

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Steven M. Huffaker, Director**

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**Progress Report**



**FURBEARERS**

Study III, Job 1

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## ABSTRACT

Trapping licenses sold during the 2000-2001 season totaled 607, which included 601 residents (97 of which were junior residents through 17 years of age) and 6 nonresidents. The number of licenses sold was up from the previous year. Harvest reports for the 2000-2001 season were submitted by 492 (81%) of the 607 licensed trappers. From this total, 383 (98%) of 390 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report form. These trappers, on the average, spent 31.9 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 3.9 hours afield per day. The fur harvest, based on 383 reporting trappers who trapped, was 17,159 animals, down from 21,801 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 11,832 pelts (69%) were sold for a value of \$102,104.41. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$8.63 each, compared to \$5.65 for the previous season. The 383 trappers harvested an average of 44 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 31 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$8.63 and 31 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$267.53. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those that did not submit a report, was 21,720 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$224,183.37. Muskrat, beaver, red fox, coyote, and raccoon, respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$103.58 for bobcats (\$58.57 in 1999-2000) to \$1.83 for muskrats (\$1.69 in 1999-2000). 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 badger, beaver, mink, raccoon, and striped skunk. Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 1023 animals from a 2-month January and February season. The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (72% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, and Southwest Regions. The first river otter trapping season since 1972 was authorized during the 2000-2001 trapping season. A statewide quota of 100 otter was established resulting in 86 legally-harvested otters being tagged by the Department. Age data based on an evaluation of sectioned canine teeth from 66 otters showed that 56% of the harvest was made up of juveniles and yearlings. The oldest otter aged was 8 years. Males made up 68% of the 66 otters aged. Trappers reported 8 nontarget otters trapped during the 2000-2001 season; down from 35 the previous year. The establishment of an otter trapping season accounted for the reduction in nontarget captures. The Department's goals and objectives for furbearers are being met for season structure and maintaining populations and distribution. 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 Trapper Harvest Reports

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. 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 is 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 2000-2001 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 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) export tags by the Department within 10 days after the close of the trapping/hunting season. During the period 1977-1978 through 1980-1981, CITES export tags were made available to trappers and hunters, but they were not mandatory. Mandatory reporting 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 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 seasons the Commission directed that it was not mandatory to turn in bobcat jaws. 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. Trappers and hunters are required to present the pelts of all bobcats to a regional office, the McCall office or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag and complete a harvest report. Information on the harvest report includes the sex of the animal, harvest location, date harvested, and method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting). Mandatory harvest report data continue to be used to estimate the total statewide bobcat harvest by Department administrative region and big game management unit.

### River Otter Check-ins, Jaws, and Export Tags

River Otter 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. Matson's Laboratory extracts, sections, and counts cementum annuli from a canine tooth of each otter to determine its age. The Department does not have CITES approval for river otter export tags, so metal state tags are affixed to each pelt.

## 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. Since a river otter season was initiated in 2000-2001, only otters trapped after the regional quota is reached must be surrendered to the Department for the \$5.00 reward. 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 2000-2001 season totaled 607, and included 601 residents (97 of which were junior residents through 17 years of age), and 6 nonresidents (Table 1). The number of licenses sold was up from the previous year.

### Trapper Days Afield

For the 2000-2001 season, 383 (98%) of the 390 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 31.9 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 3.9 hours afield per day. Statewide, all active trappers spent an estimated total of 12,209 days afield. These figures represent a decrease in trapping effort in terms of days afield and hours afield per day.

### Mandatory Trapper Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 492 (81%) of the 607 licensed trappers for the 2000-2001 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, spotted skunk, coyote, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, and weasel.

The fur harvest, based on 390 reporting trappers who trapped, was 17,159 (Table 3), down from 21,801 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 11,832 pelts (69%) were sold for a value of \$102,140.41. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$8.63 each, compared to \$5.65 for the previous year. The 390 trappers harvested an average of 44 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 31 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$8.63 and 31 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$267.53. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those

who did not submit a report, was 21,720 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$224,183.37.

The muskrat, beaver, red fox, coyote, and raccoon, respectively, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$103.58 for bobcats (\$58.57 in 1999-2000) to \$1.83 for muskrats (\$1.69 in 1999-2000). 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 badger, beaver, mink, 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 1023 animals from a 2-month, December and January, season; 3 additional animals were reported as being confiscated by Idaho Fish and Game (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.

During the 2000-2001 season, the Commission did not require hunters and trappers to surrender jaws for aging. Therefore, no age data are available. However, bobcat age and sex data based on the analysis of canine teeth collected between 1989 and 2000 are displayed in Table 8. As expected from a healthy, reproducing population, the harvest is skewed towards young animals. 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 the harvest for overexploitation.

#### Mandatory River Otter Tagging and Harvest Reports

The first river otter trapping season since 1972 was authorized during the 2000-2001 trapping season. A quota of 100 otters statewide was approved by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. Once the regional quota was reached, trappers had 48 hours in which to have additional otters tagged, with a maximum allowable harvest statewide set at 121 otters.

The Department affixed state tags to 86 legally-harvested otters statewide during the trapping season (Table 9). An additional 3 otters were brought in for tagging in the Clearwater Region, but they had been trapped in an area closed to otter trapping and were confiscated. The harvest quota was reached in the Department's Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest, and Magic Valley Regions. The maximum allowable harvest was reached in the Panhandle and Magic Valley

Regions and exceeded in the Southwest Region. No otters were registered by trappers in the Southeast Region. An additional 8 otters caught incidental to other trapping were surrendered to the Department (Table 10).

Sixty-six river otter jaws were sent to Matson's Laboratory for aging (Table 11). Of this total, 45 (68%) were males and 21 (32%) females. Juveniles and yearlings were strongly skewed towards males in the harvest. Juveniles constituted 26% of the harvest, while yearlings made up 30%. Combined, juveniles and yearlings made up 56% of the 7 age groups represented in the harvest. A disproportionate number of younger-aged otters in the harvest indicate good reproduction.

### Trapper Comments

As part of the mandatory trapper reporting process, trappers were encouraged to provide comments or suggestions regarding trapping furbearers in Idaho. Trappers offered comments and suggestions regarding river otter, beaver, bobcat, and muskrat trapping. Additional comments focused on predators and a variety of topics associated with furbearer management.

River Otter: There were 20 trappers who commented on the river otter trapping season. Comments revolved around expanding opportunities to trap otters by either increasing the season length, increasing the quotas, or doing away with the quota and allowing each trapper the opportunity to trap otters. Others encouraged the Department to obtain authorization for CITES export tags so otters could be sold on the international market. One individual expressed concern for the impact otters may have on Chinook salmon populations in the most critical and important spawning tributaries.

Beaver: Three trappers commented on the beaver season, focusing on managing them within the Boise city limits and lengthening the season to ensure there is open water for trapping.

Bobcat: Sixteen trappers commented on the bobcat season. Comments generally focused on the season length, with no clear agreement on what is best. Some are happy with the current season (January and February), while others prefer December and January. Justification for these dates included concerns over access and when pelts are most prime. Others suggested both longer and shorter seasons and pelt tagging sites in each County.

Muskrat: Three trappers provided comments on muskrat trapping. Two trappers had suggestions for changes in the season and a third was concerned about the impacts of failing to maintain water levels in sloughs and reservoirs.

Predators: Six trappers commented on predators and predator management. These individuals voiced both support for and opposition to predator control on Wildlife Management Areas. Most felt managing predators was important and were appreciative of the cooperation that existed between the Department and trappers.

Miscellaneous: There were 21 trappers who provided a variety of comments on mountain lion trapping, the definition of "bait," the need for more thorough information in the trapping

pamphlet, better enforcement of stolen traps, illegal trapping, conflicts with hunting and hunters, and a general appreciation by several simply for the opportunity to trap.

### Reported Nontarget Catches

Nontarget species reported trapped included a variety of birds and mammals. Nontarget animals with minimal injury are released at the site of capture. Trappers reported 170 nontarget animals captured, with 37 of these released (Table 12). Dead animals are typically those captured in neck snares or drowning sets. Trappers were paid \$5.00 each for 1 fisher and 8 otters surrendered to the Department for reimbursement. The number of otters caught incidental to other trapping dropped significantly from the previous year. This change can be attributed to the establishment of an otter season. Since the 1990-1991 trapping season, 7 fisher and 332 otters have been turned in to the Department for reimbursement (Table 10). These animals are sold at the Department's annual auction with proceeds earmarked for trapper education and related projects.

### Furbearer Surveys

The Department did not conduct any coordinated surveys for furbearers during 2000-2001. Winter track survey routes are currently being developed in each of the Department's administrative regions. Targeted species will include, but not be limited to, fisher, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

### Furbearer Research

No specific research projects are currently being conducted on any furbearers. The Department continues to cooperate with the Hornocker Wildlife Institute (Wildlife Conservation Society) on a wolverine research project along the Idaho and Wyoming border.

### Furbearer Depredation

Beaver 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 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 continues to be topic of great interest, as does the currently trap testing to develop Best Management Practices for various furbearers. Department staff throughout the state were involved in the collection of furbearer harvest data, including tagging bobcat and otter pelts and collecting otter jaws for age determination.

### 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 trapping organizations, 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 furbearer populations are 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.

### **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.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers for the 1985-1986 through 2000-2001 trapping seasons.

Year	Licenses Sold				Reports		Reporting Trappers Who Trapped		Estimated Active Trappers <sup>b</sup>
	Residents	Jr.	Nonres.	Total	Received	%	%		
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 <sup>a</sup>	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
2000-01	504	97	6	607	492	81	390	79	480

<sup>a</sup> Number of active trappers were not estimated prior to the 1993-1994 season.

<sup>b</sup> 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 2000-2001, 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
2000-01	390	383	98	3.9	31.9	480	59,717	12,209

Table 3. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped during the 2000-2001 season based on 390 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 <sup>b</sup> (c / b = d)	Total Value (a x d = e)	Estimated Statewide Pelt Value <sup>a</sup> (e / .79)	% of Total Value
Badger	48	226	5	89	39	1,101.86	12.38-	2,797.88	3,541.62	2.2
Beaver	182	2,257	12	1,348	60	17,989.69	13.35-	30,130.95	38,140.44	23.5
Bobcat <sup>c</sup>	105	478	5	250	52	25,895.00	103.58+	49,511.24	626.72	.4
Spotted Skunk	12	31	3	6	19	48.00	8.00+	248.00	313.92	.2
Coyote	141	1,325	9	734	55	11,163.34	15.21+	20,153.25	25,510.44	15.7
Marten	36	370	10	99	27	1,942.88	19.63+	7,263.10	9,193.80	5.7
Mink	87	602	7	380	63	2,715.66	7.15-	4,304.30	5,448.48	3.4
Muskrat	148	8,563	58	7,088	83	12,975.35	1.83+	15,670.29	19,835.81	12.2
Otter <sup>c</sup>	38	81	2	31	38	1,841.18	59.39+	4,810.59	6,089.35	3.7
Raccoon	139	706	5	432	61	3,097.66	7.17-	5,062.02	6,407.62	4.0
Red Fox	135	1,893	14	1,305	69	22,891.04	17.54+	33,203.22	42,029.39	25.9
Striped Skunk	68	508	7	38	7	219.00	5.76-	2,926.08	3,703.90	2.3
Weasel	23	88	4	26	30	178.75	6.88+	605.44	766.38	.5
Other	6	31	5	6	19	81.00	13.50+	418.50	529.75	.3
Actual Totals (79%)	--	17,159	44	11,832	69	102,140.41	8.63+	177,104.86	--	100
Estimated Totals 100%) <sup>a</sup>	--	21,720	--	14,977	--	129,291.66	--	224,183.37	162,137.62	--

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Plus and minus reflects upward or downward trends in pelt value.

<sup>c</sup> This number only reflects the number reported by trappers on the mandatory report card.

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

Species	Rank by Value					
	1995-1996	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Badger	9	9	9	9	9	10
Beaver	3	2	1	1	2	2
Bobcat	5	3	3	2	1	12
Spotted Skunk	12	12	12	12	12	13
Coyote	4	4	5	5	5	3
Marten	7	8	8	8	10	5
Mink	8	7	7	7	7	8
Muskrat	2	1	2	4	4	4
Otter <sup>a</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7
Raccoon	6	6	6	6	8	6
Red Fox	1	5	4	3	3	1
Striped Skunk	11	10	10	10	6	9
Weasel	10	11	11	11	11	11

<sup>a</sup>Otter was not included on the trapper report card until the 2000-2001 season.

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 2000-2001 season.

County	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted Skunk	Coyote	Fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Otter	Striped Skunk	Weasel
ADA	19	186	0	0	54	73	16	100	512	41	4	0	0
ADAMS	0	13	0	0	6	3	0	1	6	0	0	3	0
BANNOCK	0	18	5	0	10	10	0	9	188	11	0	18	0
BEAR LAKE	25	185	10	2	22	109	0	69	488	58	0	8	0
BENEWAH	0	56	47	0	8	0	46	7	46	8	4	1	9
BINGHAM	7	225	5	0	25	123	0	19	367	45	2	1	0
BLAINE	0	91	24	0	66	5	0	2	0	0	2	16	1
BOISE	0	19	10	0	39	19	12	4	0	1	0	2	0
BONNER	0	55	23	0	5	0	13	4	273	18	2	8	44
BONNEVILLE	5	13	13	0	44	437	1	1	158	8	0	31	0
BOUNDARY	0	36	0	0	4	0	62	0	2	1	0	0	8
BUTTE	0	0	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMAS	6	76	7	0	109	158	1	1	50	8	17	56	3
CANYON	4	98	2	1	29	62	0	82	588	80	5	41	3
CARIBOU	6	111	0	0	71	48	0	29	95	21	0	0	1
CASSIA	0	19	17	4	18	8	0	16	177	1	0	1	0
CLARK	5	20	7	0	113	25	0	0	20	1	1	0	0
CLEARWATER	0	26	2	0	11	0	8	15	24	5	4	0	1
CUSTER	7	34	7	0	24	69	4	2	37	5	1	5	7
ELMORE	19	90	1	10	44	18	0	18	1,019	20	3	17	0
FRANKLIN	0	44	9	0	15	30	0	21	276	38	0	9	1
FREMONT	0	49	2	0	3	65	26	2	75	37	1	27	0
GEM	0	35	3	0	0	0	0	2	41	1	2	0	0
GOODING	1	101	8	7	20	7	0	48	1,817	54	7	44	0
IDAHO	0	12	20	4	3	2	15	5	6	5	4	4	3
JEFFERSON	0	47	5	0	10	102	0	3	590	43	1	7	5
JEROME	0	0	0	0	26	2	0	0	0	0	0	36	0
KOOTENAI	0	135	4	0	38	0	0	0	230	61	0	5	1

Table 5. Continued.

County	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Spotted Skunk	Coyote	Fox	Marten	Mink	Muskrat	Raccoon	Otter	Striped Skunk	Weasel
LATAH	0	11	18	0	27	0	0	19	3	6	3	0	2
LEMHI	15	43	13	1	105	68	78	0	80	19	0	32	0
LEWIS	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LINCOLN	4	4	5	0	22	4	0	0	5	1	1	18	0
MADISON	0	22	0	0	2	37	0	51	774	17	0	6	0
MINIDOKA	1	4	0	0	22	129	0	13	187	5	1	18	0
NEZ PERCE	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0
ONEIDA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OWYHEE	8	76	135	0	196	30	0	16	253	41	9	22	0
PAYETTE	3	88	0	0	8	40	0	1	17	6	1	0	0
POWER	1	13	1	0	4	0	0	2	19	5	0	0	0
SHOSHONE	0	105	52	0	6	0	9	3	16	6	1	0	9
TETON	0	35	0	0	15	15	25	9	157	6	0	0	0
TWIN FALLS	92	24	11	2	76	102	0	17	124	12	0	42	0
VALLEY	1	14	1	0	19	86	95	9	83	4	6	2	0
WASHINGTON	0	27	5	0	15	7	0	0	2	6	0	2	0

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 2000-2001.

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 <sup>a</sup>	421	0
1996-1997	1,018	0
1997-1998	929	0
1998-1999	715	0
1999-2000	885	0
2000-2001 <sup>b</sup>	1026	0

<sup>a</sup> The lynx harvest season was closed following the 1995-1996 season.

<sup>b</sup> Three bobcats that were confiscated by IDFG are included in this total.

Table 7. Bobcat harvest report for the 2000-2001 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	316	31	138	44	6	02	150	47	21	07	1	00
Clearwater	186	18	41	22	17	09	99	53	26	14	3	02
Southwest	240	23	148	62	26	11	35	14	29	12	2	01
Magic Valley	92	09	71	77	6	07	8	09	6	6	1	01
Southeast	94	09	36	38	7	07	26	28	25	27	0	NA
Upper Snake	46	05	31	67	0	NA	6	13	9	20	0	NA
Salmon	49	05	18	37	2	4	8	16	21	43	0	NA
TOTAL	1023	100	483	47	64	6	332	33	137	13	7	01

Table 8. Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-1990 through 1999-2000. Percent is based on the total number of teeth examined.

Year	Teeth Examined	Adult		Adult		Juveniles <sup>b</sup> & 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	<sup>c</sup> 490	164	33	152	31	173	35
1999-2000	<sup>d</sup> 782	305	39	143	18	330	42
2000-2001 <sup>e</sup>	0	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Totals	7304	2020		2700		2576	
Average	664	184	28	246	37	234	35

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

<sup>c</sup> The sex of 1 additional adult was not determined.

<sup>d</sup> The sex of 4 additional adults was not determined.

<sup>e</sup> No bobcat jaws were collected for the 2000-2001 season.

Table 9. Summary of river otters trapped and tagged during the 2000-2001 otter season in Idaho. Excludes road-kills and other unknown mortalities.

River Otter Harvest and Quotas By Region				
Region	Harvest Quota	Date Quota Reached	Max. Allowable	Total Harvested
Panhandle	9	12/05/00	11	11
Clearwater	14	12/05/00	17	15*
Southwest	27	12/28/00	33	35
Magic Valley	17	12/04/00	20	20
Southeast	10	Not reached	12	0
Upper Snake	14	Not reached	17	6
Salmon	9	Not reached	11	2
Totals	100		121	89

\*Three of these otters were trapped in a closed area and confiscated when they were brought in for tagging.

Table 10. Fisher and otter caught accidentally by trappers and turned in to the Department for a payment of \$5.00 each, 1990-1991 through 2000-2001. Figures do not include road-kills and other unknown mortalities.

Species Turned In	Region Where Animal Was Trapped*							Unk.	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
<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
2000-2001	1								
Total		7							7
<u>Otter</u>									
1990-1991	1	4	3	4	1	3	6		22
1991-1992	6	1	5	11	3	2	6		34
1992-1993	2	4	5	3		4	5	2	25
1993-1994	9	4	6	2		2	6		29
1994-1995	10	9	4	3	1	1	4		32
1995-1996	4	1	4	11		4	12		36
1996-1997	7	1	8	4		6	9		35
1997-1998	9	2	12	9	3	3	7		45
1998-1999		1	6	21			3		31
1999-2000	6		5	19			1	4	35
2000-2001	1		2	5					8
Total	55	27	60	92	8	25	59	6	332

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

<sup>a</sup>2000-2001 is the first season since 1972 that river otters could be legally trapped.

Table 11. Age and sex distribution of river otters harvested in Idaho during the 2000-2001 season based on tooth analysis. Percentages are in parenthesis.

Age	Region*							Sex		Total Aged
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Male	Female	
0		3	7	6			1	13	4	17
1		4	10	5		1		16	4	20
2		1	2	2			1	3	3	6
3		2	2	5		2		7	4	11
4			4					2	2	4
5				1		1		2		2
6										0
7		1	2					1	2	3
8		1	2					1	2	3
Total	NA	12	29	19	NA	4	2	45 (68)	21 (32)	66

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

No jaws were collected for Regions 1 and 5.

Table 12. Nontarget animals captured and found dead or released alive.

Species	# taken	Released	Found dead	Unknown status
Domestic Cat	32	26		6
Deer	1			1
Domestic Dog	6	4		2
Duck	2	1		1
Fisher	6	3	1	2
Heron	1	1		
Magpie	2		2	
Mountain Lion	7		3	4
Other	69			69
Otter	8		8	
Rabbit	2		2	
Raccoon	2			2
Skunk	5		5	
Snipe	3			3
Squirrel	22		20	2
Wolf	2	2		
Total	170	37	41	92

Submitted by:

*Wayne E. Melquist*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State Furbearer Coordinator

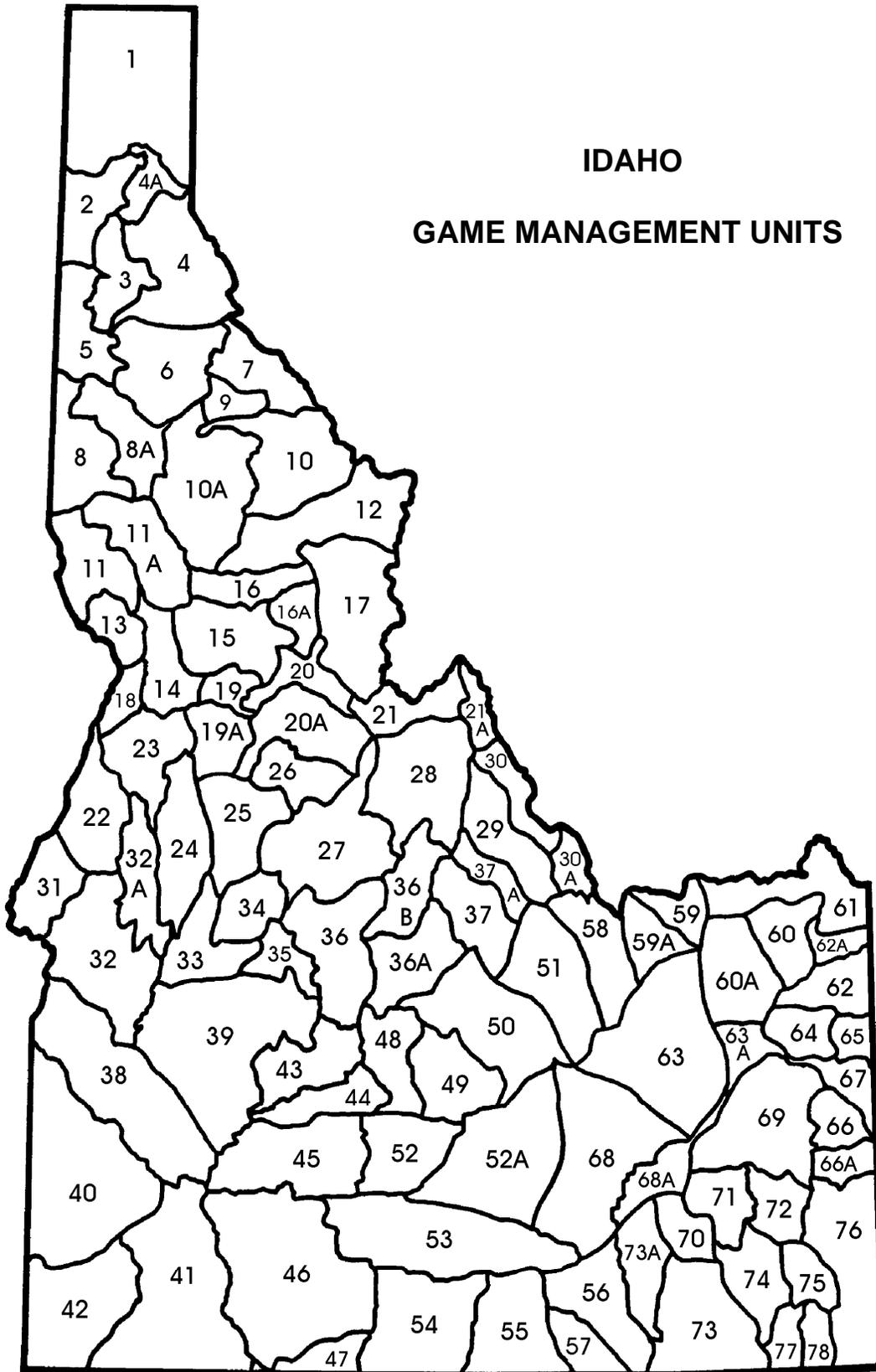
Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Tom Parker*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Parker, Acting 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.

