

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Rod Sando, Director

Project W-170-R-24

Progress Report



FURBEARERS

Study III, Job 1

Prepared by:

Wayne E. Melquist
State Furbearer Program Coordinator

Jon Beals
Wildlife Research Biologist

July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

December 2001

Boise, Idaho



Findings in this report are preliminary in nature and not for publication without permission of the Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to: Idaho Department of Fish and Game, PO Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for assistance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDY OBJECTIVES.....	1
PROCEDURES.....	1
ABSTRACT.....	2
METHODS	3
Mandatory Harvest Report.....	3
Idaho Trapper Survey	3
Bobcat Check-ins, Jaws, and Export Tags.....	3
Nontarget Catches.....	4
STATEWIDE RESULTS	4
Trapping License Sales	4
Trapper Days Afield	4
Mandatory Harvest Reports	4
Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports.....	5
1999-2000 Idaho Trapper Survey	6
Reported Nontarget Catches	11
Furbearer Surveys	11
Furbearer Research	11
Furbearer Depredation	12
Administrative Activities and Coordination	12
Management Implications.....	12
LITERATURE CITED	13

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers for the 1985-1986 through 1999-2000 trapping seasons.....	14
Table 2.	Estimated trapper days afield, 1993-1994 through 1999-2000, based on trappers' reports received.....	14
Table 3.	Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped during the 1999-2000 season based on 362 trappers who reported they trapped.....	15
Table 4.	History of statewide rank by value for animals trapped.	16
Table 5.	Distribution of the furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers for the 1999-2000 season.	17
Table 6.	Bobcat and lynx pelts checked in at IDFG offices by trappers and hunters and tagged with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service export tags, 1986-1987 through 1999-2000.	19
Table 7.	Bobcat harvest report for the 1999-2000 season according to IDFG region and method of take. Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.	19
Table 8.	Sex and age distribution of Idaho bobcats harvested during the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons based on physical examination for sex and canine examination and cementum analysis. These figures do not reflect the total annual harvest.	20
Table 9.	Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-1990 through 1999-2000 ^a . Percent is based on the total number of teeth examined.....	21
Table 10.	Ages of harvested female bobcats determined by cementum analyses, 1985-1986 through 1999-2000 ^a	22
Table 11.	Fisher and otter caught accidentally by trappers and turned in to the Department for a payment of \$5.00 each, 1990-1991 through 1999-2000.....	23

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1. Bobcat age distribution for 413 animals harvested in the 1995-1996 season, 948 animals harvested during the 1996-1997 season, 913 animals harvested the 1997-1998 season, 490 animals harvested in the 1998-1999 season, and 782 animals harvested in the 1999-2000. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.24
- Fig. 2. Bobcat age distribution and gender among 782 animals harvested during the 1999-2000 season. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.....25

**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES**

STATE: Idaho **JOB TITLE:** Furbearer Survey
PROJECT: W-170-R-24
SUBPROJECT: 1-7 **STUDY NAME:** Statewide Fur Harvest Survey
STUDY: III
JOB: 1
PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Estimate the size, structure, and trend of harvested furbearers.
2. Determine hunter and trapper attitudes and preferences and inform trappers/hunters of the biology and status of furbearers.

PROCEDURES

1. Analyze the mandatory trapper reports to estimate trends in furbearer harvest and the dollar value of species.
2. Continue to collect bobcat harvest information through the mandatory export tag program.
3. Estimate the sex and age structure of the bobcat harvest from analysis of lower jaws and tooth sectioning. Construct population models for bobcats.
4. Conduct surveys to determine the population status of selected furbearers.
5. Prepare an annual report on furbearer harvest.
6. Conduct public meetings to inform the public and obtain information on hunter/trapper acceptance of season regulations.
7. Make presentations on furbearer biology to the public.

ABSTRACT

Trapping licenses sold during the 1999-2000 season totaled 558, which included 451 residents (98 junior residents through 17 years of age) and 9 nonresidents. The number of licenses sold was down from the previous year. Harvest reports for the 1999-2000 season were submitted by 459 (82%) of the 558 licensed trappers. From this total, 357 (88%) of 362 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report form. These trappers, on the average, spent 38 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 4.2 hours afield per day. The fur harvest, based on 357 reporting trappers who trapped, was 21,801 animals, down from 22,906 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 16,332 pelts (75%) were sold for a value of \$92,214.69. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$5.65 each, compared to \$5.61 for the previous season. The 357 trappers harvested an average of 61 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 46 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$5.65 and 46 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$259.90. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those that did not submit a report, was 27,596 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$174,716.37. The muskrat, beaver, red fox, coyote, and striped skunk, respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$58.57 for bobcats (\$68.22 in 1998-1999) to \$1.69 for muskrats (\$1.31 in 1998-1999). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top 5 furbearers include the bobcat, beaver, red fox, muskrat, and coyote. Pelt values were up for all furbearers except bobcat, marten, raccoon, and striped skunk. Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 882 animals from a 2-month December and January season; 3 additional animals were reported as road kills or unknown cause of death. The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (66% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest Regions. Juvenile and subadult (less than 2 years of age) bobcats made up 42% of the 782 bobcat teeth examined from the 1999-2000 harvest. In 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, juvenile and subadult bobcats constituted 26% and 35% of the harvest sampled, respectively. There is no evidence that the current harvest regime is negatively impacting furbearer populations in Idaho. Furthermore, with trapper numbers and fur prices down for the past several years, there is less pressure on furbearer populations. Trappers reported 35 nontarget otter trapped during the 1999-2000 season. The Department's goals and objectives for furbearers are being met for season structure and maintaining populations and distribution. Some management programs are not being met due primarily to inadequate funding and Legislative resistance to a mandatory trapper education program. Department regional furbearer coordinators continue to maintain a liaison with trappers, other agencies, organizations, and user groups. They continue to serve an important role in furbearer management and in meeting the goals and objectives of the furbearer management plan.

METHODS

Mandatory Harvest Report

By Idaho law, licensed trappers are required to report to the Department the number of wild animals they catch, kill, and pelt during the open season and the amount received for the sale of these pelts. This report must be submitted by July 31 for the previous trapping season. Until the 1996-1997 season, this information appeared on the back of the trapping license. Once the Department switched to point-of-sale machines for the purchase of licenses, this option was no longer available. A mandatory trapper report card has been used since the 1996-1997 season (Appendix 1). This self-addressed and stamped folding card is sent to trappers each spring so they may conform to Idaho law. Mandatory trapper reports are used to estimate the statewide harvest of furbearers by licensed trappers, the distribution of the harvest, and the market value of the state's furbearer harvest. Questions on how many days the trapper spent afield scouting and setting and checking traps, and how many hours, on the average, the trapper spent afield each day are included. These questions were initially included in the mandatory report beginning with the 1993-1994 trapping season, and are used to gather information on trapping effort. Results of this information are then projected to estimate the statewide trapping effort both in total hours and days afield.

Idaho Trapper Survey

Mandatory trapper reports may also be used to collect specific survey data as needed. The input from trappers can be important, as the secretive nature of most furbearers generally makes it difficult to obtain good data on their status. No specific survey data were requested on the 1999-2000 mandatory report card.

Bobcat Check-ins, Jaws, and Export Tags

By Fish and Game Commission regulation, trappers and hunters are required to have all bobcats tagged with export tags by the Department within 10 days after the close of the trapping/hunting season. During the period 1977-1978 through 1980-1981, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service export tags were made available to trappers and hunters, but they were not mandatory. Trappers and hunters are also required to turn the lower jaw from all bobcats taken into the Department and to report the sex of the animal, harvest location, date harvested, and method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting). This regulation has been in effect since the 1981-1982 season. During the 1979-1980 and 1980-1981 seasons, it was not mandatory to turn in jaws, but the Department issued export tags only when jaws were submitted. During the 1999-2000 season, trappers and hunters had their bobcats tagged and made their reports at Department offices. It is unlawful to possess raw, untagged bobcat pelts after 10 days following the close of the season, and to sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official export tag attached.

Bobcat jaws collected when pelts are tagged are sent to the Wildlife Health Laboratory where they are cleaned and sent to Matson's Laboratory, Milltown, Montana. Canines from all bobcats have been aged by Matson's Laboratory since the 1995-1996 season.

Mandatory harvest report data continue to be used to estimate the total statewide bobcat harvest by Department administrative region and big game management unit. Tooth data have been used to evaluate the sex and age composition of the harvest. Collectively, these data have been useful in evaluating the effects of the harvest on the statewide bobcat population.

Nontarget Catches

By Commission rule, any trapper who catches a nontarget species (any species for which the season is closed) that is dead 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. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, the Department has paid trappers \$5.00 for each accidentally-caught fisher and river otter they turned in to the Department. Beginning with the 1996-1997 season, trappers may receive \$5.00 for each accidentally-caught lynx. Most nontarget animals turned in are sold at the Department's annual auction. Money from the sale of these animals was deposited into the general account in 1989 and 1990. Since 1991 the proceeds have been earmarked for use in trapper education and associated activities.

STATEWIDE RESULTS

Trapping License Sales

Trapping licenses sold during the 1999-2000 season totaled 558, and included 451 residents (98 were junior residents through 17 years of age), and 9 nonresidents (Table 1). The number of licenses sold was down from the previous 4 years.

Trapper Days Afield

For the 1999-2000 season, 357 (99%) of the 362 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report card (Table 2). On the average these trappers spent 38 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 4.2 hours afield per day. Statewide, all active trappers spent an estimated total of 13,549 days afield. These figures represent a slight increase in trapping effort in terms of days afield and hours afield per day from the previous 5 years.

Mandatory Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 459 (82%) of the 558 licensed trappers for the 1999-2000 season. The information submitted on these reports was used to compile the reported and estimated statewide harvest and market value of the different furbearer species taken, including the badger, beaver, bobcat, civet (western spotted skunk), coyote, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, and weasel. Trapping and hunting season dates for furbearers for 1999-2000 appear in Appendix 2.

The fur harvest, based on 362 reporting trappers who trapped, was 21,801 (Table 3), down from 22,906 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 16,332 pelts (75%) were sold for a value of

\$92,214.69. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$5.65 each, compared to \$5.61 for the previous year. The 362 trappers harvested an average of 61 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 46 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$5.65 and 46 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$259.90. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those who did not submit a report, was 27,596 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$174,716.37.

The muskrat, beaver, red fox, coyote, and striped skunk, respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$58.57 for bobcats (\$68.22 in 1998-1999) to \$1.69 for muskrats (\$1.31 in 1998-1999). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top 5 furbearers include the bobcat, beaver, red fox, muskrat, and coyote. Pelt values were up for all furbearers except bobcat, marten, raccoon, and striped skunk (Table 3).

Harvest data reported by trappers were compiled, by county, for individual furbearer species (Table 5). While harvest distribution is partly a function of where trappers live, it allows us to further examine areas of higher harvest.

Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports

Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 882 animals from a 2-month, December and January, season; 3 additional animals were reported as road kills or unknown cause of death (Table 7). Although bobcat harvest occurred in every county, bobcat were trapped only in 30 of 44 counties. The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (66% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest Regions (Table 7). Trapping accounted for 51% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (30%). Hound hunting for bobcats clearly predominated in the 2 northern regions of the state.

Bobcat age and sex distribution data based on the analysis of 413 bobcat teeth for 1995-1996, 948 teeth for 1996-1997, 913 teeth for 1997-1998, 490 teeth for 1998-1999, and 782 teeth for 1999-2000 are displayed in Table 8. Harvested bobcats ranged in age from young-of-the-year or juvenile (depicted as "0") to 16 years. The average age of all bobcats harvested during the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons was 3.5 years and 3.1 years, respectively (Table 8). For both seasons the average age of harvested males was nearly a year older than females. Males made up 30% and females 70% of the total harvest during the 1999-2000 season. We have no explanation for the disproportionate number of females in the harvest. As expected from a healthy, reproducing population, the harvest is skewed towards the younger-aged cohorts.

Sex and age data collected from harvested bobcats since the 1989-1990 season suggest that the state's population remains healthy and productive (Table 9). As separate cohorts, adult males and juveniles generally make up a larger percentage of the harvest than females, which has not been the case the past 2 trapping seasons. During the 1999-2000 season, adult females were more prevalent in the harvest, by more than a 2 to 1 margin, than males. Many factors, including weather (influences trapper accessibility and trapping conditions) and pelt prices, influence the harvest to the point that any assessment based on total annual harvest is of limited value. While

the current age structure of the harvest suggests that bobcats are not likely being overharvested, the unusually high percentage of adult females in the harvest cannot be explained.

The age of harvested female bobcats is displayed in Table 10. Although 179 juveniles were of unknown gender, we assume 50% of the juveniles harvested were females. Juveniles and yearlings represented the largest age groups in the harvest. Adult female bobcats 6 years old and older represented 25% of the harvest. Undoubtedly, some local populations in highly accessible areas may be more vulnerable to trapping and hunting than those in more remote areas, as suggested by Koehler and Hornocker (1989). While there are many remote areas in Idaho that act as "refugia" and contribute to more accessible populations where bobcat numbers may be reduced due to harvest pressure, the Department will continue to monitor characteristics of the harvest to avoid the possibility of overexploitation.

1999-2000 Idaho Trapper Survey

As part of the mandatory trapper reporting process, trappers were encouraged to provide comments or suggestions regarding trapping furbearers in Idaho (Appendix 1). The following summarizes some of the comments provided by trappers:

BEAVER

I would like to suggest that the season be shortened a little, say from November through February. Although the long seasons are nice at times. I feel the beaver population was hit hard this year due to mild weather.

Move seasons to November 1. Close areas where there is little or no beaver.

I would like to see the closure to beaver trapping on tributaries to Muldoon Creek and Little Wood River reconsidered. By early summer Animal Damage Control trappers are called into these areas to remove problem beaver. These animals are removed without any salvage of the hides. If trapping was permitted in these areas, problem beaver would be eliminated and the hides used during their prime.

Leave the beaver season open 2 weeks longer in east Idaho. The high streams are still frozen or just getting okay to trap when the season closes.

BOBCAT

I feel that the bobcat season should be moved to the middle of December through the middle of February.

I would like to see that bobcat pelts can be tagged in the county where they came from instead of having to travel to an IDFG office. Too much personal information required in your reports. Trapping licenses available on computer instead of unnecessary traveling to IDFG office.

We need a limit on bobcats - we have a few out-of-state trappers tagging a lot of cats in Idaho.

I would like to see the bobcat season run into February like Utah and Wyoming. The fur is a lot primer and nicer. Move the season back 2 weeks to December 15 through February 15 or even better December 1 to February 15.

I like the 2 months for bobcats.

COYOTES

Pelts were of very poor quality, no sale. Coyotes had mange and parvo virus. There is a definite decline in coyotes.

Put bounty on coyotes (\$15?); skunk bounty (\$1).

If we don't try and control the coyote population in Idaho, we will not have any antelope to worry about. I called 7 dogs in at one set-up in an area where I used to see lots of game. We can shoot a few dogs, but they aren't worth trapping.

If I was any good at this, I could have caught 100 coyotes, they are everywhere in Unit 51!

DEPREDATION

I only trap nuisance animals occasionally.

My trapping is for depredation control (5).

I have a business of removing animals from properties.

All my trapping was depredation work on my own property.

Trapped only to help friend with beaver problem.

I limited my trapping to only a few complaint beaver.

I work for the Power Canal Company in Horseshoe Bend. We simply can't afford any beaver burrowing in the canal banks.

FISHER

Please consider putting the fisher on the furbearer trapping list.

Would it be possible to get a quota season on fisher at some point in the future? I see more fisher tracks in the snow than bobcats now.

Maybe we should harvest a few fishers out of the Clearwater drainage.

After 40 years there is still no fisher season.

FOX

There needs to be a fox season established; October 1 through January 30.

Please open trapping season on fox in Camas County. It should be open all year! Fox are everywhere in Camas County and need to be better controlled.

MISCELLANEOUS

You guys are the best. IDFG is doing a great job!

You are doing a good job. Keep up the good work (2 respondents).

I'd like to thank the people that help to make the trapping seasons possible.

Thanks for the opportunity. Prices don't matter, just the experience.

I think that trapping is fun and supported.

Game officers need to enforce the laws that protect trappers and their trap sites!

Prices were bad again (3 respondents), couldn't even pay my gas.

I quit trapping because fur market was down and it wasn't worth trapping.

Due to the fur prices being so low, I did not sell any pelts last season (2 respondents).

I had no luck at all trapping for the first time.

I set some traps but didn't catch any animals (3 respondents).

Don't let them turn the Great Rift in Minidoka County into a National Monument as I like to trap bobcats and coyotes in that area. If nobody could use that area, it wouldn't be good to anyone, at least to anyone with any common sense.

Overall, furbearers seem plentiful; lots of cat sign and also lots of otter sign.

I think that teaching the public about the "good" points of trapping would help everyone.

During the course of 1999, I observed a number of "animal studies" carried out by Forest Service contracted personnel. The species sought after, lynx, marten, etc., were all being located with hair traps. This method is both clumsy and ineffective. Far more accurate results can be attained by wintertime analysis of these species once there is adequate snow coverage. These agency personnel are struggling just to locate a possible species presence when they could easily work a grid pattern in winter by snowmobile and identify species' presence by tracks in the snow.

Please attempt to instruct these people as to a better method than the hair trap. A great deal of expense and time could be saved and count accuracy improved.

The WMA at Billingsley Creek should be allowed to be trapped with floats. Any animal on the bottom or in the moss is smothered by leeches. All the furs are damaged; some ruined. The ducks move out when the trapper starts to work. The loss caused by floats doesn't approach the dead we find after a weekend of shooters.

I feel we have such a large population of raccoons that they should be legal to trap year-round; the same as fox and coyote.

MOUNTAIN LION

I am seeing way too many lion tracks for the area; had 1 deer killed by a lion where I trap.

There were at least 5 lions in Cub River Canyon between Big Mountains and Foster Creek. Lilly Basin had tracks all over it.

Lions are a problem. I recommend they be allowed to be harvested by a trapper if he has a tag and takes whatever the law allows.

Please consider the possibility of "trapping" cougar as a legal method of take (5 respondents).

The cougar population appears to be increasing significantly.

Caught 2 bobcats, both eaten by mountain lion.

Open year-round season for predators - bear, mountain lions.

Bighorn sheep could benefit from a mountain lion trapping season in some areas, as hound hunting apparently hasn't eased the problem.

MUSKRAT

The Sand Creek Ponds do not have the muskrats as usual. We only got approximately 100 rats off all the ponds. Normal take is 200-400. Change the season.

Leave the muskrat season open 2 weeks longer in eastern Idaho. The high streams are still frozen or just getting okay to trap when the season closes.

OTTER

Open an otter trapping season (5 respondents).

One otter per season for each trapper in designated units.

Would like to see a limited otter season.

Open year-round season for otters.

Please consider putting the otter on the furbearers trapping list.

You need to open otter trapping in Adams County. I have seen many of them and a lot of fish damaged by them.

I believe that there are more than sufficient otter populations, allowing them to be legally trapped.

We need an otter season, this is ridiculous! There are otter and otter sign everywhere. Allow at least 2 to be caught by each trapper with no limit for a zone. Those limits still waste furbearers!

Thanks for the otter trapping season (3 respondents), it was long overdue (1 respondent).

Thank you all for the help in getting the otter season and other consideration that you have shown us as trappers.

Thanks for working with us on getting an otter season in this state (2 respondents).

I am pleased that we have a limited (quota) on river otter (2 respondents).

We waited 30 years for an otter season.

It's about time a limited harvest of otter is going to be allowed.

Wayne, thanks for your efforts in helping ITA to obtain an otter season. I predict the quota will fill quickly because some dishonest trappers who have never turned in past otters will now claim accidental catches instead of throwing them back into the river.

Good to see common sense applied in the limited otter season.

The otter season is great! Keep up the good work.

I am pleased to read in your letter that there will be a limited harvest of river otters. I feel that our fish population will benefit greatly from this action.

Many otter in Camas County; I have trouble with them springing muskrat sets.

I saw about 15 otters on my trapline.

On this drain in front of my house it's almost impossible to trap beaver without catching otter. You have to be careful where you set beaver traps because of otter. I see at least 10 otter each fall while trapping.

Lots of otter sign in Latah County.

Reported Nontarget Catches

A nontarget animal is one for which the season is closed at the time of capture, or there is no open season. Nontarget species reported trapped included a variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Nontarget animals with minimal injury are released at the site of capture. Dead animals are turned in to the Department and sold at the annual auction. The proceeds are earmarked for trapper education. Trappers were paid \$5.00 each for 35 otters submitted to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, 318 otters have been turned in to the Department for reimbursement (Table 11).

During spring 2000 the Department sold, at public auction, traps and furbearing animals accumulated during the previous year, including nontarget catches, animals killed to solve depredation problems, and animals found dead. The sale of bobcat, raccoon, beaver, and otter pelts, plus miscellaneous leg-hold traps, totaled \$1,699.50. Since 1991, \$20,328.66 has been deposited in a Department account from these furbearer-related items sold at the Department's annual auction. These funds are earmarked for use in trapper education-related activities and for information and education materials.

Furbearer Surveys

The Department did not conduct any coordinated surveys for furbearers during 1999-2000. Our goal is to establish statewide snow survey routes during winter 2000-2001. Targeted species will include, but not be limited to, fisher, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

The Department hired a consultant to conduct a public opinion survey of Valley County residents regarding red fox protection. The Department arranged for Allan Thomas Ecological Consultants (ATEC) to conduct the survey and randomly contact residents of the area because (1) the Department had no personnel available to do the study, (2) the Department wanted an impartial, outside source to contact the public about red foxes so that the results were not perceived as biased, and (3) the Department wanted a low-profile, low-cost study that could provide guidance and direction to future red fox management (Thomas 2000).

Results of the survey indicate broad support by Valley County residents for continued protection of red fox, and were satisfied with the size of the current protected area (Thomas 2000). Nearly every person surveyed enjoyed seeing red foxes, and 50% of those surveyed provided food for them (Thomas 2000). Over 90% of those surveyed felt that the red fox population was either stable or increasing. Of the respondents who believe that red fox protection in Valley County should be removed, nearly 60% felt that both trapping and hunting should be allowed (Thomas 2000).

Furbearer Research

No specific research projects are currently being conducted on any furbearers. The cooperative wolverine project has been turned over to the Hornocker Wildlife Institute.

Furbearer Depredation

Beavers continue to be live-trapped in several regions to solve damage complaints. If feasible, these animals are translocated to other areas in attempts to improve riparian habitat or increase the local beaver population. Department conservation officers frequently issue Furbearer Depredation Control Permits (Form WL-2) to individuals as a valuable tool in handling beaver and other furbearer damage complaints quickly and efficiently. Beginning in January 1995, Department administrative regions were required to keep accurate records on the number of permits issued and the number of animals removed. Each region is retaining this information in case questions surface regarding past depredation complaints. Beaver are typically the most common species in which kill permits are issued, followed by muskrat, red fox, and raccoon.

Administrative Activities and Coordination

Department staff participated in a variety of furbearer-related activities during the year. Several state office and regional staff are involved in the Forest Carnivore Committee, a group of individuals representing state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The primary focus of this group involves forest carnivores, including the marten, fisher, lynx, and wolverine. Melquist represented the Department at the annual Idaho Trappers' Association convention. The lynx listing issue and its potential impact on trapping was an important topic, as was the desire for a river otter trapping season. Department staff throughout the state were involved in the collection of furbearer harvest data, including tagging bobcat pelts and collecting jaws.

Management Implications

In 1990 Department regional furbearer coordinators (RFCs) were appointed in each region and the McCall office in compliance with the 1991-1995 Furbearer Management Plan. The function of the RFCs is to serve as a liaison with the Idaho Trappers' Association, trappers and other user groups, and other agencies on trapping and furbearer issues. While the RFCs have diverse natural resource backgrounds, they all share some level of expertise or interest in furbearer management in Idaho. These RFCs continue to play an important role in maintaining good working relations with trappers and other agencies and are helping the Department meet its furbearer management goals and objectives.

Observations made by Department personnel, trappers, and hunters during this reporting period suggest that the state's trapping and hunting seasons have not adversely impacted furbearers. Variable and unpredictable pelt prices continue to influence trapper/hunter participation and, consequently, the harvest of furbearers. Available information also suggests that current furbearer populations are either static or increasing, but not declining.

We believe the Department is meeting its goals and objectives regarding furbearer season structure, maintaining populations and distribution, and some management programs. Conversely, some strategies proposed in the furbearer plan, including development of habitat management guidelines, mandatory trapper education, and monitoring of some species, have not

been implemented. Work on these strategies will continue in the following year, based on available funds.

LITERATURE CITED

- Johnson, N. F., B. A. Brown, and J. C. Bosomworth. 1981. Age and sex characteristics of bobcat canines and their use in population assessment. *The Wildlife Society Bulletin* 9 (3): 203-206.
- Koehler, G. M., and M. G. Hornocker. 1989. Influences of seasons on bobcats in Idaho. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 53 (1): 197-202.
- Terra-Berns, M., P. Call, C. E. Harris, L. Lewis, C. Vullo, C. R. Wenger, and G. Wright. 2000. Canada Lynx in Idaho: Species conservation assessment. Idaho Conservation Effort, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, Idaho, USA.
- Thomas, A. 2000. Red Foxes of Valley County, Idaho: History and observations on their behavior and viewpoints about foxes by county residents. Unpublished Report, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, McCall, Idaho, USA.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers for the 1985-1986 through 1999-2000 trapping seasons.

Year	Licenses Sold				Reports Received		Reporting Trappers Who Trapped		Estimated Active Trappers ^b
	Residents	Jr.	Nonres.	Total		%	%		
1985-86	1,370		23	1,393	1,071	77			
1986-87	1,473		24	1,497	1,112	73			
1987-88	1,564		30	1,594	1,338	86			
1988-89	1,266		22	1,288	1,045	81			
1989-90	921		17	938	722	77			
1990-91	636		7	643	508	79			
1991-92	678		8	686	478	70			
1992-93	666		7	673	525	78			
1993-94 ^a	588		8	596	489	82	425	87	518
1994-95	738		10	748	547	73	432	79	591
1995-96	631		7	638	445	70	362	81	518
1996-97	772		7	779	590	76	463	78	610
1997-98	740	130	12	752	586	78	473	81	609
1998-99	612	110	14	626	502	80	381	76	476
1999-00	451	98	9	558	459	82	362	79	441

^a Number of active trappers were not estimated prior to the 1993-1994 season.

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

Table 2. Estimated trapper days afield, 1993-1994 through 1999-2000, based on trappers' reports received.

Year	Reporting Trappers Who Trapped	Trappers Reporting Time Afield	%	Average Time Afield/Trapper		Projected Statewide Time Afield		
				Hrs/Day	Days/Yr	Estimated Active Trappers	Total Hours	Total Days
1993-94	425	285	67	5.0	36.4	519	93,432	18,871
1994-95	432	330	76	4.4	35.5	591	92,314	20,981
1995-96	362	271	75	4.1	38.4	517	80,139	19,546
1996-97	463	441	95	4.9	42.7	608	127,212	25,962
1997-98	473	404	85	4.4	35.6	609	95,394	21,680
1998-99	381	335	88	4.1	33.2	476	64,793	15,803
1999-00	362	357	99	4.2	38.0	441	70,384	13,549

Table 3. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped during the 1999-2000 season based on 362 trappers who reported they trapped.

Species	Trappers Reporting a Harvest	Animals Taken (a)	Pelts/ Trapper	Animals Sold (b)	% Sold (b / a)	Money Received (c)	Price/ Pelt ^b (c / b = d)	Total Value (a x d = e)	Estimated Statewide Pelt Value ^a (e / .79)	% of Total Value
Badger	42	187	4	55	29	728.75	13.25 +	2,477.75	3,136.39	1.8
Beaver	180	2,163	12	1,224	57	13,881.16	11.34 +	24,528.42	31,048.63	17.8
Bobcat	97	483	5	333	69	19,604.74	58.57 -	26,239.36	33,214.38	19.0
Spotted Skunk	0	0	0	0	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Coyote	134	1,529	11	977	64	14,662.21	15.01 +	22,950.29	29,051.00	16.6
Marten	14	150	11	138	92	1,836.54	13.31 -	1,996.50	2,527.22	1.4
Mink	87	540	6	281	52	2,130.51	7.58 +	4,093.20	5,181.27	3.0
Muskrat	160	13,741	86	11,729	85	19,873.48	1.69 +	23,222.29	29,395.30	16.8
Raccoon	121	540	4	193	36	1,132.16	5.87 -	3,169.80	4,012.41	2.3
Red Fox	131	1,822	14	1,359	74	18,130.54	13.34 +	24,305.48	30,766.43	17.6
Striped Skunk	71	545	8	15	03	120.60	8.04 -	4,381.80	5,546.58	3.2
Weasel	26	78	3	21	27	62.00	2.95 +	230.10	291.27	.2
Other	10	58	6	7	12	52.00	7.43 -	430.94	545.49	.3
Actual Totals (79%)	--	21,801	61	16,332	75	92,214.69	5.65 +	130,025.95	--	100
Estimated Totals 100%) ^a	--	27,596	--	20,673		116,727.46	--	174,716.37	174,716.37	--

^a Estimated totals and statewide pelt value were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 79% of the actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

^b Plus and minus reflects upward or downward trends in pelt value.

Table 4. History of statewide rank by value for animals trapped.

Species	<u>Rank by Value</u>					
	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
Badger	10	9	9	9	9	9
Beaver	3	3	2	1	1	2
Bobcat	4	5	3	3	2	1
Spotted Skunk	12	12	12	12	12	12
Coyote	2	4	4	5	5	5
Marten	6	7	8	8	8	10
Mink	7	8	7	7	7	7
Muskrat	5	2	1	2	4	4
Raccoon	8	6	6	6	6	8
Red Fox	1	1	5	4	3	3
Striped Skunk	9	11	10	10	10	6
Weasel	11	10	11	11	11	11

Note: Nontarget “Other” species trapped are excluded from this ranking.

Table 5. Distribution of the furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers for the 1999-2000 season.

County	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted Skunk ^a	Coyote	Fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
ADA	13	118	2	0	22	99	0	27	86	28	43	0
ADAMS	0	15	0	0	8	2	5	5	103	3	0	1
BANNOCK	0	78	5	0	3	11	0	0	48	2	40	0
BEAR LAKE	25	192	18	0	19	189	0	116	1,015	53	35	9
BENEWAH	0	14	18	0	1	0	0	2	25	6	2	8
BINGHAM	0	132	14	0	21	143	0	10	325	48	29	0
BLAINE	1	93	18	0	82	20	0	0	594	7	2	0
BOISE	0	36	2	0	39	5	1	2	27	7	0	1
BONNER	0	95	16	0	9	0	0	6	104	8	0	17
BONNEVILLE	1	104	11	0	34	310	2	8	147	12	21	0
BOUNDARY	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	0	0
BUTTE	0	15	6	0	26	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
CAMAS	7	25	0	0	65	71	0	0	292	2	25	1
CANYON	8	72	0	0	51	59	0	51	555	36	46	0
CARIBOU	3	55	4	0	24	47	0	26	113	14	1	2
CASSIA	3	17	25	0	15	16	0	25	52	17	23	6
CLARK	3	6	14	0	28	21	0	0	6	0	0	0
CLEARWATER	0	43	10	0	6	0	0	12	26	3	0	0
CUSTER	1	52	7	0	5	10	0	11	111	3	0	0
ELMORE	1	135	5	0	76	18	0	1	97	35	56	0
FRANKLIN	0	67	0	0	18	74	0	39	3,260	48	57	
FREMONT	0	35	0	0	23	36	0	4	209	11	17	0
GEM	0	25	1	0	26	1	0	0	0	2	5	0
GOODING	0	63	9	0	40	13	0	46	2,452	21	10	0
IDAHO	0	9	24	0	19	20	7	8	27	18	2	7
JEFFERSON	2	33	0	0	29	105	0	3	871	15	6	0
JEROME	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	21	8	14	0
KOOTENAI	0	92	19	0	63	0	0	9	900	17	1	7

Table 5. Continued.

County	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted Skunk ^a	Coyote	Fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Weasel
LATAH	0	6	31	0	13	0	0	38	7	4	0	2
LEMHI	15	160	41	0	176	124	64	4	152	21	6	4
LEWIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LINCOLN	10	29	12	0	74	9	0	0	4	0	1	0
MADISON	0	59	0	0	9	33	0	11	565	18	1	0
MINIDOKA	5	0	3	0	117	177	0	1	664	8	30	0
NEZ PERCE	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
ONEIDA	26	0	10	0	72	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
OWYHEE	11	97	109	0	110	8	0	1	119	20	29	0
PAYETTE	0	27	0	0	3	49	0	16	159	0	0	0
POWER	1	8	4	0	22	22	0	1	70	7	2	0
SHOSHONE	0	81	30	0	1	0	4	10	14	11	0	6
TETON	4	11	0	0	9	27	0	1	99	1	0	0
TWIN FALLS	46	21	11	0	148	88	0	45	344	23	40	1
VALLEY	0	12	0	0	0	4	67	0	12	1	0	6
WASHINGTON	1	21	4	0	2	5	0	1	32	0	0	0

^a No harvest data for Spotted Skunk.

Table 6. Bobcat and lynx pelts checked in at IDFG offices by trappers and hunters and tagged with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service export tags, 1986-1987 through 1999-2000.

Year	Pelts Tagged	
	Bobcat	Lynx
1986-1987	1,034	0
1987-1988	1,035	0
1988-1989	952	0
1989-1990	738	1
1990-1991	523	0
1991-1992	640	2
1992-1993	754	0
1993-1994	533	0
1994-1995	794	0
1995-1996 ^a	421	0
1996-1997	1,018	0
1997-1998	929	0
1998-1999	715	0
1999-2000	885	0

^aThe lynx harvest season was closed following the 1995-1996 season.

Table 7. Bobcat harvest report for the 1999-2000 season according to IDFG region and method of take. Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

REGION	TOTAL HARVEST	%	METHOD OF TAKE %									
			Trapping			Calling			With Hounds		Incidental Hunting	
Panhandle	219	25	78	36	3	01	119	54	18	08	1	0
Clearwater	196	22	63	32	15	08	85	43	33	17	0	NA
Southwest	169	19	108	64	15	09	22	13	24	14	0	NA
Magic Valley	103	12	89	86	5	05	4	04	3	03	2	02
Southeast	100	11	58	58	14	14	19	19	9	09	0	NA
Upper Snake	27	03	16	59	0	0	7	26	4	15	0	NA
Salmon	71	08	36	51	0	0	13	18	22	31	0	NA
TOTAL	885	100	448	51	52	06	269	30	113	13	3	0

Table 8. Sex and age distribution of Idaho bobcats harvested during the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 seasons based on physical examination for sex and canine examination and cementum analysis. These figures do not reflect the total annual harvest.

Age ^a	Total Numbers		Number of Males		Number of Females	
	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000	1998-1999	1999-2000
0	^b 133	^c 189	^b 66	^c 94	^b 67	^c 95
1	40	^d 141	16	36	24	103
2	64	^e 112	30	33	34	78
3	50	75	18	25	32	50
4	42	58	22	18	20	40
5	22	42	8	9	14	33
6	34	^f 22	12	6	22	15
7	31	34	18	10	13	24
8	31	^g 41	20	14	11	25
9	14	25	8	10	6	15
10	12	17	8	5	4	12
11	^h 9	11	3	4	5	7
12	6	9	5	5	1	4
13	1	4	0	3	1	1
14	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	1	1	0	0	1	1
16	0	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	490	782	170 (47)	179	191 (53)	418
Avg. Age:	3.5	3.1				
Avg. Age (M):	5.1	4.5				
Avg. Age (F):	4.4	3.8				

^a Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

^b Because only 5 of the 133 juveniles were of known gender, the total was divided in 2, assuming juvenile males and females had an equal chance of being harvested.

^c Because only 10 of the 189 juveniles were of known gender, the total was divided in 2, assuming juvenile males and females had an equal chance of being harvested.

^d Total age 1 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 2 of unknown gender.

^e Total age 2 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 1 of unknown gender.

^f Total age 6 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 1 of unknown gender.

^g Total age 8 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 2 of unknown gender.

^h Total age 11 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 1 of unknown gender.

Table 9. Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-1990 through 1999-2000^a. Percent is based on the total number of teeth examined.

Year	Teeth Examined	Adult		Adult		Juveniles ^b & Subadults (<2 Years)	
		Females	%	Males	%		%
1989-1990	725	184	25	293	40	248	34
1990-1991	418	92	22	148	35	178	43
1991-1992	581	126	22	247	42	208	36
1992-1993	754	168	22	268	36	318	42
1993-1994	504	223	44	211	42	70	14
1994-1995	776	218	28	253	33	305	39
1995-1996	413	102	25	150	36	159	38
1996-1997	948	217	23	385	41	346	36
1997-1998	913	221	24	450	49	241	26
1998-1999	^c 490	164	33	152	31	173	35
1999-2000	^d 782	305	39	143	18	330	42

^a Milk canines and those with open root canals were aged as juveniles, male canines with closed root canals were aged as adults, female canines with closed root canals were sectioned and the annuli counted, sex based on canines with closed canals was determined by measurement (Johnson, et al. 1981). Sex of juveniles was not determined.

^b Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

^c The sex of 1 additional adult was not determined.

^d The sex of 4 additional adults was not determined.

Table 10. Ages of harvested female bobcats determined by cementum analyses, 1985-1986 through 1999-2000^a.

Year	Age ^b														Total Sample		
	0	%	1	%	<2	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	5	%		6+	%
1985-1986					213	51	89	21	33	08	34	08	30	07	23	05	422
1986-1987					220	47	51	11	72	15	44	09	35	07	50	11	472
1987-1988					312	61	43	08	38	07	27	05	31	06	65	13	516
1988-1989					338	70	54	11	16	03	15	03	23	05	38	08	484
1989-1990					171	49	70	20	40	11	17	05	10	03	40	11	348
1990-1991					107	54	35	18	27	14	9	05	5	02	16	08	199
1991-1992					117	51	42	18	24	11	14	06	8	04	24	10	229
1992-1993					159	49	70	21	36	11	18	06	15	05	29	09	327
1993-1994					89	34	66	26	42	16	24	09	7	03	30	12	258
1994-1995					152	41	53	14	58	16	48	13	17	05	41	11	370
1995-1996		23	27	16			25	15	22	13	18	11	13	08	24	14	168
1996-1997		28	52	14			64	17	29	08	35	09	31	08	58	16	373
1997-1998	70	21	51	15			65	19	36	10	25	07	23	07	72	21	344
1998-1999	67	02	24	13			34	18	32	17	20	10	14	07	64	34	191
1999-2000	95	02	103	25			78	19	50	12	40	09	33	08	104	25	418

^a From 1991-1992 to the present, half the juveniles with open root canals were assumed to be females. During previous years, the sex reported by trappers and hunters was used.

^b Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

Table 11. Fisher and otter caught accidentally by trappers and turned in to the Department for a payment of \$5.00 each, 1990-1991 through 1999-2000.

Species Turned In	Region Where Animal Was Trapped*								Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unk.		
<u>Fisher</u>										
1990-1991		1								1
1991-1992		1								1
1992-1993		1								1
1993-1994										0
1994-1995		3								3
1995-1996		1								1
1996-1997										0
1997-1998										0
1998-1999										0
1999-2000										0
Total		7								7
<u>Otter</u>										
1990-1991	1	4	3	2	1	3	6			20
1991-1992	6	1	6	11	3	4	5			36
1992-1993	2	4	5	2		4	4	2		23
1993-1994	10	5	5	2	1	1	8			32
1994-1995	10	9	5	1	1	1	4			31
1995-1996	3	1	7	4		4	8			27
1996-1997	7	1	8	4		6	9			35
1997-1998	9	2	12	10	3	3	7			46
1998-1999	1	1	6	21			3			32
1999-2000	6		5	20			1	4		36
Total	55	28	62	77	9	26	55	6		318

* Regions: 1=Panhandle, 2=Clearwater, 3=Southwest, 4=Magic Valley, 5=Southeast, 6=Upper Snake, 7=Salmon

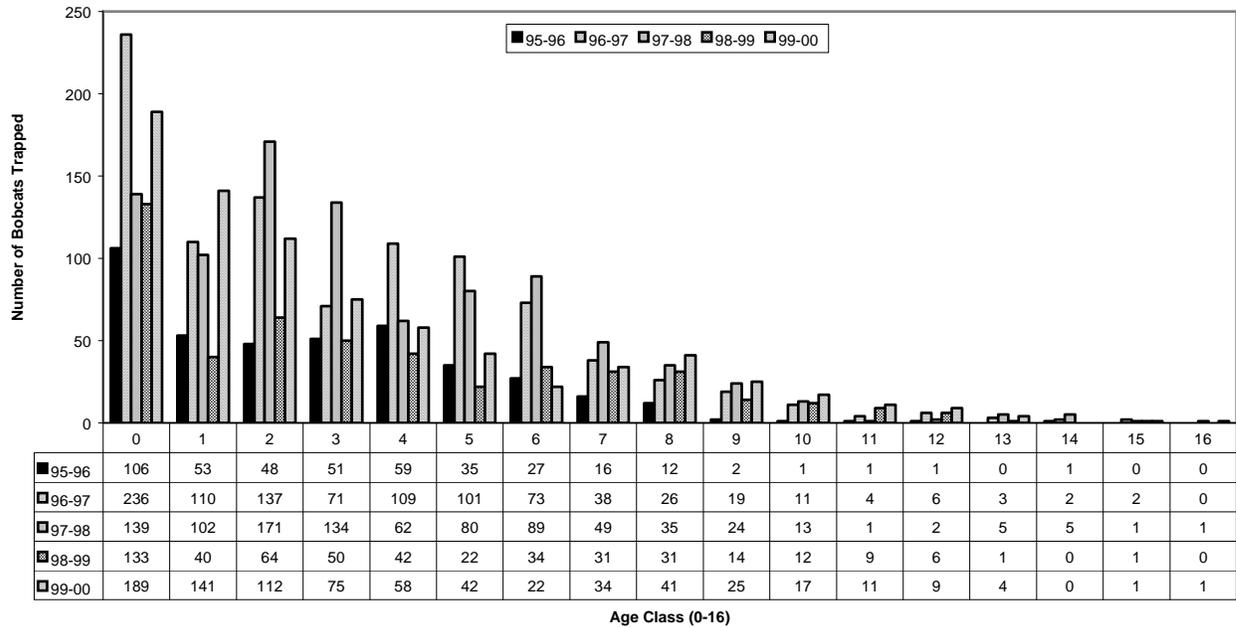


Fig. 1. Bobcat age distribution for 413 animals harvested in the 1995-1996 season, 948 animals harvested during the 1996-1997 season, 913 animals harvested the 1997-1998 season, 490 animals harvested in the 1998-1999 season, and 782 animals harvested in the 1999-2000. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.

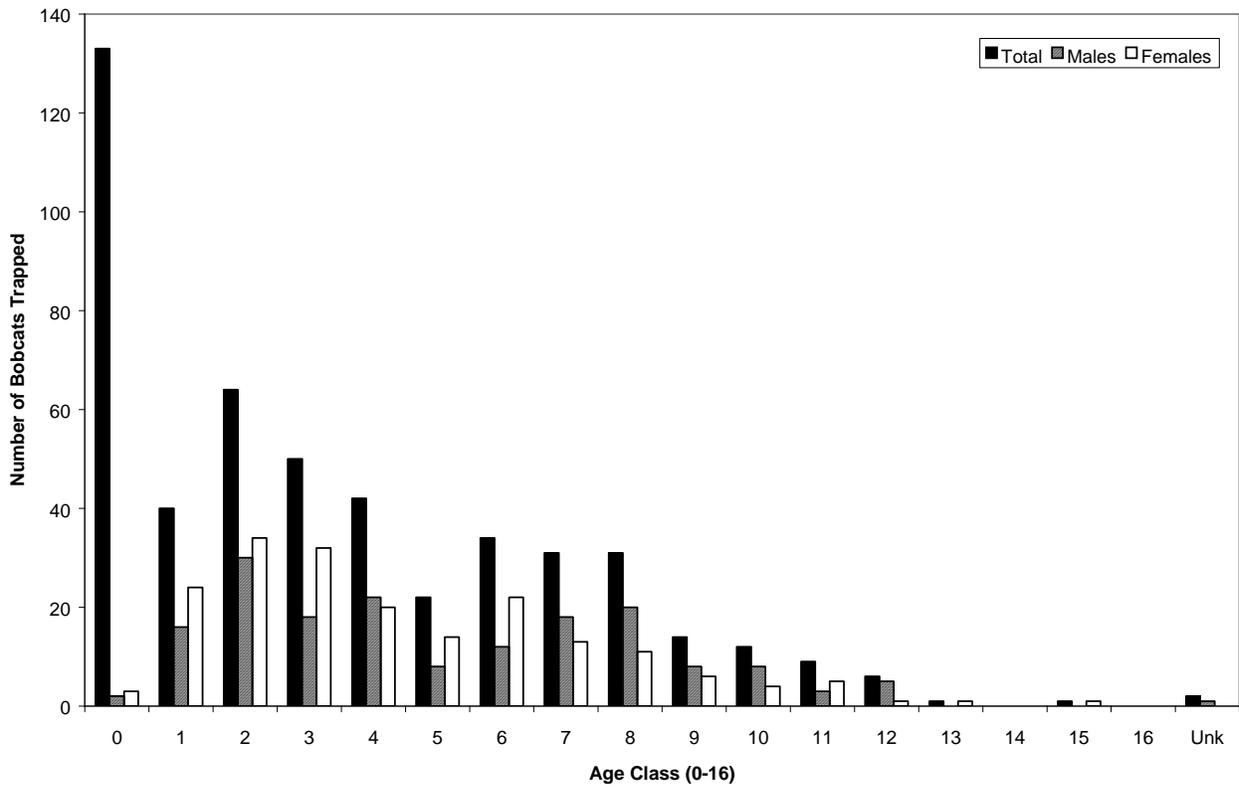


Fig. 2. Bobcat age distribution and gender among 782 animals harvested during the 1999-2000 season. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.

APPENDIX 1

MANDATORY TRAPPER REPORT CARD

MANDATORY TRAPPER REPORT

Trapping Season _____
(for example: Fall 1999 to Spring 2000)

I did trap I did not trap

I spent a total of _____ days afield trapping (scouting, setting, and checking traps). On an average day, I spent about _____ hours afield, including travel time.

Species	Total Number Trapped	Total No. of Pelts Sold	Total Price Received	County/Countries where animals were trapped
Beaver				
Muskrat				
Mink				
Marten				
Raccoon				
Red Fox				
Bobcat				
Otter				
Weasel				
Coyote				
Striped Skunk				
Spotted Skunk				
Badger				
Other:				

NON-TARGET CATCHES

Commission Rules (IDAPA 13 Q) define non-target species as any species caught for which the season is closed. Please record your non-target catches in the space below and indicate if the animal was dead (D) or released alive (A):

Species	Number	Date	Location (County/Drainage)

Fill out all information, and don't forget your *signature!*

Trapping License Number _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone Number (include area code) _____

I hereby certify that the information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES . . .

Remember to notify us if your mailing address changes from that shown on your license. Each year many of the report cards we mail out are returned because they cannot be forwarded. This returned mail is costly and delays trappers' ability to purchase a new license. Help us out, and avoid delay by sending your new address to:

Furbearer Program
IDFG Wildlife Bureau
P. O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

THANK YOU for your assistance. Please feel free to provide comments or suggestions regarding trapping furbearers in Idaho.

MANDATORY TRAPPER REPORT

Dear Idaho Trapper:

Idaho Law (Section 36-1105) states: "By the 31st of July each year, the Director shall be furnished with an accurate, written report from all persons who held a trapping license during the preceding license year as to the number and kinds of wild animals caught, killed and pelted during the open season, where the hides and pelts were sold, and the amount derived from the sale thereof. Any trapper failing to make such a report by said date shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year." Because Section 36-1105, Idaho Code, will be enforced, please make sure you complete and return this report card by July 31 whether or not you plan on trapping next year. Similar trapper report cards will be provided for future reporting.

Trapping opportunities will continue to be challenged. Our best defense is good information, so I can't impress upon you enough how important it is for you to fill out and return this report card. REMEMBER, YOU MUST RETURN THE MANDATORY REPORT CARD BY JULY 31 IF YOU PLAN ON TRAPPING NEXT YEAR.

Thanks very much for your cooperation and good luck on the trapline!

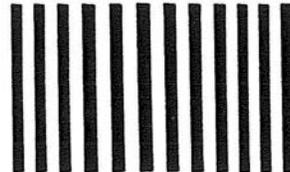
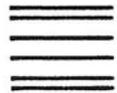
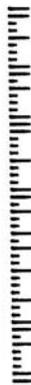
Wayne Melquist
Wayne Melquist, Bureau of Wildlife
Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Please fold and seal with transparent tape.

Please fold and seal with transparent tape.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 389 BOISE ID
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**WILDLIFE BUREAU
IDAHO DEPARTMENT FISH & GAME
PO BOX 25
BOISE ID 83707-9973**



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

APPENDIX 2

1998 AND 1999

FURBEARER HARVEST REGULATIONS

GENERAL FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS

Panhandle Region: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Mar 31	Dec 1-Jan 31	Oct 15-Jan 31	Nov 1- Jan 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31

Clearwater Region: Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Mar 31	Dec 1-Jan 31	Oct 15-Jan 31	Nov 1-Jan 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31
EXCEPTIONS: Beaver							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearwater Co: East Fork Potlatch River drainage; CLOSED. • Idaho Co: 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. • Latah Co: CLOSED. • Nez Perce Co: All northern tributaries to the Salmon R. downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake R. below the mouth of the Salmon R. 							

Southwest Region: Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Mar 31	Dec 1-Jan 31	July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Jan 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31
EXCEPTIONS: Beaver							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ada & Boise Cos: The Boise River WMA; CLOSED. • Elmore Co: 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., Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), and Wood Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.). AND EXCEPT all lands within the Boise River WMA; CLOSED. • Gem Co: Squaw Cr. above the Ofa Bridge; CLOSED. • Valley Co: 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. 							
EXCEPTIONS: Fox							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adams Co: Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage; CLOSED. • Valley Co: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forests and State of Idaho lands within the Little Salmon River drainage. 							

Magic Valley Region: Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Mar 31	Dec 1-Jan 31	July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Jan 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31	Nov 1-Mar 31
EXCEPTIONS: Beaver							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blaine Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood R. upstream from North Fork Big Wood R., Big Wood R. tributaries below N. Fk. Big Wood R. to Magic Res., Camp Cr., Dry Cr., Friedman Cr., N. Fk. Big Wood R., Poison Cr., Rock Cr., Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.), Cove Cr., and Sheep Cr. AND EXCEPT all lands within the Little Fish Cr. and the Cold Spring Cr. drainages (trib. to Little Wood R.); CLOSED. • Camas Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Lime Cr. Little Smoky Cr., and Willow Cr.; CLOSED. • Cassia Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Cottonwood Cr., Dry Cr., Trapper Cr. and Trout Cr.; CLOSED. 							

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

Magic Valley Region: Continued

EXCEPTIONS: Beaver, continued

- **Gooding Co:** All public lands within the following drainages: Black Canyon Cr., Clover Cr., and Thorn Cr. and EXCEPT all lands within Hagerman and Niagara Springs WMAs; CLOSED.
- **Lincoln Co:** Preacher Cr. drainage on public lands; CLOSED.
- **Twin Falls Co:** All public lands within the Goose Cr., McMullen Cr. and Shoshone Cr. drainages; CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: Fox

- **Blaine Co:** North and west of U.S. Hwy. 93, Oct 15 - Jan 31.
- **Camas Co:** Oct 15 - Jan 31.

EXCEPTIONS: Mink

- **Gooding Co:** Snake R. between Niagara Springs and Clear Lakes Bridge; and Billingsley Cr., Hagerman, Niagara Springs WMAs; CLOSED.
- **Twin Falls Co:** All man-made canals under control of Twin Falls Canal Co. and those sections of Cedar Draw Cr., Cottonwood Cr., Deep Cr., McMullen Cr. and Rock Cr. and their tributaries north of the Main and Highline Canals, Oct 15 - Mar 31.

EXCEPTIONS: Muskrat

- **Gooding Co:** Snake R. between Niagara Springs and Clear Lakes Bridge; and Billingsley Cr., Hagerman, Niagara Springs WMAs; CLOSED.
- **Twin Falls Co:** All man-made canals under control of Twin Falls Canal Co. and those sections of Cedar Draw Cr., Cottonwood Cr., Deep Cr., McMullen Cr. and Rock Cr. and their tributaries north of the Main and Highline Canals, Oct 15 - Mar 31.

**Southeast Region: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou,
Franklin, Oneida & Power Counties**

Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Oct 22-Apr 15	Dec 1-Jan 31	July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Jan 31	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15

EXCEPTIONS: Beaver

- **Bannock Co:** Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr. CLOSED.
- **Bear Lake Co:** Pearl Cr. drainage; CLOSED.
- **Bingham Co:** Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr.; CLOSED.
- **Caribou Co:** Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage; CLOSED.
- **Franklin Co:** Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages; CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: Marten

- **Bear Lake & Franklin Co:** CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: Mink

- **Bingham Co:** Sterling WMA; CLOSED.

EXCEPTIONS: Muskrat

- **Bingham Co:** Sterling WMA; CLOSED.

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

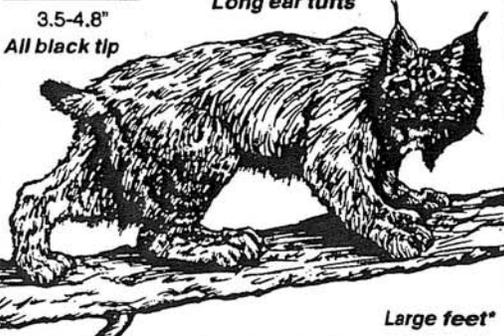
GENERAL FURBEARER TRAPPING AND HUNTING SEASONS

Upper Snake Region: Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison & Teton Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Oct 22-Apr 15	Dec 1-Jan 31	July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Jan 31	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15
EXCEPTIONS: Beaver							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clark Co: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., and West Camas Cr. upstream from the Targhee National Forest boundary; CLOSED. 							
EXCEPTIONS: Mink							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jefferson Co: Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs, Oct 22-Nov 30. 							
EXCEPTIONS: Muskrat							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jefferson Co: Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs, Oct 22-Nov 30. 							

Salmon Region: Custer & Lemhi Counties							
Badger*	Beaver	Bobcat*	Fox*	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon*
July 1-June 30	Oct 22-Apr 15	Dec 1-Jan 31	July 1-June 30	Nov 1-Jan 31	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15	Oct 22-Apr 15
EXCEPTIONS: Beaver							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Custer Co: Marsh Cr. drainage; CLOSED. ● Lemhi Co: Dahlenega Cr. drainage; CLOSED. 							

* Indicates species can also be hunted.

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

TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS	
<p><i>Be sure of what you trap or shoot.</i> The lynx is a protected furbearer which may be mistaken for a bobcat. The following comparisons are provided to help you distinguish between the two species.</p>	
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>2-2.5" 2-2.8"</p> </div> <p>BOBCAT</p> <p><i>Smaller in overall size (25-30 inches) Weight (15-35 lbs.)</i></p> <p><i>Short ear tufts</i></p> <p><i>Barred, tip black on top,</i></p> <p><i>white underneath</i></p> <p><i>Smaller feet</i></p> 	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>3.5-4.5" 3.5-4.8" All black tip</p> </div> <p>LYNX</p> <p><i>Larger in overall size (32-36 inches) Weight (15-30 lbs.)</i></p> <p><i>Long ear tufts</i></p> <p><i>Large feet*</i></p> 
<p>*Lynx tracks are similar in size to mountain lion</p>	

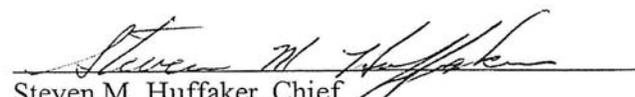
CONTROLLED MINK AND MUSKRAT TRAPPING UNITS			
Unit	Wildlife Management Area	Season Dates	No. of Permits
601	Billingsley Creek	Feb 15 - Feb 28	2
602	Hagerman	Feb 15 - Feb 28	4
603	Niagara Springs	Feb 15 - Feb 28	1
604	Sterling	Nov 1 - Mar 31	1
CONTROLLED BEAVER TRAPPING UNITS			
Unit	Season Dates		No. of Animals
201	Nov 1 - Mar 31 That portion of the East Fork Potlatch River drainage in Latah and Clearwater counties.		10
202	Nov 1 - Mar 31 That portion of the Palouse River drainage in Latah County upstream from Laird Park Dam.		10
203	Oct 22 - Apr 15 That portion of the Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County that is on National Forest lands.		10
204	Oct 22 - Apr 15 Pebble Creek Unit in Caribou County. Pebble Creek drainage.		10
DOG TRAINING SEASONS			
Bobcat		Raccoon	
<p>Dog Training Season Bobcat may NOT be killed during these seasons: Open annually after the close of the bobcat take season in February or March, concurrently with mountain lion take or dog training season. (See current rules governing the taking of big game animals, IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 08.)</p>		<p>Dog Training Season Raccoon may NOT be killed during these seasons: Open Statewide August 15 through October 31.</p>	

Submitted by:


Wayne E. Melquist
State Furbearer Coordinator

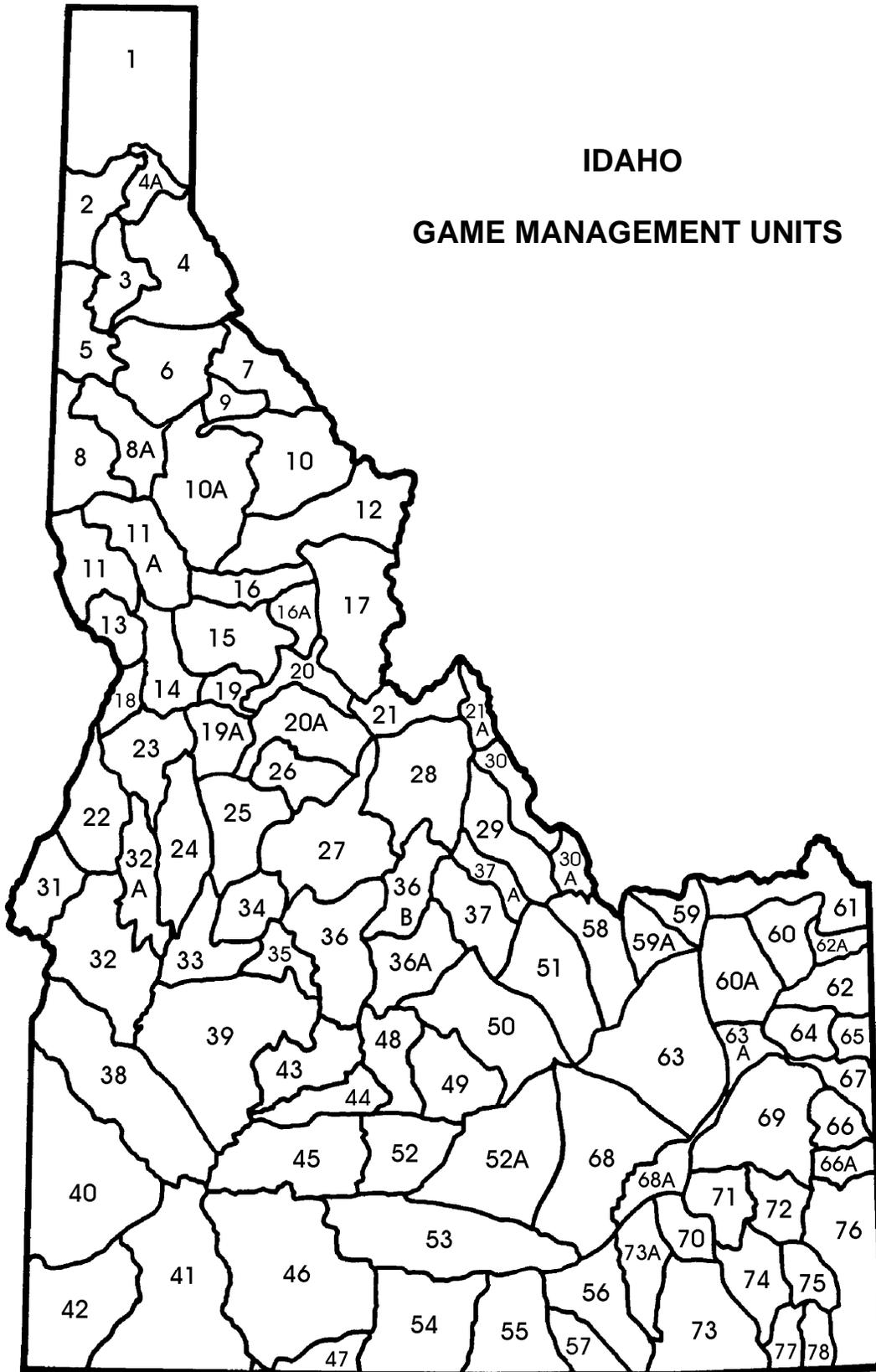
Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


Steven M. Huffaker, 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.

