more detailed information on the harvest of bobcat and beaver have been implemented. The collection of bobcat jaws began during the 2018 season on a voluntary basis, with 349 jaws submitted, representing 28% of the harvest. The Department has additionally

begun collecting beaver harvest at the watershed level during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. This data provides a more spatially accurate representation of where beaver harvest occurs in the state. This data will be used to inform beaver translocation efforts in the use of beaver as a habitat restoration tool.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Idaho has 16 furbearing species that are pursued through trapping (nine are classified as a furbearer, six as a predator, and one as big game). Of these, badger, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, red fox, striped and spotted skunk, long and short-tailed weasels, and wolves can also be taken by hunting. Management of furbearers is focused on providing opportunity for harvest through sustainable management of furbearer populations and minimizing wildlife-human conflict. The take of predators is allowed year round to minimize wildlife-human conflict, and wolf management is discussed in other reports.

This document reports on annual trapping license sales, population trends, estimated harvest by trapping, trends in trapper participation by species, and the bobcat and river otter pelt tagging program. Wolves, the only species classified as big game that can also be taken by trapping, are addressed in a separate report. This document additionally highlights two new contributions to the Department's furbearer program which are a beaver harvest database, and the bobcat jaw collection program.

BACKGROUND

Licensing

By Idaho law, anyone pursuing an animal that is allowed to be harvested through trapping must purchase a trapping license on an annual basis. Since some species are allowed to be harvested year round, trapping licenses follow a fiscal year cycle (ex. July 1 2018-June 30 2019) in lieu of a calendar year. Beginning in 2018, any person purchasing their first trapping license on or after July 1, 2011 must complete a mandatory trapper education class from the Department or a Department approved equivalent course.

Trapper Harvest Reports

Upon purchase of a trapping license, all license holders are required to report to the Department the number of wild animals they catch and kill during the open season (Furbearer Rules, Appendix A), the amount received for the sale of these pelts, and non-target captures. The report must be submitted by 31 July, and the trapper cannot purchase a new license unless the report has been received. A self-addressed, postage-paid reporting card is sent to trappers each spring so they may conform to Idaho law. Additionally, trappers are also able to fill out and electronically submit their trapper report card via the Department's website. The data collected from this mandatory reporting effort is used to estimate of the statewide harvest of furbearers by licensed trappers, track trend in populations of these species through Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) data, identify the distribution of the harvest across the state, and estimate the market value of the state's furbearer harvest.

The CPUE data calculated from the mandatory trapper harvest reports serves as the metric the Department uses to track trends in furbearer populations. First, all trappers are identified that set traps for a given species. The individual CPUE is then calculated for each trapper for this given species. The individual CPUE is then averaged over all trappers for that year and species. (Note: This method is a slight deviation from the traditional method where all trap nights are summed and divided by all captures for a given species. Due to concerns of a large influx of new trappers, and this potentially altering the CPUE data due to their inexperience, the above method is used to weight all trappers equally instead of all trap nights equally. This limits the impact of a new trapper setting lots of traps, but doing so in an inefficient manner). A moving average is then calculated using the current year and the two previous years for each value in an effort to smooth annual fluctuations in CPUE. This data is finally plotted over a ten year period using linear regression to identify any trends. While useful, several considerations must be made when using harvest data and associated effort as a proxy for status of a species population. Some species may be captured as secondary targets (example, a striped skunk in a canine set) and thus CPUE data for these species must be viewed in this context. Harvest data only “samples” a population where there is trapping activity and this may be dictated by a variety of factors including: weather, road access, proximity to human population centers, fuel prices, and fur prices. Additionally, since we do not have a population estimate for these species, CPUE trend data can only suggest if a population is increasing, decreasing, or stable; not its size. Despite these shortcomings, this data is still useful in a management context, especially when combined with other factors such as age and sex structure of the harvested population, habitat models to predict distribution of certain species, and data independent of harvest such as occupancy surveys for given species.

CITES Export Tags

In 1975, a treaty entitled the “Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species” (CITES) was signed by the United States and 175 other countries. Under Appendix II within the treaty, it designates that species that resemble other endangered species need to be regulated to ensure that the trade in these “look alike” species, does not threaten the endangered species. To trade these look alike species, the managing agency must be able to document that the species was legally taken and that its population is managed to ensure the long term sustainability. To address Appendix II needs related to furbearer management in Idaho, the Department participates in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (hereafter “the Service”) administered CITES export program for two species, bobcat and river otter. This involves the department sealing all pelts/specimens of these two species that were legally harvested in the state. It additionally involves monitoring the status of these two species to ensure that they are sustainably managed and reporting annually of their status to the Service.

In Idaho, it is unlawful to possess raw, untagged bobcat pelts after 10 days following the close of season, and to sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official CITES export tag attached (Appendix A). Trappers and hunters are required to present the pelts of all bobcats to a regional office or official checkpoint to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report. Information on the harvest report includes the animal’s sex, harvest location, date harvested, method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting).

With river otters, trappers are required to have all river otters tagged with CITES export tags within 72 hours of harvest (Appendix A). Trappers unable to comply with tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the regional office in the region in which the animal was harvested.

Since this process and resulting tag is required to legally possess either species, annual harvest counts from the CITES tagging process represents the most accurate harvest estimate of both bobcat and river otter.

Non-target Catches

Non-target catches are any species caught for which the season is closed. Within the trapper harvest report forms, trappers are required to report their non-target captures, which allows the Department to track this occurrence. While there are multiple approaches to minimizing non-target captures including pan tension adjustment, site location, bait/lure choice, and trap type, non-target captures can still occur.

Commission rules (IDAPA 13.01.16.150.03a) defines non-target species as any species caught for which the season is closed. By Commission rule any trapper who captures and kills a non-target species must notify the Department through the local conservation officer or regional office within 72 hours to make arrangements for Department personnel to retrieve the animal. The regulation has been in effect since the 1988-1989 season. To encourage participation, a \$10.00 participation award is offered for each lynx, wolverine, fisher, otter, or bobcat turned in to the Department. Through this effort and non-target captures reported in the trapper harvest reports, the Department is able to track non-target captures over time throughout the state.

New Furbearer Monitoring Components: Beaver harvest Database and Bobcat Jaw Collection

Beaver are a species that there has been growing interest in their abundance and distribution due to the value they provide as ecosystem engineers. The beaver harvest in Idaho is monitored by CPUE on a statewide level and harvests are reported down to the county level. While useful, for an aquatic mammal, this information has limited ability to inform managers of beaver population status on a smaller scale. To address this need, in 2018 the department began collecting additional information from all individuals who reported harvesting beaver. With this new effort, we collect harvest information on a Hydrologic scale at the USGS hydrologic unit code four (HUC 4). An example of this is the Lost River and all its tributaries, or the south fork of the Boise River and its tributaries. The goal of this more detailed and ecologically relatable monitoring effort is to better inform managers of the location and intensity of beaver harvest in the state.

Bobcats have remained one of the most valued and sought after furbearer species in Idaho for over a decade. This interest has been accompanied by increased harvests and changes to CPUE trends. With this increased interest the Department has sought to develop a better understanding of the status of bobcat populations across the state. Upon review of various options, the Department began collected bobcat teeth from trappers and hunters on a voluntary basis to

develop an understanding of the age and sex structure of the harvested population. Under this voluntary participation program, fur harvesters submit a lower jaw along with its Game Management Unit (GMU) of harvest, the month/yr of the kill, the method of take, and the harvesters estimate of the animals age and sex. From these jaws, DNA samples are collected from tissue to identify sex and begin building a DNA database for the species, and a lower canine is extracted for aging.

STATEWIDE RESULTS

Trapping License Sales

During the 2018-2019 season, 1,793 trapping licenses were sold, including 1,765 residents (1,635 adult and 130 junior residents under 18 years-of-age) and 28 non-residents. The total number of licenses sold decreased slightly (2%) from the previous season (Table 1), and is close to the previous 10 year average of 1,775. Junior resident participation is down 31% from the 10 year average of 189. Non-resident participation has increased slightly, with the 10 year average being 23, but the overall number of non-resident trappers remains low and represents less and 2% of the licenses sold.

Trapper Harvest Reports and CPUE/Population Trend Data

Harvest reports were submitted by 1,493 (83%) of the 1,793 licensed trappers for the 2018-2019 season (Table 1). 835 trappers reported harvesting an animal, and using this ratio, it is estimated that there were 1004 active trappers during the 2018-2019 season.

CPUE was calculated and plotted over a 10 year period using a moving average (with a three year window) approach for 11 species, and two species groups: weasels and marten (weasels includes long and short-tailed weasels; marten includes American marten and Pacific marten). Weasels and marten are included as a species group in lieu of individual species due to the difficulty in determining the two species by visual inspection. Due to the coarse nature of harvest data we consider a potential change in population status if there is a > 30% change over a 10 year period. Based on these criteria, badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, marten, muskrat, raccoon, river otter, spotted skunk, and striped skunk identify stable population trends (Figure 1). The trend for weasels suggest an increasing trend, but this should be viewed with some caution as the participation for weasels are limited (Figure 1). The trend lines for mink and red fox suggest a declining population trends with a 31% and 41% change in CPUE over the past ten years (Figure 1).

Estimated Harvest and Trapper Participation

Table two shows harvest reported through trapper harvest report forms. These numbers are not adjusted for incomplete reporting and only reflect the reported harvest. The assumption is that since most active trappers that account for the majority of harvest will report since reporting is required to procure a license for the next season. During the 2018-2019 season, harvests were below the 10 yr average for all species except coyote, spotted skunk, and striped skunk, which were up 44%, 68%, and 17%. We suspect the decline in harvest is due to a legacy effect of record high fur prices that occurred in the 2010 to 2015 seasons. During this time, trapping

participation and harvest increased dramatically. After this strong surge in fur prices, prices fell for all species except bobcat and coyote. Based off of conversations with the fur harvesting community both spotted and striped skunks are captured as secondary targets while pursuing other species such as bobcat and coyote, and this observed increase in harvest may be due to relationship between bobcat and coyote trapping and skunk captures.

Table three shows the number of trappers reporting that they set traps for a given species on a given year. Over the previous ten year average (2009-2017), coyote, muskrat, beaver, bobcat, and raccoon are the most popular species in terms of number of people reporting setting traps for a given species. For the 2018 season, the most popular species remained the same as the previous ten year average, but the order changed with coyote, beaver, bobcat, muskrat, and raccoon being the order of the top five species pursued. Changes in trapper participation by species has been less drastic than when compared to overall harvest by species. There has been a strong decrease in participation associated with mink, muskrat, and raccoon. This is likely due to the strong decrease in value of both raccoon and muskrat. Mink are a species that is often pursued in conjunction with raccoon and muskrat trapping. A strong decrease in harvest and participation of trapping of muskrat and raccoon would likely cause a decrease in mink harvest and participation.

In terms of pelt value, bobcat and coyote continue to be the largest contributors to the value of wild fur in Idaho, with the sales of these two species representing ~80% of the wild fur value during the 2018 season (Table 4). These two species have remained important furbearers economically over the past 10 years, with other species such as muskrat, beaver, and marten being important contributors periodically (Table 4).

Mandatory Bobcat and River Otter CITES Reports

During the 2018-2019 season, the Department tagged 1,259 bobcats (Table 5). Bobcat harvest varies by region, but overall, trapping is the most prevalent method of take (Table 6). In northern regions with more reliable snow cover, hound hunting is also a popular method. Predator calling and opportunistic harvest represent small contributions to the overall harvest.

River otter harvest statewide was 155 animals with only three of the seven regional quotas being met (Table 7). Based off of participation numbers of river otter and decreasing participation in trapping for various aquatic furbearers (beaver, mink, muskrat, and raccoon), it would be expected that river otter harvest would remain low. While there is specific trappers who target river otters, the individual quotas of two per trapper limit take from those individuals. Therefore, indicators other than just meeting a regional quota should be used to gauge the status of the river otter population.

Non-Target Captures and Otters and Fisher Turned in For Reward

For the 2019 season, non-target captures continue to be low with trappers reported 36 non-target captures for every 100,000 trap nights (Table 8). This is a 20% reduction in non-target captures when compared to the previous 10 year average of 45. There has additionally been a reduction in the number of river otters and fisher turned into for a reward, suggesting fewer of these animals are captured as non-targets or incidentals (Table 8).

Beaver Harvest by HUC

Beaver harvest by HUC 4 has been tracked for two years. Figure two shows the breakdown of the harvest by HUC over two seasons (2018 and 2019). Much of the harvest in the state is focused in SW Idaho along the Snake, Boise, and lower Payette rivers, the Snake River around the Idaho Falls area, the Bear River watershed, and the Kootenai and lower St. Joe rivers in northern Idaho. In the watersheds that the Department is focusing restoration efforts, harvest is either not documented or in the lowest category (Figure 2).

Bobcat Tooth Collection

This reporting period represents the first year of data collection for bobcat teeth collection. During the 2018-2019 bobcat trapping and hunting season, 349 jaws were submitted for reimbursement representing ~28% of the harvest. Reimbursements were paid to participants at \$5.00/jaw submitted, tissue samples collected at the Department Health Lab, and the teeth were submitted to Mattson's Laboratory for aging. The goal of this effort is to build upon our knowledge of managing bobcat harvest in the state.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers, 2005 to present.

Season	Licenses Sold			Total	Reports received	Reporting trappers who harvested ^a		Estimated active trappers ^b	
	Adult resident	Junior resident	Non-resident			%	%		
2005-2006	858	131	12	1,001	733	73	580	79	791
2006-2007	1,042	132	26	1,200	839	70	662	79	948
2007-2008	1,015	112	23	1,150	919	80	649	71	817
2008-2009	1,091	112	15	1,218	864	71	643	74	901
2009-2010	992	111	11	1,114	843	76	658	78	869
2010-2011	1,082	131	9	1,222	1,000	82	764	76	929
2011-2012	1,568	171	28	1,767	1,399	79	1,020	73	1,290
2012-2013	1,799	232	26	2,057	1,731	84	1,263	73	1,502
2013-2014	2,117	253	24	2,394	1,985	83	1,444	73	1,748
2014-2015	1,999	309	31	2,339	1,807	77	1,209	67	1,565
2015-2016	1,771	248	28	2,047	1,575	77	966	61	1,255
2016-2017	1,583	155	21	1,759	1,144	65	674	59	1,036
2017-2018	1,627	169	34	1,830	1,243	68	804	65	1,184
2018-2019	1,635	130	28	1,793	1,493	83	835	56	1,004

^a Reporting trappers who harvested includes trapping and hunting.

^b Estimated active trappers is determined by multiplying the number of licenses sold by the percent of trappers who reported that they actually harvested, based on the total number of reports received.

Table 2. Annual reported harvest of 11 species and two species groups (marten and weasel) by trapping. Harvests are based off of trapper harvest reports and are not corrected for incomplete reporting.

Season	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat ^a	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Otter ^a	Raccoon	Red Fox	Spotted Skunk	Striped Skunk	Weasel
2008-2009	229	2,872	595	1,880	1,225	719	12,814	49	1,248	871	21	462	96
2009-2010	189	3,054	715	2,303	967	964	19,026	102	1,332	752	44	660	114
2010-2011	501	2,728	1,000	3,097	1,231	1,062	20,876	120	1,519	1,043	22	809	267
2011-2012	290	2,480	1,190	4,152	1,751	925	21,767	98	1,432	1,227	59	847	208
2012-2013	245	3,550	1,189	4,062	2,234	1,028	30,821	123	1,457	1,292	78	742	293
2013-2014	274	3,510	1,117	4,711	2,669	1,094	34,719	140	2,020	1,392	37	831	362
2014-2015	160	2,636	645	4,068	1,488	784	30,374	130	1,624	948	53	860	99
2015-2016	238	2,155	575	4,584	893	477	11,979	143	869	719	15	778	118
2016-2017	280	1,302	469	3,287	591	356	7,681	56	730	564	8	522	38
2017-2018	228	1,647	800	4,628	843	476	8,923	80	792	792	61	995	97
2018-2019	212	1,707	736	5,297	687	413	6,994	86	785	816	67	876	151
10 yr avg (2008-2017)	263.4	2,593	830	3,677	1,389	789	19,898	104	1,302	960	39	750	169
% Change ¹	-20	-34	-11	44	-51	-48	-65	-17	-40	-15	68	17	-11

^aHarvest estimates of bobcat and river otter from trapper report forms do not match with CITES tagging. For the most complete estimate of annual harvest for these two species, use the CITES information below.

¹% Change is the percent difference between the most recent season, and the previous ten year average for a given species.

Table 3. Annual count of trappers pursuing a given species. Numbers are based off of trapper report forms and are not corrected for incomplete reporting.

SEASON	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Red Fox	River Otter	Spotted Skunk	Striped Skunk	Weasel
2008-2009	67	330	217	241	108	163	254	236	162	75	10	110	38
2009-2010	47	328	198	216	86	170	291	217	146	61	10	90	33
2010-2011	65	316	254	256	89	196	316	246	168	60	8	105	62
2011-2012	70	333	362	387	105	189	362	258	205	58	15	107	50
2012-2013	59	446	446	482	177	244	509	302	270	75	21	106	71
2013-2014	81	508	499	571	220	279	617	375	287	96	14	151	77
2014-2015	59	426	331	469	137	187	471	297	191	103	17	132	42
2015-2016	67	351	254	448	116	131	327	209	156	85	5	107	30
2016-2017	61	275	196	325	82	103	238	168	146	52	6	78	23
2017-2018	42	298	297	410	102	110	260	193	168	61	12	108	23
2018-2019	53	321	296	452	101	110	230	199	181	75	16	127	37
10 yr avg (2008-2017)	62	361	305	381	122	177	365	250	190	73	12	109	45
% change ¹	-17	-12	-3	16	-21	-61	-58	-26	-5	3	26	14	-21

¹ % Change is the percent difference between the most recent season, and the previous ten year average for a given species.

Table 4. Species specific economic contribution to total estimated value of the wild fur market in Idaho, 2009-2018 seasons.

Species	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Badger	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
Beaver	3%	4%	5%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	11%
Bobcat	30%	34%	30%	24%	21%	31%	38%	43%	43%	37%
Coyote	51%	40%	40%	40%	32%	17%	12%	16%	15%	12%
Marten	4%	4%	5%	5%	7%	10%	12%	8%	5%	6%
Mink	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Muskrat	3%	4%	7%	6%	20%	24%	22%	17%	20%	23%
Otter	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Raccoon	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Red Fox	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%
St Skunk	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Sp Skunk	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Weasel	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Wolf ^a	2%	6%	4%	8%	5%	2%	2%	3%	NA	NA

^a Trapping season for wolves began during the 2011 season.

Table 5. Bobcat pelts tagged with USFWS CITES export tags by IDFG, 2009 to present.

Year	Bobcat ^a
2009-2010	971
2010-2011	1,430
2011-2012	1676
2012-2013	1,563
2013-2014	1,421
2014-2015	865
2015-2016	907
2016-2017	921
2017-2018	1,360
2018-2019	1,259

^a Pelts confiscated by IDFG are included in the bobcat totals for 2004-2005 (2), 2005-2006 (1), 2007-2008 (2), and 2008-2009 (9).

Table 6. Bobcat harvest (CITES tagged) by method of take reported by Region, 2018-2019.

Region	Method of Take ^a					
	Total Harvest	%Trapping	%Calling	%Hounds	%Incidental	%Other
Panhandle	414	54	3	38	3	1
Clearwater	241	56	2	36	5	1
Southwest	246	64	5	22	8	1
Magic Valley	164	91	3	2	4	0
Southeast	67	61	9	24	6	0
Upper Snake	77	90	3	4	4	0
Salmon	47	85	0	2	11	2

^a Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table 7. River Otter pelts (CITES tagged) by Region during 2018-2019 season.

Region	River otter quota, sex, and harvest by region					
	Harvest quota	Date quota reached	Male	Female	Unk	Total ^{a b} Harvested
Panhandle	40		18	20	2	40
Clearwater	20		7	4		11
Southwest	20	2/11/19	13	9		22
Magic Valley	30		12	8	4	24
Southeast	15		3	4	1	8
Upper Snake	15	1/10/19	12	4	1	17
Salmon	15	12/31/18	11	4		15
Total	155		76	53	8	137

^a Total harvest may exceed harvest quota. The otter trapping season closes in each region 72 hours after the harvest quota for that region is met. Trappers are allowed to keep otters within this 72-hour period provided their personal quota of 2 has not been reached.

^b Total includes non-target, road kill, illegal, and unknown mortality otters.

Table 8. Non-target captures rates per 100,000 trap nights for Idaho trappers, and number of non-target fisher and river otter turned into the Department per season.

SEASON	NT Captures/ 100,000 Trap Nights ¹	River Otters Turned In ²	Fisher Turned In ²
2006-2007	38	16	5
2007-2008	32	15	5
2008-2009	28	12	1
2009-2010	33	9	7
2010-2011	46	15	5
2011-2012	51	16	6
2012-2013	56	20	7
2013-2014	49	24	20
2014-2015	57	14	2
2015-2016	46	15	4
2016-2017	44	10	4
2017-2018	37	14	3
2018-2019	36	7	2
10 yr avg (2008-2017)	45	15	6
% Change ³	-20%	-53%	-66%

¹ Non-Target is the the capture of any season for which the season is closed and or there is no trapping season for that species.

² River otter and fisher numbers represent those animals turned into the department for a reward. This does not represent total non-target captures of these species.

³ % Change is the percent difference between the most recent season, and the previous ten year average for a given species.





Figure 1. Ten year trend line of three year moving average CPUE for 11 species and two species groups (marten - both American and Pacific; and weasels – both short and long-tailed).

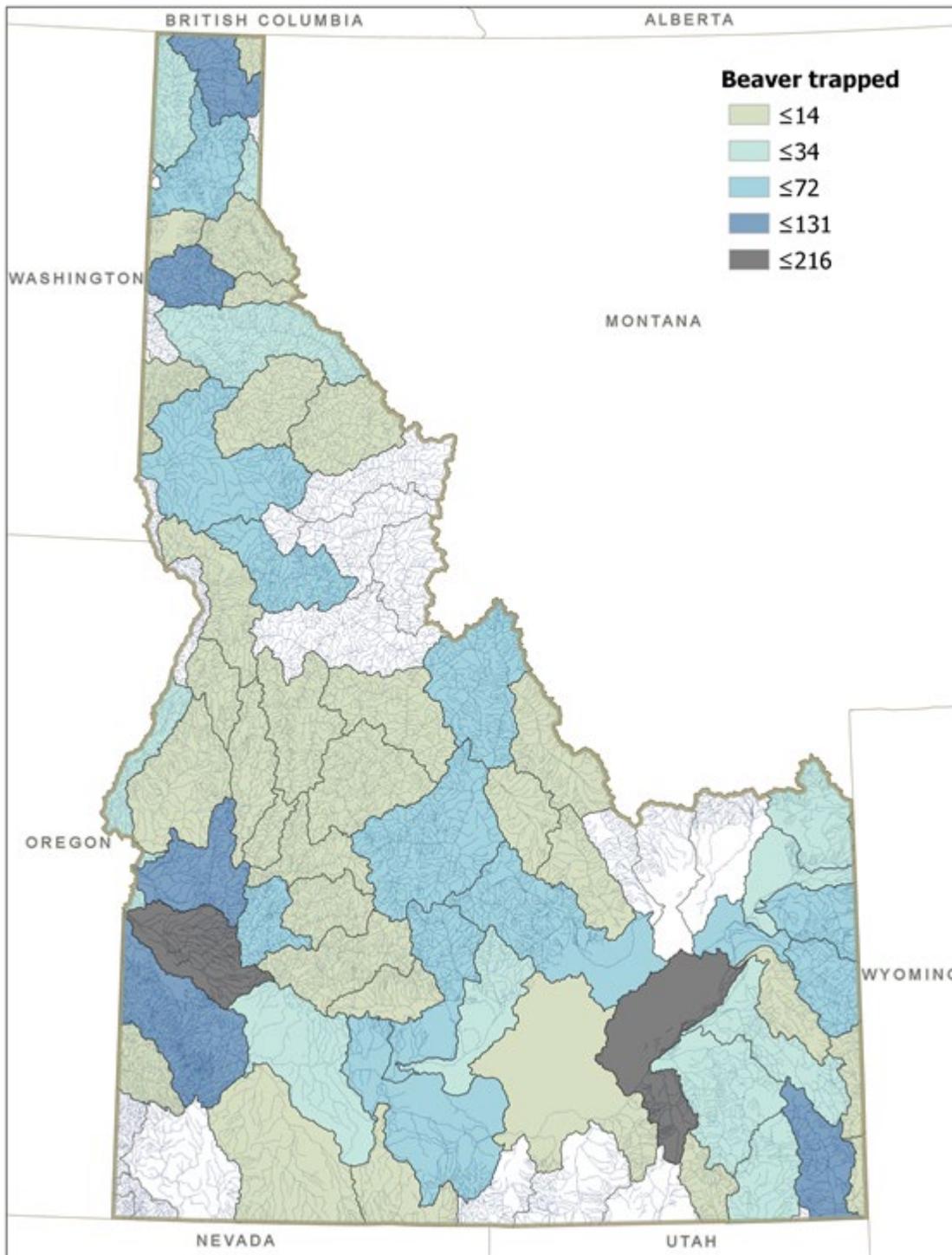


Figure 2. Beaver harvest by watershed (HUC 4 scale) over two seasons (2017 and 2018).

Appendix A

IDAHO

2018-2019 SEASON

TRAPPING RULES

Idaho Upland Game, Turkey & Furbearer

2018 & 2019 Seasons and Rules



Effective February 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020

See Migratory Bird Seasons and Rules for Crow, Doves and Sandhill Crane

Idfg.Idaho.gov

FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS BY REGION

THE TRAPPING BROCHURE IS NO LONGER IN PRINT. THESE RULES APPLY.

Furbearer Seasons

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 31

Clearwater Region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and NezPerce counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	October 15 - January 31
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Idaho County: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Chamberlin Cr., mainstem of Middle Fk. Clearwater R. from Maggie Cr. upstream, mainstem of Lochsa R., Secesh R. above the Long Gulch Bridge, and mainstem of Selway R. - **CLOSED.**

Nez Perce County: All northern tributaries to the Salmon River downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake River below the mouth of the Salmon River to the Clearwater River, excluding the Clearwater River drainage - **CLOSED.**

Exceptions: Otter

Mainstem of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., mainstem of the Snake R., from Lewiston upstream to Hells Canyon Dam, and the mainstem of the main Salmon R. - **CLOSED.**

Southwest Region: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Ada & Boise counties: The Boise River WMA - **CLOSED.**

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages. Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lake Cr. (trib. to Fall Cr.) but flows into Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Wilson Cr., Little Wilson Cr. and Elk Cr. on Wilson Flat north of Anderson Ranch Dam, Hunter Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. in the Danskin Mts. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND all lands within the Boise River WMA - **CLOSED.**

Gem County: Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge - **CLOSED.**

Valley County: Within the following drainages. Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Johnson Cr. upstream from Landmark, S. Fk. Salmon R. upstream from the fish trap near the mouth of Cabin Cr., Bear Valley Cr., and Sulphur Cr. - **CLOSED.**

Washington County: Raft Creek, Dennet Creek, Wolf Creek, Trail Creek, Sumac Creek, Thorn Creek, and Rock Creek on the Rocking M Ranch Conservation easement in Unit 31 - **CLOSED.**

Exceptions: Otter

Payette River: From the confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork Payette R. downstream to Banks; North Fork of the Payette R. from Cabarton Bridge downstream to Banks; and from Banks downstream to the confluence with the Snake River - **CLOSED.**

Boise River: From Lucky Peak Dam to the confluence with the Snake River - **CLOSED.**

Snake River: From Grandview to Farewell Bend - **CLOSED.**

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

Magic Valley Region: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	November 1 - March 31
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat	November 1 - March 31
Otter^	November 1 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Blaine County: All public lands within the following drainages. Big Wood River above Magic Reservoir Dam, Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.); all lands within Little Fish Cr. - **CLOSED**.

Camas County: All public lands within the following drainages. Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Little Smoky Cr. (except Basalt Cr. is open), and Willow Cr. - **CLOSED**.

Elmore County: All public lands within the following drainages. Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lake Cr. (trib. to Fall Cr.) but flows into Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Wilson Cr., Little Wilson Cr. and Elk Cr. on Wilson Flat north of Anderson Ranch Dam, Hunter Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. in the Danskin Mts. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), AND all lands within the Boise River WMA - **CLOSED**.

Gooding County: All public lands within the following drainages. Black Canyon Cr., and Thorn Cr. - **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Mink

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, February 15-February 28.

Exceptions: Muskrat

Gooding County: Hagerman WMA, February 15-February 28.

To see interactive maps of furbearer hunting and trapping exceptions, please visit the IDFG website:
idfg.idaho.gov/trap

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

^ All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

To apply for controlled beaver trapping permits see page 33.

Southeast Region: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter^	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Bannock County: Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Cottonwood Cr. drainage, Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr. - **CLOSED**.

Bear Lake County: Pearl Cr. drainage - **CLOSED**.

Bingham County: Public lands (Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage. - **CLOSED**.

Caribou County: Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage - **CLOSED**.

Franklin County: Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages - **CLOSED**. Birch Creek Drainage above the Forest Service boundary - **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Marten

Bear Lake & Franklin Counties: **CLOSED**

Exceptions: Otter

Portneuf R. downstream from Lava Hot Springs: **CLOSED**

Furbearer Seasons

Controlled Beaver Trapping Unit Permits		
Permit Number	Season Dates and Unit Descriptions	No. of Beaver
201	October 22 - April 15 That portion of Mink Creek drainage in Bannock County, except the East Fork Mink Cr. and West Fork Mink Cr.	5
202	October 22 - April 15 Pebble Creek drainage in Caribou County.	5
203	October 22 - April 15 Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.	5
204	October 22 - April 15 Pearl Creek in Bear Lake County	5
205	October 22 - April 15 Logan River drainage, including Beaver Creek and Whites Creek Drainage	5
206	October 22 - April 15 That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County	5
207	October 22 - April 15 That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage in Bannock County	5

Upper Snake Region: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter [^]	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Bonneville County: All public lands managed by Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management within the Willow Creek drainage - **CLOSED**.

Clark County. All public lands within the following drainages. Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., West Camas Cr., Indian Creek and Middle Creek, upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary - **CLOSED**.

Teton County. The following drainages upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary: North Twin Creek, South Fork of Packsaddle Creek, Trail Creek, and Dry Creek including McRenolds Reservoir - **CLOSED**.

Exceptions: Otter

South Fork Snake R. from Palisades Dam to the Heise Cable, mainstem Buffalo R., mainstem Warm R. and mainstem Henry's Fork R. from Big Springs to Del Rio Bridge at St. Anthony - **CLOSED**.

Salmon Region: Custer and Lemhi counties	
Badger*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Beaver	October 22 - April 15
Bobcat*	December 14 - February 16
Fox*	July 1 - June 30 Year-round
Marten	November 1 - January 31
Mink	October 22 - April 15
Muskrat	October 22 - April 15
Otter [^]	October 22 - March 15

Exceptions: Beaver

Custer County. Marsh Cr. drainage - **CLOSED**

Lemhi County. Dahlenoga Cr. - **CLOSED**

Exceptions: Otter

Main Salmon R. downstream from North Fork, ID. - **CLOSED**.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

[^] All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping.

River Otter Trapping Quota	
Region	Harvest Quota
Panhandle	40
Clearwater	20
Southwest	20
Magic Valley	30
Southeast	15
Upper Snake	15
Salmon	15
Statewide Total	155

Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas

Prior to trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas, trappers must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office:

- Andrus
- Billingsley Creek
- Blackfoot River
- Boise River
- Boundary Creek
- C.J. Strike
- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh
- Carey Lake
- Cartier Slough
- Coeur d'Alene River
- Cottonwood
- Craig Mountain
- Deer Park
- Farragut
- Fort Boise
- Georgetown Summit
- Hagerman
- Market Lake
- McArthur Lake
- Montpelier
- Montour
- Mud Lake
- Niagara Springs
- Payette
- Pend Oreille
- Portneuf
- Red River
- St. Maries
- Sand Creek
- Snow Peak
- Sterling
- Tex Creek

BEAVER, BOBCAT, RIVER OTTER PERMITS AND REPORTING

Bobcat Mandatory Check and Report



Any person taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

- Presenting the pelts of all bobcat taken to a regional office, the McCall office or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report.

To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented during normal working hours - 8AM to 5PM
Pelts must be thawed before they can be checked.

A fee of \$2 will be charged for each pelt tag. An additional \$1.75 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when pelts are brought in for tagging.

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's).

No person, who does not possess a furbearer or taxidermist license and/or appropriate import documentation, shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat which does not have an official state export tag attached.

River Otter Reporting Requirements



- Pelts must be tagged by Fish and Game personnel at the regional office in the region in which the animal was taken within 72 hours of taking. Trappers unable to comply with the tagging requirements due to special or unique circumstances must report their harvest to the appropriate regional office or field personnel within 72 hours and make arrangements for tagging at the proper regional office. Pelts not registered or presented to Fish and Game personnel within 72 hours are subject to confiscation.

A fee of \$2 will be charged for each pelt tag. An additional \$1.75 vendor fee will be charged to each license holder when pelts are brought in for tagging.

- River otter carcasses do not have to be turned in to Fish and Game, except for otters harvested after the season has closed, or otters in excess of the trappers' personal quota of two. Check with the Fish and Game regional office for further information when reporting a harvest.
- No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 72 hours after the close of the season, any raw otter pelt legally harvested in Idaho which does not have an official state export tag attached.

Season Limits:

- A maximum limit of two otters is allowed for any one trapper, provided the harvest quota for that region is not exceeded.

Otter Quota/Season Closure:

- The otter season will close in each region 72 hours after the harvest quota for that region is reached. Trappers will be allowed to keep otters within this 72-hour period provided their personal quota of two has not been reached. Otters may only be turned in for reporting and tagging within the region where they were harvested.
- Current otter harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish and Game regional office during normal business hours or online at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/harvest-quotas>. The reporting hotline (1-800-323-4334) is now only updated when there is a closure.
- All areas closed to beaver trapping are closed to otter trapping. Additional closures have been identified to reduce potential conflicts between user groups.



Beaver Controlled Trapping Permits

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit in possession for that controlled trapping unit.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated and may **not** be used. Fish and Game will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit.

Eligibility: Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

Applications: Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all Fish and Game offices and must be received at the Wildlife Bureau of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked no later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing: Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.

Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Successful Applicants: Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

Revocation of Permits: Any permittee who does not comply with trapping laws, rules, proclamations, or the instructions for the trapping unit may have his or her permit revoked.

Alternate Permittee: Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with the "Successful Applicants" section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.

Mandatory Furtaker Harvest Report

All trappers are required to fill out the mandatory furtaker harvest report form provided by Fish and Game. The completed mandatory report must be returned to Fish and Game, Wildlife Bureau, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Any trapper failing to send in a report by July 31 shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year. It is helpful to Fish and Game personnel to receive report forms as soon as trappers are able to submit them. This assists us in getting the departmental progress reports done in a timely manner.

All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the office from which they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

The mandatory furtaker harvest report form is available on the Fish and Game website at idfg.idaho.gov.

ATTENTION MARTEN TRAPPERS

- Trappers are encouraged to set marten traps at least 2 feet above the ground or snow level to reduce the harvest of female martens.
- Use cubby boxes, with a closed front and 2 1/2 inch entrance hole, to avoid catching fishers.



TO AVOID CATCHING DOGS

- It is recommended trappers use body-gripping or Conibear traps only under water.
- Set traps at least 4 feet above ground when used on land.
- Use only small Conibears (160 or smaller), set 7 inches back inside a long hard box that is no larger than 7 inches in width, preferably with a lid extending beyond the opening (See photo).
- Always look for places without human or dog activity when setting Conibears, and post signs indicating lethal traps are in use.



FURBEARER - METHODS OF TAKE AND RULES

Attention Trappers

Completion of a trapper education course will be mandatory starting July 1, 2018 for anyone who purchased their first Idaho trapping license on or after July 1, 2011. Trappers who have taken only a wolf trapping education course must take the Idaho trapper education course. Those who present proof of equivalent certification obtained in Idaho or from an authorized agency or association in another state or country are exempt. For more information visit: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/trap> or contact a Fish and Game office.

It is Unlawful

- To trap without a valid trapper's license; see page 47 for exceptions.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb, or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait in trapping furbearing animals, unprotected wildlife, or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt any animal or bird by aid of a spotlight, flashlight or artificial light of any kind; except unprotected or predatory animals on private land after obtaining written permission and on public lands after obtaining the required permit from an Idaho Fish and Game regional office. It is lawful to hunt raccoons on public lands without a permit if such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, or regulations.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

Definitions

Bait is defined as any animal parts; except bleached bones or liquid scent are not considered bait.

Drainage is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

Furbearing animals are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), and badger.

Ground set is defined as any foothold trap, body-gripping trap, or snare originally set in or on the land (soil, rock, etc.). This includes any traps elevated up to a maximum of 36 inches above the natural ground level.

Non-target species are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed.

Other set is defined as any set not defined as a ground or water set, including without limitation, elevated sets originally set 36 inches or more above natural ground level.

Predatory wildlife is defined as the following species: coyote, raccoon, jackrabbit, skunk and weasel.

Public highway is defined as the traveled portion of, and the shoulders on each side of, any road maintained by any governmental entity for public travel, and includes all bridges, culverts, overpasses, fills, and other structures within the limits of the right-of-way of any such road. See page 36.

Public trail is defined as any trail designated by any city, county, state, or federal transportation or land management agency on the most current official map of the agency.

Trapping shall mean taking, killing, and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls or other devices.

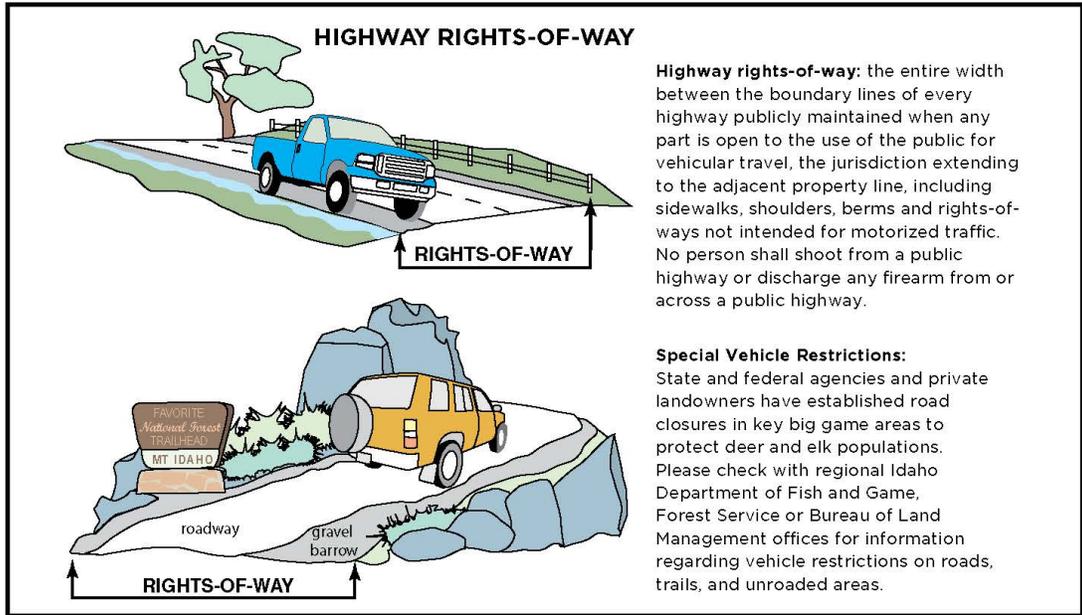
Water set is defined as any trap or snare originally set in or on any body of water. This shall include traps on floats in the water and those that are set with a minimum of one-third of the trap submerged. The term water set applies to traps set on beaver dams, in bank holes and in the water at bank slides.

Methods of Take—Trapping

Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, or otter by any method other than trapping.

Trapping: No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Use for bait, any part of a domestic or wild origin game bird, big game, upland game, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use live animals as bait or an attractant.
- Use any set within 30 feet of any visible bait.
- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.
- Place any ground, water, or other sets on, across, or within 5 feet of center line of any maintained public trail.
- Place any ground set on, across, or within any public highway, except ground sets may be placed underneath bridges and



Highway rights-of-way: the entire width between the boundary lines of every highway publicly maintained when any part is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel, the jurisdiction extending to the adjacent property line, including sidewalks, shoulders, berms and rights-of-ways not intended for motorized traffic. No person shall shoot from a public highway or discharge any firearm from or across a public highway.

Special Vehicle Restrictions: State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

within and at culverts that are part of a public highway right-of-way.

- Place any ground set incorporating snare, trap, or attached materials within three hundred (300) feet of any designated public campground, trailhead, or picnic area. Cage or box live traps are permitted within three hundred (300) feet of designated public campgrounds, trailheads, or picnic areas as allowed by city, county, state, and federal law.
- Place or set any ground set snare without a break-away device or cable stop incorporated within the loop of the snare.
- Place or set any wolf snare without a diverter; or without a break-away device or cable stop incorporated within the loop of the snare.
- Place any ground set incorporating a foothold trap with an inside jaw spread greater than 9 inches.

Release of Non-Target Catches: Non-target species are defined as any species caught for which the season is closed. *All non-target species caught alive shall be released immediately.* If difficulty is encountered releasing a trapped fisher, wolverine, lynx, mountain lion, or wolf please contact Fish and Game immediately for assistance.

Any trapper who catches a non-target species that is dead shall:

- Prior to removing the animal, record the date and species of the animal caught.
- Report the catch on the mandatory furtaker harvest report form.
- Remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession.

- Notify Fish and Game through the local conservation officer, a regional office, or the McCall office within 72 hours to make arrangements to transfer the animal to Fish and Game.
- Fish and Game will reimburse trappers \$10 for each lynx, wolverine, bobcat, or fisher caught accidentally and turned in. A \$10 reward will also be paid for otters accidentally taken after the regional quota has been met.

Closed Statewide: There is no open season for fisher, kit fox, lynx or wolverine.

Traps

Checking Traps: No person shall place snares or traps for furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife except pocket gophers, most species of ground squirrels, and other unprotected rodents, without visiting every trap or snare once every 72 hours and removing any catch therein.

Trappers acting under authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services are exempt from this rule.

Removing Trapped Animals of Another: No person shall remove wildlife from the trap or snare of another **except** licensed trappers with written permission from the owner.

Tags for Traps

All traps or snares, **except** those used for pocket gophers, ground squirrels or other unprotected rodents, shall have attached to the snare or the chain of every trap, a metal tag bearing in legible English the name and current address of the trapper; or a six-digit number assigned by Fish and Game as it appears on your trapping license adjacent to TRAPPER ID.

Methods of Take—Hunting

Furbearing Animals: No person shall take beaver, marten, mink, muskrat or otter by any method other than trapping. In addition to predatory or unprotected wildlife, the following furbearers may be hunted: badger, bobcat, and red fox.

Hunting: No person hunting permissible furbearing animals (badger, bobcat and red fox) or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Hunt with any weapon the possession of which is prohibited by state or federal law.

No person hunting raccoon at night shall:

- Hunt from a motorized vehicle.
- Use any light attached to any motor vehicle.
- Hunt on private land without obtaining written permission from the landowner or lessee.

Also see General Hunting Rules, pages 43-45

Hound Hunting Rules

Dogs may be used to pursue black bears, mountain lions, bobcat, raccoon, or fox in either an open take season where use of dogs is allowed, or during a dog training season. During a dog training season, bobcat may be pursued and treed, but may not be captured, killed, or possessed.

Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species. Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking or killing any big game animal, **except** black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon or fox may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the Director of Fish and Game, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

Hound Hunter Permit

The following persons must have a valid hound hunter permit in possession when dogs are being used to hunt:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
- Anyone that harvests a black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, or fox with the use of dogs, **except** clients of licensed outfitters are not required to have a hound hunter permit.

Closed Areas

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- Craters of the Moon National Monument, see page 44 for more information.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce counties.

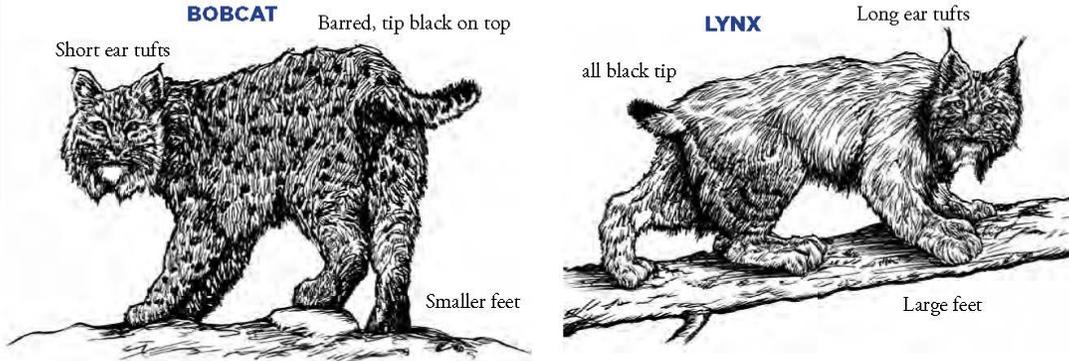
- That portion of Ada County:
 - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
 - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
 - Between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of State game preserves, State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges and bird sanctuaries for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, **except** as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

Common Season Boundaries

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.

BOBCAT AND LYNX IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

BE SURE OF WHAT YOU SHOOT. THE LYNX IS A THREATENED SPECIES WHICH MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR A BOBCAT.

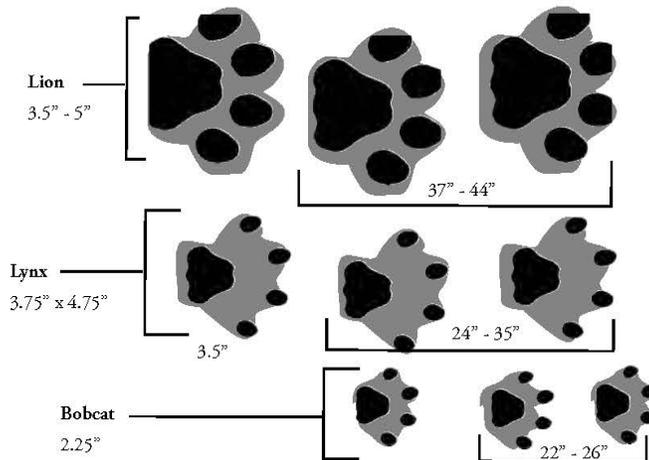


Note: The tail characteristics are most reliable for making positive identification.

	BOBCAT	LYNX
Tail	Underside of tail is white to the tip. Usually some barring on upper side of tail with wide band at end.	Has black tip on tail which completely encircles the end. No barring on upper side of tail between base and tip.
Color	Brownish with clouding or spots over much of the upper body—usually distinct black spots on belly.	Generally pale grey without distinct spotting.
Face	Ear tufts, if present, usually under one inch long. Lacks prominent cheek tufts.	Dark colored ear tufts, conspicuous, 1.5 inches long. Cheek tufts prominent.
Feet	Appear small, lack hair development between pads—bare like those of domestic cat.	Appear large, pads covered with woolly hair.
Size	Appears smaller in overall size (length: 25-37 inches) (weight: 15-35 pounds).	Appears larger in overall size (length: 32-37 inches) (weight: 15-30 pounds). Longer hind legs give the lynx a stooped posture.

Tracks in Snow and Stride Length Comparison for Mountain Lion, Lynx and Bobcat

- Mountain lion and lynx foot sizes are similar; bobcat foot is much smaller.
- Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.
- Note track size and stride length (distance between first and last foot) differences between species.



GUIDELINES TO REDUCE INJURY & MINIMIZE NON-TARGET CATCHES SUCH AS WOLVERINES AND LYNX

- Set pan tension for wolf traps to at least 8 pounds of pressure to prevent a wolverine or lynx from firing a trap set for wolf.
- Make marten sets on leaning poles no larger than 4" in diameter and set at a 45 (or greater) degree angle with trap and bait placed at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level.
- Do not use large bodygrip traps if wolverines or lynx tracks are observed in the vicinity of a set.
- When using baits larger than 5 pounds, traps should be set at least 30 feet from the bait—farther is better.
- To avoid wolverines in snares set for wolves, place the bottom of the snare loop just below knee cap level (18"- 21" above the ground or packed snow surface).
- Use #2 or smaller foothold trap for furbearers or consider a rubber-padded foothold trap if a #3 size or larger is used.
- If using drags, use at least 8-feet of sturdy chain.
- If a larger trap is preferred use padded-jaw or laminated offset jaws, such as padded #3 coil-springs, to minimize injury.
- Anchor all traps solidly, including small bodygrip traps. A wolverine may be able to pull out or bend or break a small trap if it is anchored securely.
- Select habitat less likely to have lynx or wolverines (open fields or semi-open country near rocks, ridges, and trees).
- Avoid using rabbit parts as bait.
- If you observe wolverine or lynx tracks, it is best not to make a set in the area.
- If using a staked set, stake the trap so that a wolverine cannot get entangled around a solid object after being captured. Trap chains should be sturdy and equipped with at least two swivels. J-hooks should be spot-welded closed.
- Carry a catchpole to release non-target animals alive.

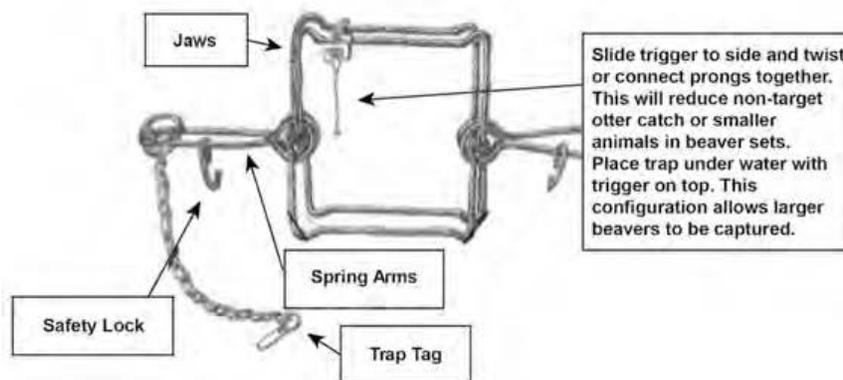
IF YOU CATCH A LYNX OR WOLVERINE...



Guidelines to Minimize Non-target Catch

Immediately contact Fish and Game or your local sheriff's office to assist with the safe release of the animal.

HOW TO AVOID NON-TARGET OTTERS SETTING #330 CONIBEAR TRAPS



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TRAPPER RESPONSIBILITIES

Ethics and Responsibility

Demonstrating ethics and responsibility while trapping sends many positive messages that nontrappers understand and appreciate more than any explanation. These ethics relay the message that we are proud to be trappers, we care about our activities, and we care about the resource we're using.

Key ingredients for trappers:

- **Maintain good landowner relations**
- **Respect other outdoor enthusiasts**
- **Avoid using traps near heavily used recreational trails.**
Trail users may have dogs which could be attracted to traps
- **Keep familiar with improvements in trapping equipment and techniques**
- **Appreciate perceptions of nontrappers**
- **Respect the resource**

Some Methods for Improving Efficiency, Selectivity, and Humaneness

- Use pan tension devices to avoid non-target catches.
- Use extra swivels and center-mounted chains to hold more animals and reduce the chance of injuries.
- Use modern positioning techniques at dirt hole sets to increase selectivity.
- Use short trap chains for most land sets, especially those targeted for fox and coyote.
- Use "stop-loss" traps for muskrats in shallow water or dry land sets.
- Use dispatching methods that are quick and humane.
- Use trap sizes that are appropriate for the target species – pad catches are desirable for fox, coyote, raccoon and many other animals because they cause fewer injuries.
- Use baits and lures that attract target species but not other animals.
- Use cage, box or species-specific traps near barns, outbuildings and other locations where domestic animals may be present.
- Use common sense in choosing set locations that maximize opportunities to catch target species and minimize opportunities to catch other animals.
- Use secure methods of attaching traps – tailor methods to hold the largest species you may catch.
- Use traps with padded or laminated jaws where the risk of non-target catches is high.
- Use caution when setting body-gripping traps or snares.
- Do not set more traps than you can check in 72 hours even in bad weather.

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Three Key Messages to Use When Educating the Public About Traps, Trapping, and Furbearer Management

- Furbearing animals are a sustainable, renewable resource. Some people have the notion that furbearing animals are rare or endangered. We need to reassure them that legally trapped animals are numerous and their populations secure.
- Trapping is controlled through strict regulations that are enforced by conservation officers. People may fear that trapping is a "free-for-all," with no sort of control or regulation. To overcome this fear, we must reinforce the message that trapping is a highly regulated activity in Idaho and nationwide.
- Trapping provides a wide range of benefits to society. People often ask, "Is trapping really necessary?" We need to tell them about the wildlife management, economic (to the trapper and for damage control), and lifestyle benefits of trapping.

Be a Proud Trapper by being a Good Representative of trapping.

Trappers are encouraged to use warning signs to inform recreational users that traps or snares are in the area. Trappers may print off copies of the signs from idfg.idaho.gov and post them near their trap lines. Using warning signs is voluntary.



The sign is a courtesy of Idaho Fish and Game in cooperation with the Idaho Trapper's Association.

Photo © Ed Glazar & © Times-News

IDAHO'S MANDATORY TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE

— New law takes effect July 1, 2018 —

Idaho trappers who purchase their first trapping license after June 30, 2011 are required to attend a mandatory trapper education course before they can purchase an Idaho trapping license. Course is a mixture of classroom instruction and field experience.

- Learn the best tools, techniques, and locations for safe and responsible trapping to avoid catching non-target animals, as well as how to minimize impacts on others.
- Furbearer behavior and management, trapping regulations, equipment selection and maintenance, and care of pelts will be covered.
- Cost at regional office: \$8.00
Online Cost: \$9.75

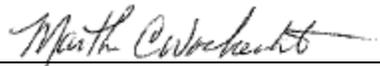
Please note that the wolf trapping education course is not a substitute for this class. Those who present proof of equivalent certification obtained in Idaho or from an authorized agency or association in another state or country are exempt.

For more information please visit: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/trap> or contact your nearest Fish and Game office.

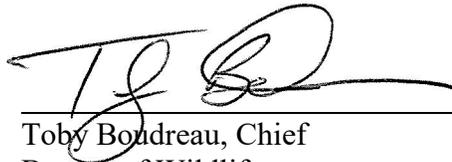
Trapper Responsibilities

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



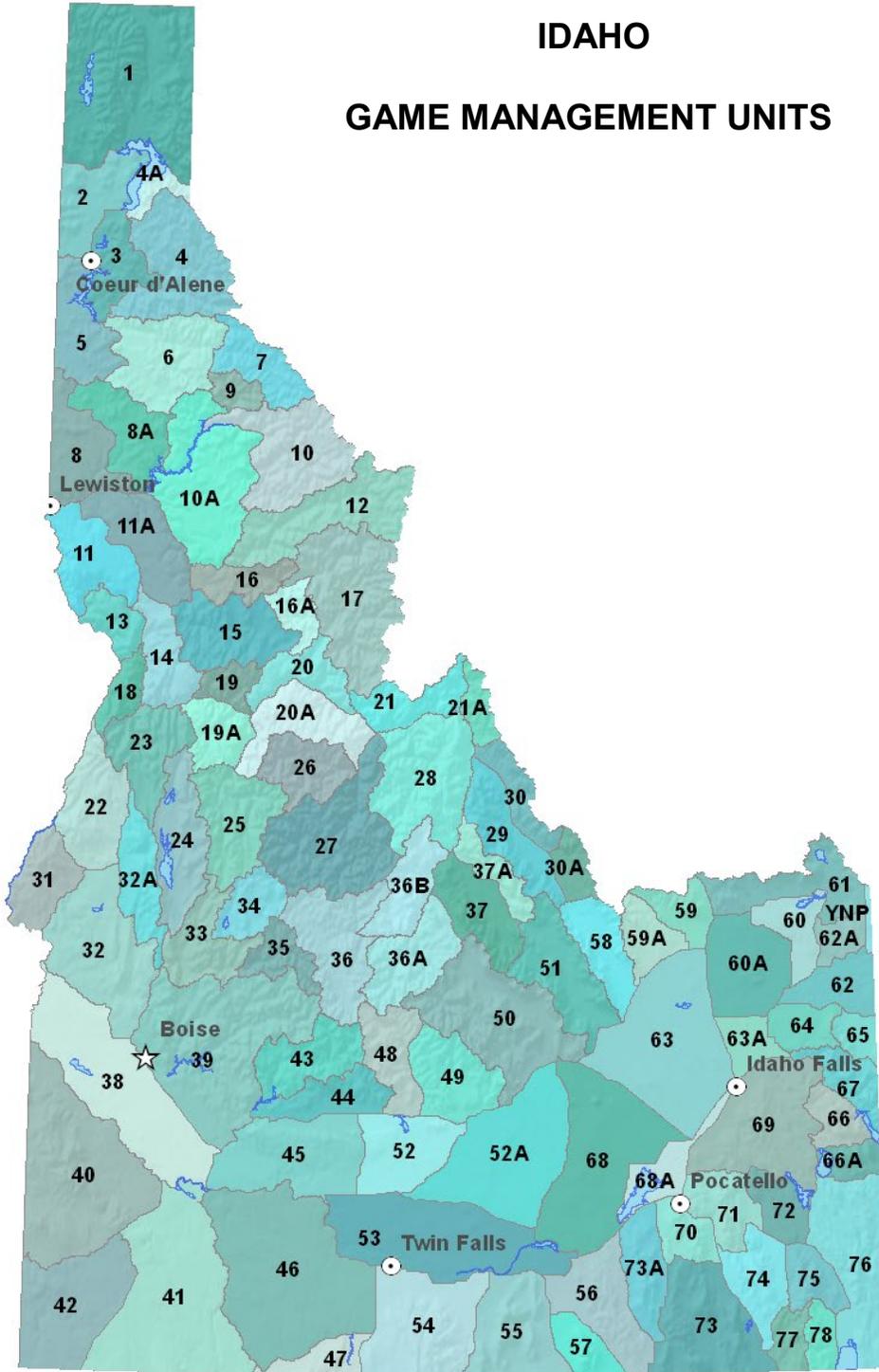
Martha Wackenhut
Assistant Chief, Bureau of Wildlife
Federal Aid Coordinator



Toby Boudreau, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

IDAHO

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

